



FIRE & EMS NEWS

December 13, 2009

Welcome to the latest issue of the Chabot College Fire & EMS News! This latest issue is jam packed with fire service news stories, training opportunities, training and safety information, volunteer opportunities and employment opportunities.

First of all, we want to take the time to wish you and your family Happy Holidays and that 2010 is a very prosperous year, both personally and professionally!

SPRING 2010 FIRE TECHNOLOGY SCHEDULE

Registration for the Spring 2010 semester has begun and classes are starting to fill up!!!

Presently, the following fire-technology related courses are going to be offered this Spring:

COURSE	DAY	TIMES
FT 50 (Fire Protection Organization)	Monday (am)	0800 – 1155 hours
FT 50 (Fire Protection Organization)	Monday (pm)	1800 – 2155 hours
FT 51 (Fire Operations)	Thursday (am)	0900 – 1150 hours
FT 52 (Firefighter Safety/Public Education 1)	Wednesday (am)	0900 – 1150 hours
FT 52 (Firefighter Safety/Public Education 1)	Wednesday (pm)	1800 – 2050 hours
FT 53 (Fire Behavior & Combustion)	Tuesday (pm)	1800 – 2150 hours
FT 55 (Fire Protection Equipment & Systems)	Thursday (pm)	1900 – 2150 hours
FT 89 (Firefighter 1 Academy evaluation) Note: Class only meets on the following dates: - March 10, 12 and 14 (Wed/Fri/Sun)	Mon & Wed (pm) Saturday (all day)	1700 – 2050 hours 0800 – 1650 hours
FT 89 (Firefighter 1 Academy evaluation) Note: Class only meets on the following dates: - April 13, 15 and 17 (Tue/Thu/Sat)	Tue & Thurs (pm) Saturday (all day)	1700 – 2050 hours 0800 – 1650 hours
FT 90A (Firefighter 1 Academy) **Must also be registered in FT 90B and 90C**	Tue & Thurs (pm) Saturday (all day)	1700 – 2050 hours 0830 – 1650 hours
FT 90B (Firefighter 1 Academy) **Must also be registered in FT 90A and 90C**	Tue & Thurs (pm) Saturday (all day)	1700 – 2050 hours 0830 – 1650 hours
FT 90C (Firefighter 1 Academy) **Must also be registered in FT 90A and 90B**	Tue & Thurs (pm) Saturday (all day)	1800 – 2150 hours 0830 – 1650 hours

COURSE	DAY	TIMES
FT 91A (Wildland Interface Firefighting) Note: Class only meets on the following dates: April 27, 29, May 1, 2, 4, 6, 8, 9, 11, 13, 15 and 16	Tue & Thurs (pm) Saturday (all day) Sunday (all day)	1700 – 2150 hours 0800 – 1650 hours
FT 91B (Haz Mat 1 st Responder-Operations) Note: Class only meets on the following dates: April 20, 22, 24 and 25	Tue & Thurs (pm) Saturday (all day) Sunday (all day)	1700 – 2150 hours 0800 – 1750 hours
FT 91C (I-200; Basic ICS) Note: Class only meets on the following dates: April 13, 15, 17 and 18	Tue & Thurs (pm) Saturday (all day) Sunday (all day)	1700 – 2150 hours 0800 – 1750 hours 0800 – 1750 hours
FT 95 (Work Experience) **Must also be registered in FT 96**	TBA	TBA
FT 96 (Work Experience Seminar) **Must also be registered in FT 95** Note: Class only meets on the following dates: January 20, February 3, March 3, April 14, May 5 and May 26	Wednesday (pm)	1800 – 2150 hours
Health 61 (First Responder)	Tuesday (mid)	1300 – 1650 hours
Health 61 (First Responder)	Tuesday (pm)	1800 – 2150 hours
Health 81 (EMT) **Must also be registered in Health 83**	Wednesday (all day)	0800 – 1720 hours
Health 83 (Extrication and Triage) **Must also be registered in Health 81**	Saturday (one day only – TBA)	0830 – 1620 hours
Health 85 (EMT Refresher) Note: Class only meets on the following dates: April 26 through May 8, 2010	Monday & Wednesday (pm) Saturday (all day)	1800 – 2150 hours 0800 – 1550 hours
PHED2FSC (Fire Science Conditioning)	Mon & Wed (mid)	1300 – 1415 hours
PHED2FSC (Fire Science Conditioning)	Wednesday (pm)	1800 – 2050 hours

NOTE: The above information is to the best of my knowledge as of the time this went to print. For the most up-to-date information (including room numbers & registration numbers) regarding Spring 2010 scheduling, check the Chabot College web site at www.chabotcollege.org

My suggestion to everyone is to register as soon as you are eligible to. Classes fill up very quickly, and I with more people wanting to become firefighters, I don't see our numbers of students decreasing, only increasing. I would have liked to offer more classes in the summer time and in the fall; however the state budget crisis does not appear to be going away anytime soon. I think we are very fortunate if we get to keep the above courses that I have scheduled. Also, if you are registered in the Chabot College system, you are eligible to take classes at Las Positas College in Livermore as well. Just because one class is full (or does not fit your schedule) at Chabot doesn't mean it isn't being offered at Las Positas. When you register for classes on the Chabot College website, you can see both schedules – Chabot and Las Positas.

FIRE SERVICE TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES AT THE NATIONAL FIRE ACADEMY:

Due to the current economic conditions, many governments are invoking “no travel” policies. Even though the National Fire Academy reimburses the cost of travel to and from the campus and provides the training and a dorm room at no cost, some governments are not making any exceptions. No travel means “no travel at all, no matter the cost or value.” As a result, the number of applications is “down” from last year’s application period.

THERE PROBABLY HAS NEVER BEEN A BETTER TIME TO APPLY TO THE NFA.

The application period for the second semester of National Fire Academy resident classes closes December 15 – **YOU HAVE 2 DAYS TO APPLY.**

All information about courses, applications and suggestions for successful completion of the application can be found at the following sites:

Course Catalog and schedules:

www.usfa.dhs.gov/nfa/catalog/index.shtm

Download Applications

- o [FEMA Form 75-5 | Form Fillable](#) (PDF, 352 Kb)
- o [FEMA Form 75-5 | Form Non-Fillable](#) (PDF, 116 Kb)

Tips to completing your application:

[Eight Tips for Completing a Successful NFA Application](#)

Completed applications for resident courses must be sent to the following address:

Office of Admissions, Building I, Room 216
National Emergency Training Center
16825 South Seton Avenue
Emmitsburg, MD 21727-8998
Applications may also be faxed to **(301) 447-1441**.

For more information, please call the Admissions Office at (800) 238-3358, ext. 1035 or (301) 447-1035.

Please share this with your organizations, friends and colleagues.

FIRE SERVICE INFORMATION FROM THE U.S. FIRE ADMINISTRATION:



An estimated 28,300 residential building electrical fires occur annually and cause 360 civilian deaths, 1,000 civilian injuries, and \$995 million in direct loss according to the U.S. Fire Administration (USFA). Electrical fires occur most often during the months of December and January. Most electrical fires result from problems with faulty electrical outlets and old wiring. Problems with cords and plugs, such as extension and appliance cords, also cause many home electrical fires. To prevent an electrical fire in your home, routinely check electrical appliances and wiring and replace all worn, old, or damaged cords immediately.

[Read More »](#)

FIREFIGHTER EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY – CAL FIRE:

CAL FIRE, (formerly known as **California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection or CDF**) is now accepting applications for **Firefighter I**. Applications will be accepted **until January 29, 2010** for the 2010 fire season, which generally starts in the end of May and generally goes through October. If you are interested in applying you must complete a Firefighter I application (CAL FIRE Form 215) and mail it or deliver it in person to the North Coast Region I and Cascade Region II units (see next page for locations). Applications will be accepted on a file in person basis only for the units in Southern California Region III and Central Sierra Region IV. Applications must be filed at each unit in which you wish to be considered for appointment.

To view more information about Seasonal Firefighter Hiring process and positions, go to: http://www.fire.ca.gov/about/about_careers_fireprotection_seasonal.php

There are 21 units through-out the state and they are divided between two regions, North Region, and South Region. In the Northern Region you can mail the completed application to each unit that you are interested in applying for. In the Southern Region they must be hand delivered. A list of the units can be found at the end of this announcement.

What you can expect working as a firefighter for CAL FIRE:

A firefighter 1 is a temporary position. You work a 72-hour workweek, four days on and three days off. You work the same four days in a week. Your responsibilities will include responding to vegetation fires, vehicle fires, structure fires, vehicle accidents, medical aides, public assist calls, or any other emergency. You are responsible for maintaining equipment and tools, following oral and written directions, cooking and cleaning around the station and other duties as assigned. At some stations you may get only one call per shift and others may get as many as four or five calls on a busy day.

Because CAL FIRE is a statewide fire department, you can get sent to any area within the state on a strike team assignment. You may only be gone one or two days or as many as fourteen days depending on the needs throughout the state. You may be assigned to an incident, usually a large fire, or may be assigned to cover behind other engines on an out-of-county assignment.

In addition to being assigned to working on an engine, a firefighter 1 may be assigned to work at an Air Attack Base refueling aircraft, and reloading tankers with retardant. Another opportunity that is available to firefighter I is to work as a helitack firefighter assigned to one of nine helicopters throughout the state.

There is the opportunity to work as a fire fighter assigned to a Schedule A Contract. This is where a city, county, or fire protection district makes a contract with CAL FIRE to provide fire protection for the community. For example in the Santa Clara Unit, the South County Fire Protection District has contracted with CAL FIRE to provide the personnel to operate their fire department. As a result CAL FIRE personnel operate very much like any other municipal department with firefighter, engineers, captains, and chiefs, operating type I engines, and providing advanced life support medical care.

The hiring process:

After submitting an application, it is reviewed and given a preliminary score based on your education, training and experience. The more boxes you can check the more points you can get. By mid March you should receive a letter indicating weather you passed the preliminary evaluation. If a passing score is given you may then be invited to an interview. The interview is 100 percent of you score. Because each unit must follow the same guidelines for hiring you can expect to hear the same, or close to the same questions at each interview. This can be a big help when trying to improve your interviewing skills. So the more units that you apply to the better chance you have to interview and improve.

Typically an interview panel is made up of an engineer and a captain. In some cases at the completion of your interview you are given your score, in other cases it is mailed to you. Your score is based from 0 to 100 points. Typically you need to get a score in the upper 90's to be considered for employment. By mid May you should have received a letter indicating weather or not you are being considered for employment. From here one of a number of

things can happen, you could get a letter stating that you will not be considered for future employment, or you can be contacted and offered a job, or you could be contacted and offered a slot in an academy but not a job.

The presumption is that a position may open up in the future and you would already be trained to take it. Typically a new hire academy is scheduled for the first or second week in June and consists of learning basic skills needed to work as a fire fighter. The end result is that by attending the class you can obtain the CAL FIRE 67 hour Certification.

What generally happens around August or September is some firefighters quit and go back to school opening up position to hire more firefighters. So this provides some people second chance to get hired. If you stay in contact with the hiring coordinator in each unit and are willing to start later in the season you might get picked up as a late hire. After you get hired with CAL FIRE and work three months you have automatic rehire rights. Meaning you don't have to go through the same process to get hired the next season.

What CAL FIRE can offer you?

CAL FIRE is an all risk fire department. They respond to an average of 6,400 wildland fires annually and more than 275,000 non-wildfire emergencies each year. As a firefighter I you will gain experience in working on an engine as part of an engine company. You will get experience working at emergencies under stressful situation. You will learn what station life is like and how to work with people of different backgrounds in that environment.

You will have the opportunity to earn additional certifications including Incident Command Systems, Confined Space Rescue Awareness, Haz Mat Operations, Swift Water Rescue, Auto Extrication, and many other classes. You will gain experience working with the ICS system as part of an engine company at small and large incidents.

Just like anything else you can get out of CAL FIRE what you put in. Because of the number of people retiring you have a very good opportunity to gain a permanent position if you put the effort into it. It is now up to you to make the first step.

NORTHERN REGION

File-in-person OR mail-in applications accepted at the units listed below:

- **Amador-El Dorado Unit**, 2840 Mt. Danaher Road, Camino, CA 95709, (530) 644-2345
- **Butte Unit**, 176 Nelson Avenue, Oroville, CA 95965, (530) 538-7111
- **Humboldt-Del Norte Unit**, 118 S. Fortuna Blvd., Fortuna, CA 95540, (707) 725-4413
- **Lassen-Modoc Unit**, 697-345 Highway 36, Susanville, CA 96130, (530) 257-4171
- **Mendocino Unit**, 17501 N. Highway 101, Willits, CA 95490, (707) 459-7414
- **Nevada-Yuba-Placer Unit**, 13760 Lincoln Way, Auburn, CA 95603, (530) 823-4904
- **San Mateo-Santa Cruz Unit**, 6059 Highway 9, Felton, CA 95018, (831) 335-5353

- **Santa Clara Unit**, 15670 Monterey Street, Morgan Hill, CA 95037, (408) 779-2121
- **Shasta-Trinity Unit**, 875 Cypress Avenue, Redding, CA 96001, (530) 225-2418
- **Siskiyou Unit**, 1809 Fair Lane Road, Yreka, CA 96097, (530) 842-3516
- **Sonoma-Lake-Napa Unit**, 1199 Big Tree Road, St. Helena, CA 94574, (707) 967-1400
- **Tehama-Glenn Unit**, 604 Antelope Blvd., Red Bluff, CA 96080, (530) 529-8548

SOUTHERN REGION

Applications accepted on a FILE-IN-PERSON basis ONLY at the units listed below. Each applicant must appear in person Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

- **Fresno-Kings Unit**, 210 S. Academy Avenue, Sanger, CA 93657, (559) 485-7500
- **Madera-Mariposa-Merced Unit**, 5366 Highway 49 North, Mariposa, CA 95338, (209) 966-3622
- **Riverside Unit**, 210 W. San Jacinto, Perris, CA 92570, (909) 940-6900
- **San Benito-Monterey Unit**, 2221 Garden Road, Monterey, CA 93940-5385, (831) 647-6208
- **San Bernardino Unit**, 3800 Sierra Way, San Bernardino, CA 92405, (909) 881-6900
- **San Diego Unit**, 2249 Jamacha Road, El Cajon, CA 92019, (619) 590-3100
- **San Luis Obispo Unit**, 635 N. Santa Rosa, San Luis Obispo, CA 93405, (805) 543-4244
- **Tulare Unit**, 1968 S. Lovers Lane, Visalia, CA 93277, (559) 732-5954
- **Tuolumne-Calaveras Unit**, 785 Mountain Ranch Road, San Andreas, CA 95249, (209) 754-3831

To view the job flyer and download an application, go to the CAL FIRE Careers website at: www.fire.ca.gov/about/about_careers_fireprotection_seasonal.php

For more information about CAL FIRE and their extensive operations throughout the State of California, visit their website at: www.fire.ca.gov

Minimum Qualifications for Seasonal Firefighter positions:

- Must be 18 years of age by time of appointment to a firefighter 1 position.

NOTE: A special thank you to Andrew Hunter, former Chabot College Fire Technology student for providing me with this information. Andrew works as an Engineer for the Modesto Fire Department and used to be a Firefighter with CDF. I appreciate your time and assistance!

For additional information, contact:

North Coast Headquarters: (707) 576-2275
 Human Resources Office: (916) 445-7801
 Southern Region Headquarters: (559) 243-4100

FIRE SERVICE TRAINING OPPORTUNITY:

Firenuggets.com

PRESENTS

Here are a number of fire service seminars being offered by FireNuggets.com in 2010 – sign up now as they will surely sell out and be very popular! For more information, go to their website at www.firenuggets.com

Seminar #1:

Thursday, January 28, 2010 — "Lineboss • Engine Company Errors — The Dirty Dozen • Tactical Safety" — A three part program": Presented by Lieutenant Ray McCormack, Fire Department, City of New York

Lineboss: The decisions made by the engine officer directly impact the safety of everyone on the fireground. This section examines the fireground decision-making process regarding hose line selection, placement, and stretching techniques for fires in private dwellings, multiple dwellings, high-rise, and commercial buildings. Learn to separate what works from what doesn't and why.

Engine Company Errors – The Dirty Dozen: This section examines the twelve most common tactical errors made by engine companies on the fireground. These errors have led to firefighter injuries and deaths. Learn how to recognize and avoid making these errors.

Tactical Safety: This class examines several dozen tactical safety procedures to incorporate into your daily fireground operations. These procedures will increase your operational safety and reduce fireground injuries. Through the use of video, discussion, case histories, and shared experiences you'll be able to quickly incorporate real safety into your departments training and tactical operations.

For details on this seminar, go to: <http://www.firenuggets.com/seminarbaypro10.htm>

Seminar #2:

Thursday, March 25, 2010 — "Proper Firefighting Mindset Leads to Strategic and Tactical Success": Presented by District Chief Dave McGrail, Denver Fire Department

Because most of our emergency responses don't turn out to be major events, we as human beings can slowly succumb to the deadly disease of complacency, and bad habits can quickly take hold. Even with the best of intentions, and clearly knowing what the "right thing" to do is; we can find ourselves taking short cuts, and relying on luck to get us out of trouble. It is only through the application of good habits, at every incident, that we can begin to ensure the best possible outcome. This interactive workshop will help the attendee identify the direct correlation between the development and application of good daily habits, and success on the fireground. The concept of the "Proper Firefighting Mind-Set" will be introduced and

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reinforced throughout the day. Fireground operations, from a small vehicle fire, to a fast moving fire on the upper floors of a high-rise building will be discussed. Slides, videos, and various real life case studies will be used to illustrate the result of both good habits and bad.

Attendees will leave energized, with a renewed dedication to the development of good habits, and their consistent application on the fireground.

For details on this seminar, go to: <http://www.firenuggets.com/seminarbaypro10.htm>

Seminar #3:

Thursday, May 6, 2010 — "The Station Fire: An Incident Commander's Perspective": Presented by Deputy Chief Mike Bryant, Los Angeles County Fire Department

What started out on August 26, 2009 as a 10-acre brush fire in the Angeles National Forest above the City of La Canada rapidly turned into the largest fire ever recorded in the history of Los Angeles County and the tenth largest in California history.

Deputy Chief Bryant was one of the Unified Incident Commanders on the Station Fire. His presentation will be in two parts. Part one will include an overview of the command challenges and accomplishments throughout the Station Incident. Part two will include an overview of the events leading up to the sad and tragic deaths of two Los Angeles County firefighters while performing fire fighting operations at Fire Camp 16.

For details on this seminar, go to: <http://www.firenuggets.com/seminarbaypro10.htm>

Seminar #4:

Thursday, November 4, 2010 — "Fireground Responsibility" and "Leadership Lessons for the Fire Service": Presented by Battalion Chief John Salka, Fire Department, City of New York

"Fireground Responsibility": This is a program that examines a firefighter line-of-duty death and the investigation and report that followed. Several important contributing factors were uncovered and are common factors in many firefighter fatalities. Chief Salka takes a look at the fire, the strategy and the tactics that were employed at this fire as well as the contributing factors. Each of the items that played a role in the fatality are examined and discussed and suggestions result that may prevent future fatalities on the fireground.

"Leadership Lessons for the Fire Service": This is a dynamic program that illustrates the importance of effective leadership in the fire service. There are many different elements that make leadership a powerful force in any organization and the fire service is no exception. Chief Salka will discuss Integrity, Inspiration, Innovation, Intensity and several other aspects of the effective and successful fire service leader. Whether you are an aspiring company officer or a chief, you will find this to be an inspiring and motivating program

For details on this seminar, go to: <http://www.firenuggets.com/seminarbaypro10.htm>

ALL FOUR 2010 SEMINARS:

- *Four seminars, five speakers, and quality professional networking, all for one low price of \$330, a \$110 savings off the individual seminar fees. This is 100% tax deductible as a professional education expense.*

For details on this four-seminar option, go to
<http://www.firenuggets.com/seminarbaypro10.htm>

NOTE: All of the above seminars are going to be held at:

Carr Convention Center
4400 Rosewood Drive
Pleasanton, CA 94588

**CAREER DEVELOPMENT INFORMATION FROM
THE U.S. FIRE ADMINISTRATION:**

Application Procedures Announced for the 2010 Harvard Fire Executive Fellowship Program

Emmitsburg, MD - Application procedures have been announced for the [2010 Harvard Fire Executive Fellowship Program](#). The program is once again sponsored through a partnership between the International Association of Fire Chiefs (IAFC), Fire Protection Publications/International Fire Service Training Association (FPP/IFSTA), the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), and the Department of Homeland Security/U.S. Fire Administration (USFA).

USFA Administrator Kelvin J. Cochran, in announcing the 2010 program said, "The U.S. Fire Administration and our funding partners, the IAFC, FPP/IFSTA, and the NFPA, are excited once again to sponsor a number of fellows who will attend the *Senior Executives in State and Local Government* program at Harvard's Kennedy School of Government next summer. The curriculum, faculty, and setting are truly outstanding. Most importantly, this premier program can provide tools and experiences in confronting the collective challenges which fire executives face. I personally know many fire executives who have benefited from the State and Local Program and found it extremely valuable when examining and understanding the relationships between careerists, elected, and appointed officials."

Senior fire executives who are selected will be awarded fellowships to attend Harvard's annual *Program for Senior Executives in State and Local Government*. The 3-week program is conducted on the Harvard campus in Cambridge, Massachusetts. Selected Fellows will be assigned to attend one of the two session dates: June 7-25, 2010 or July 5-23, 2010. Fellows **must be available** to attend either session.

Program Criteria

The following criteria and guidelines have been established for the 2010 program:

- Application is open to *senior fire executives* who have demonstrated significant career accomplishments and have the potential to impact and initiate change. **Attainment of a senior position is less important than demonstrated experience in facilitating significant change within a public sector setting.**
- Preference may be given to applicants who are graduates of the National Fire Academy's [Executive Fire Officer Program](#), although program completion is not a prerequisite. Preference may also be given to applicants who have completed graduate-level degree programs or course work.
- Individuals whose organizations have been represented in the Harvard Fellowship Program during 2007, 2008, or 2009 will not be considered. The program is available to international participants.

Application Instructions

(Please follow these three steps carefully as the application procedures have changed from prior years).

1. Applicants must complete and submit the Harvard/Kennedy School of Government [Application for Executive Education](#) (DOC, 255 Kb). This form-fillable document can be completed for submission to the address listed below, not to Harvard. It is recommended that this form be saved to your computer. For the question “*Who will be the financial sponsor of your participation?*” please enter “IAFC/FPP-IFSTA/NFPA/USFA Fellowship”. Make sure that you attach your essay responses (250 words or less for each question response).

2. Enclose a current resume or curriculum vitae.

3. Enclose a letter of recommendation from your senior official. If the applicant is the Chief, the letter should be written by the jurisdictional head (e.g., Mayor or City Manager, etc.). Otherwise, the recommendation should be from the Fire Chief.

4. **Please do not submit your application package directly to the Harvard Kennedy School of Government.** Mail the application package (traceable mail with receipt is recommended) no later than February 12, 2010 (postmark) to the following address:

Harvard Fellowship Program
International Association of Fire Chiefs
c/o Ms. **Ann Davison**
4025 Fair Ridge Drive - Suite 300
Fairfax, Virginia 22033-2868

5. For questions regarding application procedures only, please contact Ms. Mary Wingert at the U.S. Fire Administration, (301) 447-1085 or mary.wingert@dhs.gov.

6. If the applicant's organization or position should change (voluntarily or involuntarily) after the application package has been submitted, she/he is obligated to notify Ms. Wingert.

Application packages postmarked after February 12, 2010, will not be considered.

For more information please visit the [USFA](#) or [Harvard University/John F. Kennedy School of Government Senior Executives in State and Local Government](#) Web sites.

FIRE SERVICE TRAINING OPPORTUNITY:

CALM THE CHAOS! MASTERING FIREGROUND COMMAND

2-DAY SIMULATION WORKSHOP

TODAY'S FIREGROUND SHOULD BE A CALM AND ORCHESTRATED EVENT, BUT OFTEN IT IS NOT!

FEWER FIRES, MASS ATTRITION, AND LITTLE OR NO COMMAND TRAINING HAVE CREATED AN ERA IN TODAY'S FIRE SERVICE WHERE THE SIMPLE "BREAD AND BUTTER" HOUSE FIRE IS A SENTINEL EVENT.

THE NIOSH TOP 5 LINE OF DUTY DEATH CAUSES ON THE FIREGROUND SURROUND SIZE UP, COMMAND, COMMUNICATIONS, ACCOUNTABILITY AND SOP'S.

PARTICIPATE IN SIMULATIONS FOR HOUSE FIRES, GARDEN/CENTER HALL APARTMENTS, COMMERCIAL, HIGHRISE, WILDLAND, MCI, HAZARDOUS MATERIALS INCIDENTS AND REVIEW ACTUAL INCIDENTS TO GET ANSWERS TO THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS...

- HOW DO I SET CLEAR TACTICAL OBJECTIVES, HAVE CLEAR COMMUNICATIONS AND ESTABLISH COMMAND PRESENCE ON MY FIRES?
- HOW DO I CREATE A PERSONAL SYSTEM THAT BLENDS ALL OF MY CLASSES, CERTIFICATIONS, SOP'S, ICS, AND TACTICAL FUNDAMENTALS INTO A SIMPLE, STREET SMART AND EFFECTIVE WAY?
- WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN SIZE UPS AND ARRIVAL REPORTS AND HOW DO I BECOME GREAT AT BOTH?
- WHAT ARE THE TRIGGER POINTS AND SAFETY ISSUES OF OFFENSIVE, DEFENSIVE AND COMBINATION STRATEGIES?
- WHAT ARE THE KEY POINTS TO RESCUE, EXPOSURES, CONFINEMENT, EXTINGUISHMENT, OVERHAUL, VENTILATION AND SALVAGE?
- HOW DO I REALLY USE ICS DAY-TO-DAY AND GET BEYOND "CHECKING THE BOXES"?
- HOW DO WE GET SOP'S/SOG'S WORKING IN MY DEPARTMENT?
- WHEN DO WE CALL AN AUDIBLE ON THE SOP'S?
- WHAT COULD HURT ME OR MY CREW TONIGHT?

THIS INTENSE, HANDS-ON AND INTERACTIVE WORKSHOP HITS THESE ISSUES HEAD ON AND WILL SIMPLIFY THE COMPONENTS OF TACTICS & STRATEGY, SOP'S AND ICS. WE SYNTHESIZE THESE 3 KEY INGREDIENTS TO HELP YOU DRASTICALLY IMPROVE THE WAY YOU COMMAND YOUR NEXT INCIDENT OR HANDLE YOUR UPCOMING ASSESSMENT CENTER! **DON'T BELIEVE THE LIE THAT YOU CANNOT PREPARE FOR THE TEST AND THE JOB AT THE SAME TIME. THE MILITARY, AIRLINES, AND NASA DO IT, AND IT'S ABOUT TIME THE FIRE SERVICE DID!**

WHO SHOULD ATTEND?

- ✓ **CURRENT OFFICERS WHO DESIRE TO DRAMATICALLY IMPROVE THEIR FIREGROUND COMMAND ABILITIES**
- ✓ **ASPIRING OFFICERS WHO DESIRE TO DEVELOP A SYSTEM FOR OUTSTANDING PERFORMANCE FOR THE ASSESSMENT CENTER TEST AND THE JOB**
- ✓ **TRAINING OFFICERS WHO DESIRE THE LATEST IN TACTICAL TRAINING**

ANTHONY KASTROS IS A 22-YEAR VETERAN OF THE FIRE SERVICE. HE IS A BATTALION CHIEF WITH SACRAMENTO METRO FIRE DISTRICT. HE IS AUTHOR OF THE BOOK AND VIDEO SERIES, "MASTERING THE FIRE SERVICE ASSESSMENT CENTER", BY FIRE ENGINEERING THAT FOCUSES ON SIMULATION STRATEGY AND TACTICS. CHIEF KASTROS IS AN FDIC INSTRUCTOR, TEACHING FIREGROUND TACTICS AND LEADERSHIP/TEAM BUILDING FOR FIRE DEPARTMENTS THROUGHOUT THE UNITED STATES. ANTHONY IS THE PROGRAM DIRECTOR FOR THE SACRAMENTO METRO FIRE COMMAND TRAINING CENTER AND CURRENTLY A LINE BATTALION CHIEF SUPERVISING 10 COMPANIES.

JANUARY 19-20, 2010 - FOLSOM FIRE DEPARTMENT - \$250.00
Go To www.trainfirefighters.com FOR ONLINE REGISTRATION

FIRE SERVICE EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY:

The **Tucson (AZ) Fire Department** will be accepting applications for the position of **Firefighter** December 28, 2009 through January 10, 2010.

For more information about the **City of Tucson**, visit their website at: www.tucsonaz.gov

For more information about the **Tucson Fire Department**, visit their website at: www.tucsonaz.gov/fire/index.html

For more information about the **Tucson Fire Department Firefighters Association, International Association of Fire Fighters (IAFF) Local 479**, visit their website at: www.tucsonfirefighters.com

- The following information was taken from the City of Tucson Fire Department website above – please verify for yourself to ensure the information is accurate and complete.

*Welcome to the Tucson Fire Department Recruitment Information
Recruitment Information*

Updated October 27, 2009. All dates subject to change.

APPLICATIONS

December 28, 2009 to January 7, 2010 at www.tucsonaz.gov, then click on the 'JOBS' link in the lower right hand corner. This is where all open jobs can be accessed.

OPEN HOUSES

Tucson Fire will offer Open Houses to prospective applicants. The Public Safety Academy at 10001 S. Wilmot Rd. will be open to the public and provide more information about TFD and Academy life. The dates and Times are:

= Wednesday December 16, 2009 6:00pm - 8:00pm

= Monday January 4, 2010 6:00pm - 8:00pm

[Open House Information Flyer](#)

Speakers will be members of the Tucson Fire Department.

WRITTEN EXAM

The Human Resources Department administers the first step in the recruitment process, the written exam. The written exam is scheduled to be given January 25, 2010 Time TBD.

The written exam is being reviewed with a high probability of changing from the previous video-based test. More information will be provided when we confirm the direction of the written test.

CPAT ORIENTATIONS

February 5, 6, and 7, 2010

The second step in the application process is the Candidate Physical Ability Test (CPAT). Tucson Fire will Provide applicants an opportunity to learn more about the CPAT. Only those candidates who score high enough on the written exam will be invited to take the CPAT. Candidates will watch a video on what CPAT is, how to successfully pass the exam, explain failure points, and receive preparation tips. During these sessions, the candidates will receive "hands-on" familiarity with the test apparatus, and receive guidance on specific conditioning regiments and techniques to help them prepare for the test. The exact content of the Orientations have yet to be determined, but all candidates will have exactly the same opportunities during the Orientations. These Orientations are not required, but are strongly encouraged.

[CPAT Preparation Guide](#)
[CPAT Orientation Guide](#)

CPAT TIMED PRACTICE

First Session: March 5, 6, and 7, 2010

Second Session March 19, 20, and 21, 2010

Candidates will be given the opportunity for two timed practice runs within 30 days of the actual CPAT. Timed practices are not required, but they are strongly encouraged. Timed practices on the CPAT course will give the candidates the opportunity to gauge their fitness levels and make adjustments in their training to better prepare them for success in the CPAT.

CPAT

April 5 to 9, 2010 Time TBD

Those candidates who score high enough on the written exam will proceed to this step in the hiring process. The CPAT will be pass/fail and times will not affect overall ranking. The Tucson Fire Department will provide candidates with several opportunities to become familiar with the CPAT. Candidates must complete the CPAT course in 10 minutes and 20 seconds.

TRAINING CHIEF ORAL BOARDS

Date to be Determined

The third step in the application process is the Training Chief Oral Board. During this portion of the testing process, the candidates will be asked a series of questions to aid the Tucson Fire Department in the selection process.

These three portions constitute the majority of the Civil Service testing process. Once a candidate has completed these three steps, they are given a total weighted score and ranked (according to their score) on an Eligibility List. Those applicants selected from these interviews are offered a position with the Tucson Fire Department as a Firefighter Recruit. Pending a successful background check and physical examination from the City Physician, the Recruit will start our 22-week training Academy.

Tentative class to begin in July 2010, based on Department needs.

For information regarding the testing process, please call the City of Tucson Human Resources Department at (520) 791-4241 or the TFD Recruitment Hotline at (520) 791-5211 ext. 1202.

Call the Recruitment Hot Line at (520) 791-5211 x1202 at any time if your questions have not been addressed or answered. Please leave a message and we will return your call as soon as possible.

The City of Tucson is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

FIRE SERVICE TRAINING OPPORTUNITY:

Firenuggets.com

PRESENTS

Deputy Chief Mike Bryant

Los Angeles County Fire Department

“COMMAND AND CONTROL”

- **March 11 & 12, 2010** - 09:00 -16:00 each day –
VACAVILLE, CA

Day 1: Risk Assessment and Decision Making Process: Have you ever asked yourself how could things have gone so wrong? Or, how could they not see the fatal fire event coming? It is my observation that we (the fire service) are not providing our company and chief officers with the proper tools/training so they can be better equipped to make safe and effective fire ground decisions. Rather, we teach them the steps (check boxes) on how to successfully navigate a promotional examination. Once they are promoted they never fully understand how and why they made those decisions, this is called (seat of your pants fire fighting). This segment will take you on an informative journey by thoroughly examining a simple 5 step decision making process on how to make safe fire ground decisions while operating in very dynamic high stress emergency environments. Student interaction/participation is employed using DVD's, pictures, and actual real life emergency scenarios.

Day 2: Is a breakdown the 8 steps of the "Incident Action Plan" and Scenarios. Many fire ground incident commanders do not have an idea of how to develop and communicate an effective "plan." This segment presents a solid checklist that keeps the incident commander on task no matter how simple or complex the incident. As part of this program, task saturation is explored and how it hinders the incident commander from focusing on the "next" instead of the "now." Student interaction is used to build an effective and efficient incident action plan. Also employed are videos, pictures, and the use of the Fire Studio simulator program.

Total cost is \$225, and includes lunch each day, class materials and certificate.

Location:

Travis Federal Credit Union
1 Travis Way
Vacaville, CA

Deputy Fire Chief Mike Bryant is a 28-year veteran of the County of Los Angeles Fire Department. He has held the ranks of Firefighter/Paramedic, Firefighter Specialist, Fire Prevention Inspector, Fire Captain, Training Captain, Training Program Developer, Fire Battalion Chief and Assistant Fire Chief. Chief Bryant currently manages and oversees the

East Regional Operations Bureau. He provides leadership for 33 cities, 76 fire stations, 4 divisions, 10 battalions and 1,400 personnel. Chief Bryant holds a Bachelor of Science degree in occupational studies from California State University, Long Beach. He is a qualified Type II incident commander, operations section chief, safety officer and division/group supervisor. In addition, he is a certified Master Instructor from California State Fire Training.

Go to www.firenuggets.com for registration and more detailed information.

FIRE SERVICE PROMOTIONAL PREPARATION CLASSES BY CHUCK WILSON:

- **Assessment Center and Fire Simulation Workshops**
- **Instructor: Chuck Wilson**

Assessment Center Workshop –

Designed for those who will participate in an Assessment Center on their Promotional Exam.

COURSE CONTENT:

- Written Multiple Choice Exercises
- Leaderless Group Exercises
- In-Basket Exercises
- Oral Presentations
- Written Exercises
- Subordinate Counseling
- Practice Exercises
- NEW Student Workbook

Simulator Workshop -

Designed for those who will have a Simulation on their Promotional exam.

COURSE CONTENT:

- Strategy & Tactics
- S.P.A.R.S. Technique
- Initial Report Exercises
- Raters Sheets
- Exam Situations
- "Hot-Seat" For All
- Practice Simulation Exercises
- The "No-Zone"

Instructor: CHUCK WILSON

Chuck is recognized as one of the nation's leading instructors in Fire Department Promotional Testing. Most recently honored as the recipient of the Ed Bent Award as California Fire Instructor of the year for 2007. A Southern California Chief Officer with a Bachelor Degree from San Diego State. Senior Master Instructor in the California Fire Training System, Adjunct Instructor for 14 Colleges including Cal State, Los Angeles, and Texas A&M WMD Programs. An editorial contributor to The IFSTA 5th and 6th Edition Fire Instructor Textbook. This will NOT be a dry or boring class. Chuck has taught these classes to over 2500 students and proves you can have fun while learning. Exercises, Rating Sheets and Key Performance Elements are stressed.

Class Locations and Dates:

Roseville, CA	El Cajon, CA	Tucson, AZ
<u>January 11, 2010</u> <i>Assessment Center</i> <u>January 12, 2010</u> <i>Simulator Workshop</i>	<u>January 14, 2010</u> <i>Assessment Center</i> <u>January 15, 2010</u> <i>Simulator Workshop</i>	<u>January 18, 2010</u> <i>Assessment Center</i> <u>January 19, 2010</u> <i>Simulator Workshop</i>
Roseville Fire Training Center 2030 Hilltop Circle Roseville, CA	Heartland Fire Training Center 1301 Marshall Avenue El Cajon, CA 92020	Golder Ranch Fire District Training Facility 3885 E. Golder Ranch Drive Tucson, AZ

Register at: www.promotionalworkshops.com

Classes are \$110.00 per day, per class, Pre-registered
\$120.00 per day per class at the door
3% Credit Card fee
* Now Accepting Visa and Master Card *

For More Information, contact:

CHUCK WILSON
77-263 Maliko Street
Kailua Kona, Hawaii 96740-4468
(808) 987-0038 Cell
cwilson@promotionalworkshops.com

FIRE SERVICE TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES:

I would like to invite you to **Firehouse World** taking place February 28 – March 4, 2010 at the San Diego (CA) Convention Center. I'm teaching these classes at the conference and thought you might be interested in attending:

Responsibilities of the First-Due Company Officer

Tuesday, March 2 at 1:45 pm – 3:15 pm

- This session will assist fire service personnel who may find themselves as the first-arriving company officer at an emergency scene. The first-due company officer has the potential to make or break an incident, as they are the one that will be making the most important decisions that have to be made upon arrival. Given a variety of simulated incidents, attendees will have an opportunity to perform size-up, establish incident objectives, assign companies, establish tactical objectives, learn from the

experiences of other attendees, and most importantly, learn how to effectively command and control an incident as the first-due company officer.

How to Excel at Promotional Exams – The Fireground Simulation Exercise

Wednesday, March 3 at 1:45 pm – 3:15 pm

- The fireground simulation is one of the most critical events, and sometimes the most weighted event of a promotional process assessment center. Whether it is a single-unit response or a multiple alarm fire, commanding an incident can be very challenging, especially if you do not have a pre-determined plan to run an incident. Learn how to go from just being the “check-box” incident commander to the incident commander who not only appears to be in control, but is in control! This presentation will help the student be more organized and more complete when faced with an emergency simulation on their next promotional examination. More importantly, this presentation will help provide a framework for the student to use in the position once they are successfully promoted, when the rubber really meets the road.

If you are not able to attend the conference, please be my guest and visit the West Coast’s largest combined exhibit hall of fire, EMS and rescue products. Over 350 exhibitors will be on display. Register online with the **FPSP72** and you’ll receive **FREE ENTRANCE TO THE EXHIBIT FLOOR** as well as the opening ceremony and keynote presentation being held on Tuesday, March 2 at 10:15 AM. Visit www.FirehouseWorld.com for all the event details.

I’m looking forward to seeing you!

Best Regards,

Steve Prziborowski

FIRE SERVICE PROMOTIONAL PREPARATION CLASSES BY ANDONI KASTROS:



MASTERING THE FIRE SERVICE ASSESSMENT CENTER

4-DAY WORKSHOP

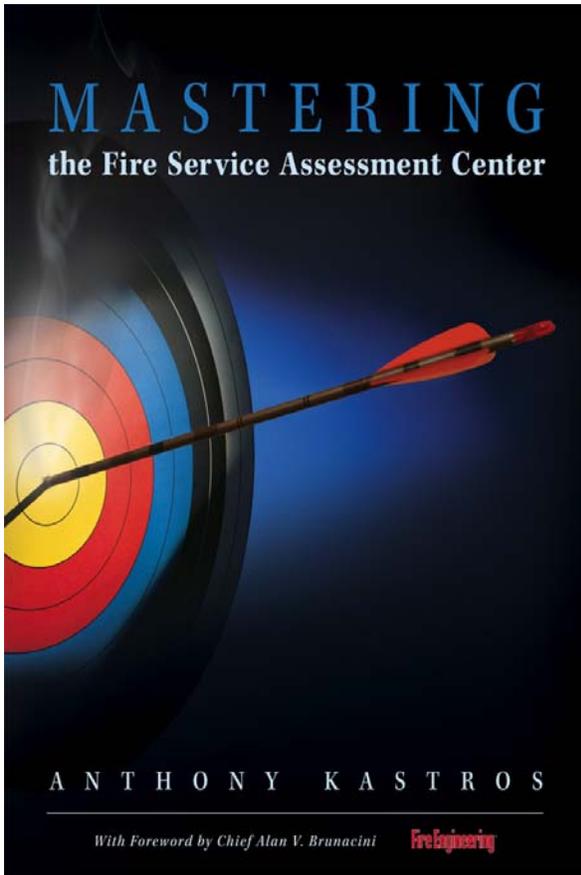
INSTRUCTOR: ANTHONY KASTROS, AUTHOR OF

MASTERING THE FIRE SERVICE ASSESSMENT CENTER
BY FIRE ENGINEERING

- PARTICIPATE IN EMERGENCY SIMULATIONS, ORAL PRESENTATIONS, VISUAL RESUMES, PROMOTIONAL INTERVIEWS, COUNSELING SESSIONS, VIDEO COUNSELING, IN-BASKETS, AND SUPERVISORY EXERCISES.

Chabot College Fire & EMS News

- DISCOVER THE PROPER MENTALITY FOR THE TEST, INCLUDING HOW TO SHED BAGGAGE AT THE DOOR.
- FOCUS ON BECOMING POSITION ORIENTED VS. TEST ORIENTED.
- LEARN ABOUT THE 27 KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS AND ABILITIES THAT SPAN THE DIMENSIONS OF LEADERSHIP, MANAGEMENT AND EMERGENCY OPERATIONS.
- ASSESS AND BE ASSESSED USING SCORING CRITERIA UTILIZED IN TODAY'S ASSESSMENT CENTERS.
- PRACTICE EXERCISE-SPECIFIC TOOLS AND AVOID CANDIDATE PITFALLS.
- * INCLUDES BEST-SELLING BOOK PUBLISHED BY **FIRE ENGINEERING**.



"I WANT TO THANK YOU FOR THE EXCELLENT SEMINAR THAT YOU GAVE IN PREPARATION FOR LA CITY'S FIRST EVER ASSESSMENT CENTER FOR FIRE CAPTAIN. BETWEEN WHAT I HAD BEEN STUDYING IN YOUR BOOK WITH FRIENDS AND WHAT WENT ON AT THE SEMINAR, WE ATTAINED SCORES OF 93.5% AND 100%. I REALLY LIKED THE FACT THAT YOUR INFORMATION ISN'T BASED ON TECHNIQUES OR GIMMICKS RATHER IT TEACHES HOW TO MOST EFFECTIVELY UTILIZE OUR ALREADY ACQUIRED SKILL SETS."
CHUCK - LA CITY FD

"I JUST WANTED TO DROP YOU A LINE AND LET YOU KNOW THAT I PLACED #1 ON OUR CAPTAINS LIST WITH AN OVERALL SCORE OF 95.36% AND I WAS PROMOTED LAST MONTH. THE PLAN THAT I PUT TOGETHER AFTER YOUR ASSESSMENT CENTER CLASS WORKED. YOUR METHODS ARE PROVEN. I WANT TO THANK YOU FOR YOUR HELP AND YOUR INSPIRATION THAT YOU GAVE ME TO PURSUE MY PROMOTION."
BRIAN - ROSEVILLE FD

"I AM SO, SO HAPPY THAT I TOOK YOUR COURSE. IT WAS ABSOLUTELY THE DIFFERENCE IN ME BEING SUCCESSFUL IN MY PROMOTIONAL PROCESS. I TOOK YOUR COURSE WITH SEVERAL OTHER COLLEAGUES FROM MY DEPARTMENT. I CAME OUT NUMBER 5 OF A LIST OF 47. THERE ARE THREE (3) OF US IN THE TOP 5 FOR CAPTAIN. THERE ARE 5 OF US IN THE TOP 10."
REGGIE - SAN JOSE FD

ANTHONY KASTROS IS A 22-YEAR VETERAN OF THE FIRE SERVICE. HE IS A BATTALION CHIEF WITH SACRAMENTO METRO FIRE DISTRICT. HE IS AUTHOR OF THE BOOK AND VIDEO SERIES, "MASTERING THE FIRE SERVICE ASSESSMENT CENTER", BY FIRE

ENGINEERING THAT FOCUSES ON ASSESSMENT CENTERS AND SIMULATIONS. CHIEF KASTROS IS AN FDIC INSTRUCTOR, TEACHING FIREGROUND TACTICS AND LEADERSHIP/TEAM BUILDING FOR FIRE DEPARTMENTS THROUGHOUT THE UNITED STATES.

JANUARY 25-28, 2010 - EL DORADO HILLS, CA. - \$495.00*
Go to www.trainfirefighters.com FOR ONLINE REGISTRATION
CLASS SIZE LIMITED TO DUE TO DEPTH OF INSTRUCTION

FIRE SERVICE SAFETY & PUBLIC INFORMATION **COURTESY OF THE LOS ANGELES FIRE DEPT:**

Dear Friend of the LAFD:

Periodically, we share a digest of *non-incident* articles from the Los Angeles Fire Department blog. We welcome you to click the links below that interest you - but first:

December 13, 2009

www.chabotfire.com

Chabot College Fire & EMS News

- Firefighters Ask: Your Turkey or Your Life? <http://snurl.com/tf4kk>
- The Holiday Season - Time To Assess Yours Needs as a Caregiver: <http://snurl.com/tf4ke>
- When Traveling This Holiday Season, Are You as Safe as the Feds? <http://snurl.com/tf4kx>
- LAFD Toy Safety Widget Arrives for the Holidays! <http://snurl.com/tars2>

...and with today's tinder dry brush and seasonal winds:

- The Science Behind LAFD Fire Weather: <http://snurl.com/tf4js>
- Fire Weather Forecast for Los Angeles: <http://snurl.com/tf4k5>
- Los Angeles Firefighters Offer Wind Safety Tips: <http://snurl.com/tf4kb>
- LAFD Crew 3 Stands Ready to Answer the Call: <http://snurl.com/tf4l7>

...and a gentle reminder that some medical emergencies are preventable, while others are not!!

- Mother Makes Special Delivery at Fire Station 99: <http://snurl.com/tf4jv>
- Firefighters Ask: Is Your Television Secure: <http://snurl.com/tf4jz>
- In Los Angeles, Where Do All the Sick People Go?: <http://snurl.com/tf4k8>

...and finally, we ask for your assistance and offer an important footnote regarding the law:

- Driver Who Killed Off-Duty Los Angeles Firefighter Remains at Large: <http://snurl.com/tf4lb>

Thanks for being a member of our LAFD E-Newsletter. Do you know someone who would like to join (or leave) this e-mail list? Simply have them visit: <http://lafd.org/info.htm>

Happy (and Safe) Holidays!

Respectfully Yours in Safety and Service,

Brian Humphrey
Firefighter/Specialist
Public Service Officer
Los Angeles Fire Department

LAFD Home Page: <http://lafd.org>
LAFD News Blog: <http://lafd.org/blog>

FIRE SERVICE EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY:

The **Denver (CO) Fire Department** will be accepting applications for the positions of **Firefighter** starting November 2, 2009 and will be open until all testing slots have been filled; then, walk-ins will be accepted if any slots open up. Thus, it is critical to apply online ASAP if you are interested, to ensure you get the best testing time slot in early 2010.

- To view additional information about the testing process and to apply, go to: <http://www.denvergov.org/civilservice/FirefighterTestInformation/tabid/435126/Default.aspx>
- To view overview of what to expect as a Denver Firefighter, including requirements to apply, salary and benefits, and career opportunities, go to: <http://www.denvergov.org/Recruit/EmploymentDenverFirefighter/tabid/393407/Default.aspx>

For more information about the **City of Denver**, visit their website at: www.denvergov.org/

For more information about the **Denver Fire Department**, visit their website at: www.denvergov.org/Default.aspx?alias=www.denvergov.org/FireDepartment

For more information about the **Denver Fire Department Firefighters Association, International Association of Fire Fighters (IAFF) Local 858**, visit their website at: www.iaff858.org/

FIRE SERVICE SCHOLARSHIP INFORMATION:



Announcing the

2010 CALIFORNIA FIRE EXPLORING SCHOLARSHIP

THE HISTORY

In 1985, Orange County Fire Explorer Scout Armond Minogue was suddenly killed in an automobile accident in the Mission Viejo, California area. Armond was a dedicated and enthusiastic Explorer of Post 9631 with aspirations of becoming a Professional Firefighter. Fire Captain Mike Van Bibber of the Orange County Fire Department (now Authority) served as Minogue's "Explorer Post Adviser" and was unknowingly dispatched on duty to the tragic accident that took Armond's life.

Recognizing Minogue's passion and dedication to the profession, Van Bibber collected donations and established the "Armond Minogue Scholarship". Fire Explorers within the OCFD would submit essays competing for the annual award providing financial assistance to attend any academy or fire service education endeavor. In 1991, Captain Van Bibber retired from the OCFD and recently passed away in May of 2009. For reasons unknown, the annual scholarship process was not continued and we lost track of the past account. We now remember Mike for his dedication and supporting the youth program allowing numerous young adults to advance as fire service professionals today.

Additionally, we want to honor and remember an individual who consistently donated his time and efforts to the Explorer Program and yearly academies- Retired OCFA Fire Captain Ron Newport volunteered and donated countless hours teaching the Fire Control 3 portion of the Academy in the 1980s and 90s. He is most notably remembered for his distinct characteristics and unique instruction.



Fire Captain Van Bibber and the 1987 Award Presentation at OCFD Station 32

THE RETURN AND FUTURE-

My name is Brett Boukather and I am the recipient of the 1987 Armond Minogue Scholarship and graduate of the 1987 California Fire Exploring Academy. After noticing no current exploring scholarships available in the state, wanting to renew this tradition and honor the dedicated people listed above, I have established the **CALIFORNIA FIRE EXPLORING SCHOLARSHIP**. Myself and other Volunteers want to continue this effort assisting the Explorer Scouts with their future education and honor Captains Van Bibber, Newport and Explorer Minogue. This program is open to ALL current Fire Explorers in the State of December 13, 2009

California with at least 6 months of service in their respective Post. (includes Huntington Beach and Long Beach Search and Rescue programs)

THE PROCESS-

During the month of January of every year, all qualified Explorer Scouts in the state of California are invited to submit their essays and application to the Review Panel by the 31st. The scholarship winners will be selected, notified and awarded in February.

SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE-

Primary Awards- As of November 2009, we can now offer three scholarship awards of \$200. These awards can be applied to any of the following five academies-

- California Fire Exploring Academy
- Inland Empire Fire Exploring Academy- San Bernardino and Riverside Counties.
- Los Angeles County Fire Exploring Academy
- Orange County Fire Authority Explorer Academy
- Wildland Firefighter Explorer Academy, Los Angeles County.

Secondary Awards-

- Pelican Flashlights in Torrance, CA has generously donated new three flashlights.
- FireRecruit.com in Millbrae, CA has generously donated a 1 year subscription to their job service.



PLEASE DONATE-

This program is a 100% volunteer effort and any amount would assist us. Just \$25 would really help. Donations can be mailed to-

California Fire Exploring Scholarship c/o Mechanics Bank
8235 Laguna Blvd., Suite 100
Elk Grove, CA 95758

Account #041288920

Chabot College Fire & EMS News

Or send a donation to our verified [PayPal](#) Public Charity account. Our email address is- CaFireExpScholarship@hotmail.com. Credit cards are accepted.

THE LEGAL-

- The CFES is a registered "Public Benefit Corporation" with the State of California/Secretary of State, #3229009.
- The CFES is a "Registered Charitable Trust" with the California Office of Attorney General, #CT0155944.
- The CFES has an IRS EIN # of 27-0983676 and application pending for 501c3 status.

***Dates, instructions and specific time lines will be faxed to departments in December and future information will be posted at California Firefighter.com in the "FIRE EXPLORING and ROP" section.**

2010 SCHOLARSHIP SUBMISSION AND AWARD TIME LINE

- December 2009- Notifications made to fire departments and Explorer Posts, statewide.
- January 2010- Open period to submit packets. (application and essay) Starts January 1st with a deadline of January 31. The application and submission details will be posted here.
- February 2010- Judging by Review Panel on Saturday, February 6th and awards being issued on or before 2/31/10.

SPECIAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS-

- Arclight Media for donating the artwork, technical assistance and financial donation.
- Mechanics Bank's Elk Grove Branch and Manager Tony Goularte and his staff for their financial oversight, assistance and future use of their facility.
- California Firefighter.com for use of their forums board.
- LACountyFire.com for their board support.

Thank you for your interest and support of this 100% volunteer effort.

Brett Boukather
Founder and Coordinator
Email- brettbouk@yahoo.com

FIRE SERVICE TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES:

- **Looking to increase your fire service knowledge, skills and abilities (KSAs) or obtain some initial or continuing education?**
- **Check out some of the various fire service & EMS training conferences and seminars around the United States:**

Fire Department Instructor's Conference (FDIC) – Indianapolis, IN

April 19 through 24, 2010

Go to www.fdic.com for more information.

Firehouse World – San Diego, CA

February 28 through March 4, 2010

Go to www.firehouseworld.com for more information.

Firehouse Expo – Baltimore, MD

July 20 through 25, 2010

Go to www.firehouseexpo.com

EMS Today Conference – Baltimore, MD

March 2 through 6, 2010

Go to www.emstodayconference.com for more information.

Fire Rescue International – Chicago, IL

August 24 through 28, 2010

Go to www.iafc.org/fri for more information.

HOLIDAY REQUEST FROM THE L.A.F.D.:

Dear Friend of the LAFD,

Our local 'Spark of Love' Toy Program for Needy Children seeks to provide a new unwrapped toy or sporting good to a child who would otherwise go without a gift this holiday season, and...

- We dearly need your help!

The seasoned volunteers and off-duty Firefighters working on 'Spark of Love' have told me that toy donations are not merely at an "all time low" but "absolutely non-existent" at many locations.

And you guessed it, toy needs are increasing.

We do need *your* help (and we don't use the h-word lightly). Our program's success relies

solely upon the goodwill of people like you, especially those who can offer just one small item in what is clearly a difficult time.

Your donation of any new unwrapped toy or sporting good will be gratefully accepted at any Fire Station in Southern California prior to Christmas Day. If getting to your local Fire Station is not convenient, we welcome you to visit our Spark of Love partners at CVS/pharmacy, who have graciously offered to join us in collecting toys during the holiday season

Complete information is available by calling our Spark of Love hotline at (213) 847-3816 or visiting: <http://lafd.org/spark>

Thanks for helping us make the holidays safe and happy!

Respectfully Yours in Safety and Service,

Brian Humphrey
Firefighter/Specialist
Public Service Officer
Los Angeles Fire Department

LAFD Home Page: <http://lafd.org>
LAFD News Blog: <http://lafd.org/blog>

FIRE SERVICE SAFETY INFORMATION FROM THE U.S. FIRE ADMINISTRATION:

U.S. Fire Administration Releases University Housing Fires Topical Report

WASHINGTON D.C. - The Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) United States Fire Administration (USFA) has issued a special report examining the causes and characteristics of fires in college and university residential buildings that include dormitories, fraternity, and sorority houses. The report, **University Housing Fires, was** developed by the National Fire Data Center and is a part of the USFA's Topical Fire Report Series. An estimated average of 3,800 fires occurs each year in university dwellings. Annually, these fires are also responsible for 5 deaths, 50 civilian injuries, and \$26 million in property loss. This report is based on 2005 to 2007 data from the National Fire Incident Reporting System (NFIRS).

"The safety of this nation's students is important to all fire departments facing the challenges presented by today's higher education institutions," said Kelvin J. Cochran, United States Fire Administrator. "The simple act of cooking by students continues to present dangers when safety is taken for granted. It is our desire through this report, and others like it, to continue our support of fire safety efforts by all fire departments working closely with faculty to ensure a safe and fire free educational environment."

According to the report, 94 percent of university housing fires occur in dormitories and dormitory-type residences, and 6 percent occur in fraternity and sorority houses. University housing fires peak in September and October and are most frequent in the evening hours from 5 p.m. to 10 p.m. when students prepare snacks or cook meals. Cooking fires account for 83 percent of all university housing fires and is the leading cause. Confined cooking fires, those confined to the container, account for 77 percent of all university housing fires. The short topical reports are designed to explore facets of the U.S. fire problem as depicted through data collected in NFIRS. Each topical report briefly addresses the nature of the specific fire or fire-related topic, highlights important findings from the data, and may suggest other resources to consider for further information. Also included are recent examples of fire incidents that demonstrate some of the issues addressed in the report or that put the report topic in context.

[» Download Report](#) (PDF, 891 Kb)

CANDIDATE PHYSICAL ABILITY TEST (CPAT) INFORMATION:

The Candidate Physical Ability Test (CPAT) is a must have for any person planning on becoming a firefighter. More and more departments are requiring a candidate to possess a CPAT completion card (no older than one year) just to apply for their department. If you do not possess a current CPAT, you do not pass go, you do not collect two hundred dollars, and you miss out on the opportunity to compete for a firefighter position at many departments. The CPAT does not guarantee that you will be a successful firefighter.

Successfully passing the CPAT means that you should be able to enter a firefighter academy at a reasonable level of fitness appropriate to the job. I encourage you to learn more about the CPAT, and also look into having this certificate on your resume. Trust me, this may be an eye-opener for some – many of you will not pass it the first time. Make sure you take advantage of the orientation and practice sessions and learn where your weak spots are so you can focus on those areas.

CPAT TESTING CENTER LOCATIONS:

Southern California:
626 N. Eckhoff Street
Orange, CA 92868

Northern California
526 Commerce Way
Livermore, CA 94551

Sacramento Area: NEW!!
1329 N. Market Blvd., #100
Sacramento, CA 95834

To see the **available dates** to take the CPAT at any of the above three locations, visit their website at www.cpatonline.org

FIRE SERVICE EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY:

The Philadelphia (PA) Fire Department will be accepting applications for the positions of **Firefighter** until February 5, 2010.

- To view the job announcement and to apply, go to: www.phila.gov/personnel/

For more information about the **City of Philadelphia**, visit their website at: www.phila.gov

For more information about the **Philadelphia Fire Department**, visit their website at: www.phila.gov/fire/about/index_homepage.html

For more information about the **Philadelphia Fire Department Firefighters Association, International Association of Fire Fighters (IAFF) Local 22**, visit their website at: www.iaff22.org

FIREFIGHTER EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES:

If you want to become a firefighter, have you started taking fire department examinations yet? If not, what are you waiting for? If you say you're not ready, you'll probably never be ready. If you want to wait until you finish your degree, then you're going to have wasted about two (or more) valuable years that could have been spent learning how to master the fire service testing process. You should be taking every fire service exam you qualify for – what's the worst that can happen if you take a test? If nothing else, you will hopefully start to learn your strengths and weaknesses and what it takes to become a firefighter. Don't rely on us to provide you with every fire department that is accepting applications. We only send out a small fraction of the current open firefighter positions across the United States. If you truly want to become a firefighter, put your money where your mouth is and subscribe to a fire testing service that will notify you when fire departments across the United States are accepting applications.

Two of the best fire testing notification services I have seen are:

- www.firerecruit.com

- www.firecareers.com

For less than \$100.00 per year (each), those companies (run by firefighters) will provide you with valuable testing information to help save you time and effort. Becoming a firefighter is not an easy task, and the badge will not drop from the sky into your lap. Don't wait for your friends to tell you about testing opportunities or expect to hear about them from us. That is not our job, to replace such companies.

FIREFIGHTER FATALITY INFORMATION:

The United States Fire Administration (USFA) has received notice of the following firefighter fatalities:

Name: Gary F. Neidig, Jr.
Rank: Fire Police
Age: 36
Gender: Male
Status: Volunteer
Years of Service: <1
Date of Incident: 12/04/2009
Time of Incident: 1803hrs
Date of Death: 12/04/2009
Fire Department: Mount Carmel Volunteer Fire Department
Address: 137 West 4th Street, Mount Carmel, PA 17851
Fire Department Chief: Jack Williams, Jr.

Incident Description: Shortly after clearing the scene of a mutual aid call, a motor vehicle accident with confinement and injuries, Fire Police Officer Neidig fell ill from a cause still to be determined. Neidig was transported to the hospital but succumbed to his injuries.
Incident Location: Coal Township on the Excelsior Highway near the Mount Carmel Township Border Line.

Funeral Arrangements: A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 11 a.m. Thursday in the Church of Our Lady, 47 S. Market St., Mount Carmel, with the Very Rev. Francis Karwacki officiating. Burial will be held at the convenience of the family. Viewing will be held from 9 to 10:40 a.m. Thursday, with a transferal service at 10:15 a.m. in the C.J. Lucas Funeral Home Inc., 27 N. Vine St., Mount Carmel. To send condolences to the family, go to www.cjlucasfuneralhome.com

Memorial Fund Contact and Address: In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions can be made to the family to help defray funeral expenses in the care of the Mount Carmel Volunteer Fire Department, 137 West 4th Street, Mount Carmel, PA 17851

Tribute is being paid to Fire Police Officer Gary F. Neidig, Jr. at <http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/fireservice/fatalities/>

To date, 84 firefighter fatalities have been reported to USFA in 2009; 81 from incidents that occurred in 2009 and three from previous year incidents. Year-to-date monthly and annual USFA firefighter fatality reports are posted online @ http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/fireservice/fatalities/statistics/ff_stats.shtm

AND:

Name: Ramon E. Hain
Rank: Firefighter
Age: 50
Gender: Male
Status: Career

Chabot College Fire & EMS News

Years of Service: 6
Date of Incident: 11/24/1996
Time of Incident: 2020hrs
Date of Death: 11/14/2009
Fire Department: Saint Paul Fire Department
Address: 100 East Eleventh ST, Saint Paul, MN 55101
Fire Department Chief: Tim Butler

Incident Description: Firefighter Hain passed away as a result of heart failure reportedly caused by a rare disease he contracted through a documented exposure to hazardous substances (body fluids) while treating a patient.

Incident Location: Pending

Funeral Arrangements: 11/21/2009

Memorial Fund Contact and Address: Expressions of sympathy or condolences can be sent to Local 21 at 411 Main Street, Suite 316, Saint Paul, MN 55102-1031.

Tribute is being paid to Firefighter Ramon E. Hain at

<http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/fireservice/fatalities/>

To date, 81 firefighter fatalities have been reported to USFA in 2009; 78 from incidents that occurred in 2009 and three from previous year incidents. Year-to-date monthly and annual USFA firefighter fatality reports are posted online @

http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/fireservice/fatalities/statistics/ff_stats.shtm

AND:

Rank: Firefighter
Age: 54
Gender: Male
Status: Volunteer
Years of Service: 32
Date of Incident: 11/21/2009
Time of Incident: 1033hrs
Date of Death: 11/27/2009
Fire Department: Dix Hills Volunteer Fire Department
Address: 115 E Deer Park RD, Dix Hills, NY 11746
Fire Department Chief: Robert Adcock
Fire Department Website: <http://www.dixhillsfd.org>

Incident Description: On November 21, 2009, Firefighter Hessling responded to motor vehicle accident call at 1033 hours and subsequently, after clearing the scene, suffered a stroke at 1554 hours. Firefighter Hessling passed away several days later due to complications from that medical emergency.

Incident Location: Deer Park Ave and Macniece PI (USNG: 18T XL 3987 1745).

Chabot College Fire & EMS News

Funeral Arrangements: A Wake will be held 11/30/2009 from 1930-2100hrs; 12/01/2009 from 1400-1700hrs and 1900-2100hrs at the Al Jacobsen Funeral Home, 1380 New York AVE, Huntington Station, NY 11746. Firematic services will be held at 2000hrs on 12/01/2009 at the Al Jacobsen Funeral Home. A private funeral ceremony for the family will be held Wednesday, 12/02/2009.

Memorial Fund Contact and Address: The family is requesting in lieu of flowers that donations be made to the Brady Intemann Foundation, 4 Pine Hollow Lane, Greenlawn, NY 11740.

Tribute is being paid to Firefighter Walter Hessling at <http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/fireservice/fatalities/>

To date, 83 firefighter fatalities have been reported to USFA in 2009; 80 from incidents that occurred in 2009 and three from previous year incidents. Year-to-date monthly and annual USFA firefighter fatality reports are posted online @ http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/fireservice/fatalities/statistics/ff_stats.shtm

AND:

Name:	Terrance Freeman
Rank:	Firefighter
Age:	36
Gender:	Male
Status:	Career
Years of Service:	4
Date of Incident:	11/22/2009
Time of Incident:	1200hrs
Date of Death:	11/22/2009
Fire Department:	Rockford Fire Department
Address:	204 S First ST, Rockford, IL 61104-2033
Fire Department Chief:	Derek Bergsten

Incident Description: Firefighter Freeman passed away from a cause still to be determined several hours after coming off of his shift during which he had responded to multiple emergency calls.

Incident Location: Pending

Funeral Arrangements: A visitation will be held from 1400-1600hrs on 11/28/2009 (Saturday), followed by a memorial service at 1600hrs at Fitzgerald Funeral Home, 1860 S. Mulford Road, Rockford, IL 61108.

Memorial Fund Contact and Address: Pending

Tribute is being paid to Firefighter Terrance Freeman at <http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/fireservice/fatalities/>

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To date, 82 firefighter fatalities have been reported to USFA in 2009; 79 from incidents that occurred in 2009 and three from previous year incidents. Year-to-date monthly and annual USFA firefighter fatality reports are posted online @ http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/fireservice/fatalities/statistics/ff_stats.shtm

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USFA does not have a Line-of-Duty-Death (LODD) criterion nor does it make LODD determinations. "Please note, running totals of firefighter fatalities used on these initial notices do not necessarily reflect the number of firefighter fatalities used in totals for the (provisional) monthly year-to-date USFA firefighter fatality reports, or year-end (provisional) reports posted online at www.usfa.dhs.gov/fireservice/fatalities/statistics/ff_stats.shtm

Firefighter fatalities in USFA reports are summarized by date/year-of-incident. Initial notices posted online at <http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/fireservice/fatalities/> and distributed via USFA listserve do not represent the final on-duty firefighter fatality determination by USFA for such reports, nor LODD determination made by the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation (www.firehero.org) for names added each subsequent year to the National Fallen Firefighters Memorial at the National Fire Academy in Emmitsburg, MD, they are the beginning of a research process for each firefighter fatality reported so that such determinations can be made.

FIRE SERVICE SAFETY, TRAINING & NEWS
STORIES TO LEARN FROM, COURTESY OF
DEPUTY CHIEF BILLY GOLDFEDER & GORDON
GRAHAM, HOSTS OF www.firefighterclosecalls.com

FLORIDA EMS CAPTAIN LODD-CARDIAC ARREST IN QUARTERS

Captain David Deland, 45, of the Lake-Sumter Emergency Medical Services, had responded to a number of calls since Thursday, when he suffered cardiac arrest at his Eustis office sometime after 0230 hours on Friday. Captain Deland worked for Lake-Sumter EMS since its inception on Oct. 1, 2000, and had been a paramedic and emergency medical technician before that. Reports are that Captain Deland hadn't been feeling well earlier in the day. He had responded to a number of vehicle accident calls and was at his Eustis office, when a returning group of Medics found him in cardiac arrest and attempted life saving measures. Captain Deland is survived by his wife Toni, son David, daughter Robin Price-Samartino and grandchildren Melanie, Madysen and Presten. In lieu of flowers, a trust account has been established at United Southern Bank (USB). Contributions may be made at any USB branch or mailed to USB, c/o John Jones, P.O. Box 1925, Eustis 32727. Checks should be made payable to: USB for the benefit of David Deland. As always our most sincere condolences. Take Care-Be Careful.

BillyG

The Secret List 11-8-09 0802 hours

AND:

Hey,

Most Firefighters have an opinion on grief counseling, CISD, CISM or whatever you may refer to as psychological debriefing or first aid. And they all may be right. At least when it comes down to them. In other words, what works best for you is what works best, for you. Seems simple enough. But it isn't. We are in the business of going to places and scenes where some bad stuff has happened-and that has to be expected. Sometimes it is real bad stuff. And sometimes it is the worst it could possibly be. Unthinkable, and unimaginable, until the day it actually happens. Incidents, in the eye of the beholder can go from bad, to worse to mind blowing. Literally.

We have all been on runs where the run itself and the reaction to it is varied based upon each individual. Some Firefighters and other responders are shook during and/or after the run. A little breather or some humor can help fix it for some of us-while others of us may have much more intense and negative reactions, following the exact same run. Others are fine with it and go about their business. Some others think they are fine but may not be and vice-versa. We are all different. In some places, help or support comes in the form of qualified folks doing what they can to help. In others, there are some highly **UNqualified** folks who act and say that they understand, but are clueless-and some of those folks, it seems, get off on that "helpful" role play. Scary people who can make matters worse. And in some situations, "one on one" discussions with others who do understand because they have done "that" may very well work best. And in other cases, some firehouse humor works to help take the edge off. But it all depends.

It depends on the incident. It depends on who needs the help and who they are, their background, their time and experience on the job, their history (personal and professional) etc-and it depends on who is delivering the help. It just depends. We are pretty sure that "one size fits all" definitely will not work, because it all depends. Sometimes taking the edge off is quick, easy, and with perhaps some humor, it all gets better. However, in some cases, that is far from the solution. Again, it all depends, because the solution is different - - **because of all the differences**. While each person is different, and the solutions are varied, it certainly pushes the issue of the need for a guideline in any department so that if this kind of "aid" is needed, the direction and access is clear. And that guideline may not be just for those who may feel they personally need it, but for the others around the firehouse who may suspect the need for another.

For those interested in this subject, here is a piece that will help further your discussions on the subject.

<http://www.pitch.com/2009-11-05/news/stop-hugging-us>

Take Care,

BillyG

The Secret List 11-8-09 / 2058 hours

AND:

Hey,

This evening, a Firefighter was injured at a 3 alarm fire in Hooksett. The Firefighter was treated in Manchester and is now being transported to Boston with 2nd and 3rd degree burn

Chabot College Fire & EMS News

related injuries after a garage door came down and trapped him during the fire. The Firefighter was reported to be fully geared up in his PPE and other Firefighters were able to get him out by cutting open the door. Other Firefighters from Hooksett and Manchester were injured as well, but less seriously. The building's owner said that everyone inside the MowTown Power Equipment building was able to get out with no problem. We'll post more on our home page.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 11-9-09 / 2156 Hours

AND:

Hey,

Quick UPDATE RE: NEW HAMPSHIRE FF From last evening:

The Hooksett Firefighter became trapped last night when an overhead door came down as he had just stepped inside the large metal clad building with heavy fire conditions, according to those on the scene. His officer immediately transmitted a Mayday and the Firefighter was located very quickly. Members used hand tools and a saw to gain access and extricate him. By all accounts, the quick and decisive actions of the members of the balance of the first alarm companies effected the rescue of the firefighter in the most efficient manner possible. The Firefighter was transported to the Elliot Hospital in Manchester where he was stabilized before being transferred by ground to the Shriners' burn unit in Boston. He reportedly sustained third degree burns on his ear(s) and neck and first and second degree burns on his neck, shoulders, and scapula-area. **Everyone agreed that the injured firefighter BEING IN FULL PPE did its job.** A mutual aid Manchester Firefighter was also transported from the scene with minor facial burns following the explosion of some sort of tank.

FIREFIGHTER LINE OF DUTY DEATH REPORTS:

Several new NIOSH reports have come out this week. 4 of them are specifically related to Firefighters killed in structural fires-the same types fires that you or I respond to regularly. Nothing unusual. No hazmat, no hi-rise, no terrorism---regular responses that any FD would be expected to respond to. The additional report is about how a FF was killed by backing fire apparatus. ALL are worth every Firefighter and Fire Officers time for round table discussions...with those you go to fires with. Discussions that could include command, control and discipline on the fireground, training, communications, crew integrity, operational fitness, accountability, size-up and SOP's that match the way a FD operates (or vice versa).

2 MASSACHUSETTS FIREFIGHTERS-RESTAURANT FIRE-RAPID FIRE CONDITIONS:

2 Boston (MA) Firefighters (both in their 50's) died in the Line of Duty in August 2007 while operating interior at a restaurant fire. The NIOSH report released Monday outlines 20 recommendations including an ineffective incident management system and insufficient tactics and training contributed to the LODDs. Key contributing factors identified in this investigation include an insufficient occupational safety and health program, ineffective incident management system at the incident, insufficient incident management training and requirements, insufficient tactics and training, ineffective communications, delay in establishing a rapid intervention team (RIT), inadequate building code enforcement and development, and inadequate turnout clothing and personal protective equipment.

This was the same fire where the media claimed that autopsies showed that 1 FF had a blood alcohol level three times the legal limit and the other FF having traces of cocaine in his system. **HERE is the report:**

<http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/fire/reports/face200732.html>

WEST VIRGINIA: MOBILE HOME FIRE

On February 19, 2009, 2 West Virginia Firefighters were killed in the Line of Duty while operating at a mobile home fire. They arrived on scene to find the camper fully involved with fire, and flames impinging on an adjacent mobile home. The occupants of the camper and mobile home got out without injury, prior to the fire department's arrival. The Firefighters entered the mobile home through the front door with a charged 1½-in hoseline. When the engine company was running out of water, the driver sounded the evacuation signal but the Firefighters never came out. They were eventually discovered in the front room of the mobile home-several feet from the front door they had entered through. Their facepieces were not on when they were found.

Key contributing factors identified in this investigation include lack of department administrative controls in regards to donning respiratory protection and SCBA maintenance, SCBAs were not equipped with an integrated or stand-alone PASS device, incident commander (IC) involvement in fireground activities, and wind conditions pushing smoke through the mobile home. **HERE is the report:**

<http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/fire/reports/face200907.html>

PENNSYLVANIA: RESIDENTIAL BASEMENT FIRE

On March 5, 2008, a 35-year-old Fire Lieutenant died while fighting a basement fire. The following factors were identified as contributing to the incident: an absence of relevant standard operating guidelines; lack of fire fighter team continuity; sub-optimal incident command and risk management; and lack of a backup hose line. **HERE is the report:**

<http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/fire/reports/face200808.html>

ILLINOIS: FLOOR COLLAPSE - RESIDENTIAL BASEMENT FIRE

On July 22, 2008, a 24 year-old male Firefighter responding from a mutual aid department and was fatally injured during a floor collapse in a residential basement fire. Key contributing factors identified in this incident included: a crew operating on the floor above a fire that had been burning for more than the 30 minutes that fire fighters were on scene, characteristics of the structure that inhibited early efforts to ventilate the structure, and subsequent ventilation efforts that were not coordinated with interior operations. **HERE is the report:**

<http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/fire/reports/face200826.html>

NEW JERSEY: FF BACKED OVER BY APPARATUS AT FIRE SCENE:

On January 2, 2009, a 57-year-old Firefighter (Acting Captain) was fatally injured when he was backed over while spotting an apparatus on the fire scene. As the apparatus driver backed the rig up, he felt the truck run over something. A police officer yelled to the operator to stop the engine because something or someone was just run over. The victim was found underneath the engine just in front of the officer's side rear wheels. He was transported to a local metropolitan hospital where he was pronounced dead. The chauffeur was not cited in the fatal incident. Key contributing factors identified in this investigation include loss of direct

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communications between driver and spotter, driver distractions, possible loss of footing by the victim, and possible failure of the automatic reverse braking system. **HERE is the report:**
<http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/fire/reports/face200910.html>

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 11-10-09 / 1558 Hours

AND:

Hey,

A 40-year-old **Philadelphia (PA) Firefighter** (E-60) is resting comfortably in HUP this morning after he was injured last night when he fell out of his fire apparatus responding on a call. The incident occurred around 1830 hours when he apparently leaned against the door, and it opened.

There are no public details yet on if he was belted in. It appears he probably was not. But since all the facts on what happened in Philly last not are not out yet-and this CLOSE CALL is being investigated by the PFD, we do know that apparatus doors have "popped open" for years, for a variety of reasons. **Solution? 3 guesses.** Make sure your members understand **WHY** they need to just be belted in. A door that opens, an apparatus that loses control, a crash-whatever. Just put your damn seatbelt on. **NEED MORE? READ THIS:**
<http://www.firehouse.com/node/355983>

To avoid falling out of the rig or getting ejected, just put your belt on. To avoid being held personally accountable as a Fire Officer when one of your members falls out or gets ejected: **Enforce the policy.** To avoid having to explain what happened to your or another FF's family, just belt in. Personal responsibility.

NEED EVEN MORE? READ THIS:

<http://www.firefighterclosecalls.com/downloads/seatbelts%20leadership%20on%20the%20line%20.pdf>

GRAPHIC SEAT BELT REMINDER VIDEO:

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6kYqjTA_VEg&feature=fvw

REPORTS SPECIFICALLY RELATED TO FIREFIGHTER LODD's/VEHICULAR:

<http://www2a.cdc.gov/NIOSH-fire-fighter-face/state.asp?state=ALL&Incident Year=ALL&Medical Related=ALL&Trauma Related=0018&Submit=Submit>

H1N1:

Here are 2 media stories about Fire Chiefs and H1N1.

The first is about a **Fire Chief who has been stricken** and is going thru one heck of a battle to survive:

<http://www.greatfallsribune.com/article/20091112/NEWS01/911120301/Volunteer-fire-chief-battles-deadly-H1N1>

This next piece is about a reported misunderstanding, miscommunication or some "rest of the story" stuff related to Firefighters and their Chief, and the FF's being able to get their swine flu shots:

http://www.eagletribune.com/punewshh/local_story_315013036.html?keyword=topstory

PHOTO ABUSE RELATED TO A FALLEN FIREFIGHTER:

The memory of a Florida Firefighter (who was Killed in the Line of Duty during training) is being disgraced by a website linking his picture to horrific crimes. And GOOGLE claims they can't help. The actual story is about an Australian firefighter accused of molesting children. But instead of using the suspect's picture, the clueless clowns running the blog used a picture of John Curry (link below), who died in Volusia County in 2007. Curry's widow (**who is also suing the FD in relation to her husbands death-see below**) is trying to find a way to take his picture down, but she hasn't been able to track down the blogger, because there is not enough information on his website. Local media found out the blogger lives in Australia and she may have a hard time getting the picture taken down.

Volusia County FF John Curry died almost two years ago in a training failure when a tree fell on top of him. Since then, his photo has popped up on the Internet in various news articles, but two weeks ago his widow, Kristen Curry, found his picture linked to a terrible story about pornography and rape. Be clear, The blogger did have a disclaimer underneath the picture and said Curry was not the same man in the story.

But still. Come on.... The blogger in Australia posted a news article about a local Firefighter who was sentenced to 20 years for selling pornographic pictures of his daughter and granddaughter but used Curry's picture as a "generic firefighters" picture. A First Amendment attorney was asked (by media) what, if any, rights Curry had. He said it doesn't rise to the level of defamation and, if the photo is not copyrighted (the copyright apparently must be on the photo), she can't do much. Media in Florida found out that Google owns the website and contacted them, but Google won't remove the blog. **Great.** The media was unable to get a hold of the blogger because Google would not release his personal information without a court order.

The original blog posting is HERE:

<http://velociraptoronzebra.blogspot.com/2009/09/dad-sold-daughter-rape-photos-online.html>

The news article from Florida is HERE:

<http://www.wftv.com/news/21588022/detail.html?taf=orlc>

The news article about his training LODD and his wife's lawsuit is HERE:

<http://www.orlandosentinel.com/news/local/volusia/orl-volusia-fire-lawsuit-102409,0,2193988.story>

HERE is the LODD report:

http://media.myfoxorlando.com/photogalleries/040709volusiafiredeathreport/1/lq/Volusia_Final_Page_1.htm

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 11-12-09 / 0945 hours

AND:

EMS HELICOPTER CRASH-3 EMS LODD

RUSSIAN EXPLOSION KILLS 2 FIREFIGHTERS LODD

EMS HELICOPTER CRASH-TRIPLE LODD:

Early this morning while returning from a flight to Reno, a Mountain Life Flight (Susanville, CA) helicopter went down near the Nevada/California border. All crew members were killed instantly. The cause of the crash is unknown at this time, but according to two eyewitnesses, appeared to just fall from the air. Please keep the crew and employees of Mountain lifeflight in your prayers. Our sincere condolences to the families of Pilot Jim Rogers, Flight Nurse Clint Reger and Flight Paramedic Chris Ritz

2 RUSSIAN FIREFIGHTERS KILLED IN THE LINE OF DUTY

A fire at a military depot in Russia's city of Ulyanovsk had been put out as of this morning, but it has left 2 Russian Firefighters dead, in the Line of Duty. Reports are that at least 2 Firefighters were lost and 44 were injured after a series of explosions ripped through the military depot yesterday. The bodies of the 2 Firefighters, who were earlier reported to be missing, had been found. The blasts were believed to have occurred while ammunition was being destroyed at the navy depot. <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f1UKUwR9Z8s>
As always, our sincere condolences to all affected.

As you know, the memory of a Florida Firefighter (who was Killed in the Line of Duty during training) was being disgraced by a website linking his picture to horrific crimes. Volusia County FF John Curry died almost two years ago in a training failure when a tree fell on top of him. Google wasn't very cooperative, according to reports **(SEE BELOW)**

FLORIDA LODD PHOTO ABUSE-UPDATE:

When Dave Statter gave us the heads up, we passed the story on to The Secret List members-and the response was predictable. One of our readers from Florida was able to figure out that the poster took the picture from Fire Engineering.com's website-where it was, of course used to appropriately honor the lost Firefighter. So we reached out to 2 of our original Secret List members, Bobby Halton and Diane Feldman at Fire Engineering and they, as expected, literally stopped everything they were doing to delete access to the photo from the blogger. Now, before you go to the link and claim you see it, understand that some computers will "keep" the picture so you may still see it, but for those going to the original blog site, the picture is no longer accessible. We also reached out to GOOGLE as so many were justifiably upset that Google didn't do much to help. Google claimed to be unable to correct that lapse in good judgment. One TSL member asked why they didn't Google follow their own "Google Code of Conduct" which can be read at:
<http://investor.google.com/conduct.htm>

Anyway, we called them at 650-253-0000 and expressed concern to their PR folks, who were corporately cordial. **(See bottom line)** <http://statter911.com/2009/11/13/quick-takes-333/>

Bottom line: Sorta like a bucket brigade:

Dave saw it, we passed it on TSL with comments to you, you reacted and figured out computer stuff back to us, we reached out to Bobby H and Diane F and the problem was solved. But most importantly, a Firefighters widow and her family have just one less thing to worry about. Thanks for your help.

Chabot College Fire & EMS News

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.
BillyG
The Secret List 11-14-09 / 1021 Hours

AND:

Hey..

PLEASE NOTE THE CORRECTED DATES

On March 15 and 16, 2010, the non-profit FDNY Foundation will be holding a "not to be missed" 2 day training symposium on fire-rescue special operations. So, if you are a SPECIAL operations firefighter and/or EMT, this is for you. **Actually, even if you are not specifically assigned, this seminar applies to ALL Fire & EMS field personnel of all ranks and time: Firefighters, EMT's, Officers and Chiefs.**

The FDNY Special Operations Symposium will include:

- Collapse rescue operations-rescue planning.
- Confined space operations.
- Trench rescue operations.
- Haz-Mat field operations and case studies.
- Terrorism preparedness and developing exercises.
- EMT and Paramedic rescue procedures.
- Special operations command safety procedures to reduce FF LODD's.
- Marine Operations/ Case study: US Airways incident

This outstanding program will include breakfasts, lunches, books including a comprehensive seminar manual as well as a complete tour of the FDNY training academy.

DATES: March 15 and 16, 2010

LOCATION: FDNY Training Academy on Randall's Island in Manhattan.

INSTRUCTORS: FDNY Officers

MORE INFORMATION AND REGISTRATION:

<http://www.fdnymfoundation.org/>

or call (718) 999-0779.

NOTE: Seating is limited so we very strongly suggest you check it out and register NOW.

Take Care. And yes, of course, you are special.
BillyG
The Secret List 11-15-09 / 2021 Hours

AND:

Hey,

A 26-year-old civilian was killed last night in a crash with responding fire apparatus in Florida. At around 2100 hours, the civilian was driving his pick-up truck in one direction while a responding fire apparatus driven by a Hernando County Firefighter/Paramedic was reportedly going in the opposite. Apparently the civilian veered his truck into the opposite lanes and collided with the front of the fire apparatus. The civilian was pronounced dead at

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the scene by Hernando County Fire Rescue. The Firefighter driving the apparatus and another Firefighter were transported with minor injuries.

FIREFIGHTER CLOSE CALLS's HOW WE DIE VIDEO:

It's been a while since we posted what we refer to as the NTS (Non Thinking Syndrome) "HOW WE DIE" videos. Now for those who don't remember those, the videos never show Firefighters being killed-but show Firefighters how we can get ourselves killed when we don't THINK. When we FAIL to follow standards. And when we FAIL to learn from what has killed Firefighters in the past. And in some cases, when we FAIL to follow the law. In this case, you'll observe "live" fire training-and you will witness a "leaf blower" being used to "fuel" the fire, which is perhaps a new dimension in incredible and unnecessary risk. **THINK.**

Thanks to Dave Statter for the heads up to us on this one.

HERE is the link: <http://statter911.com/2009/11/15/an-interesting-video-live-fire-training-on-donated-campers/>

HERE is the video direct: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GXtfWBhKSFM>

ANOTHER TRAGIC LOSS FROM FIREFIGHTING CANCER

=more than 1/3 FIREFIGHTERS at the SFD. More than ONE THIRD!

While we (logistically) cannot list all job related cancer line of duty deaths from Firefighting, we do want to take a moment to express our condolences in the very sad passing of Seattle FD's Battalion Chief Dave Jacobs, who has died from cancer. Dave was a major player in fighting for the rights of Firefighters and their families-related to cancer. Cancer is a presumptive disease for Washington State Firefighters, and more than a third of Seattle fighters hired before 1977 have developed some form of the illness. Take a moment to understand how serious this issue is for all Firefighters and what the Firefighters in Washington State did, with Dave's help: http://www.seattlepi.com/local/412118_jacobs13.html

Our sincere condolences to all affected, especially the Seattle FF's and Dave's family. R.I.P.

ARE YOU DEALING WITH CANCER either yourself, or your family? **CONTACT:** www.firefightercancersupport.org **DO NOT hesitate. Trust us on that.**

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 11-16-09 / 0754 Hours

AND

Hey,

You may have read about the 4 NYC Fire Officers at companies in Manhattan, Queens and the Bronx that are being docked pay and reassigned for failing to carry out building inspection duties. 2 Captains and 2 Lieutenants are reported to have failed to have their companies carry out three hours of weekly building inspections, as required by FDNY regs.

Fire inspections have become a high profile priority since 2 Firefighters died in the Line of Duty at the former Deutsche Bank building near Ground Zero in 2007. As you'll remember, Firefighters Joseph Graffagnino, 33, of Ladder Company 5, and Robert Beddia, 53, of Engine Company 24 were killed in the Line of Duty while operating at that 7 alarm high-rise fire.

They became trapped in maze like conditions on the 14th floor of the building, which was undergoing demolition.

In the recent corrective action, instead of following the rules "by the book", the Fire Officers and their crews left their firehouses late, returned early, or spent inspection time on other activities, such as meal shopping. The Fire Commissioner stated that inspections are critical and failure to perform them is a dereliction of duty- that he won't tolerate.

A friend of mine has been an FDNY Officer for decades and has amongst the finest reputations at all levels within that job. From his integrity to his well documented performance and heroic actions at numerous fires, it doesn't get much more honest, solid, stand up, honorable or incorruptible than this highly respected senior veteran Fire Officer. He knows the rules inside and out and is as model a fire officer as they come. When this went down a few weeks ago, he called me and said "it could have been me"- what he meant was that most everyone at all levels did their inspections, but got "comfortable" from time to time. And sure, some more than others, but this had become nothing unusual and rarely did anyone-from top to bottom question it-it was "the way" it was done--but then came the tragic Deutsche Bank fire.

While he would be the first to tell you that they all should have done everything by the book, it was not the "always" way of operating and rarely questioned by anyone-at any level-so therefore, it became what was then the "standard". That happens at every FD to every one of us. We have all gotten "comfortable".

Years ago when we first started writing, we used the term "NTS" or "Non-Thinking Syndrome". Sometimes we simply don't think. Sometimes we get comfortable, all of us, it's human nature. Like it or not, it happens and a very rare few are exempt. We sometimes get used to doing things a certain way, our officers don't always "strictly" supervise or correct our actions, or simply nothing "happens" or goes wrong- so we keep doing it "that" way. Until something goes wrong.

Personally I've been a fire officer since the late 70's and I am well aware that this can happen. It has happened to me many, many times and still can. But the times, as they say, are a change'n.

These days I think, be it gray hair or mid-life whatever, our (my) attitude must be an aggressive attempt to avoid NTS or getting comfortable. If all of us at all levels don't respect the rules to be enforced as written, then the rules will become "frayed". Then what happens over time is that the results can end in disaster-and also result in "scapegoat corrective action", to "make an example" - because the system failed. And while initial and continuous training in any task we perform is critical, if we get that training, we need to follow through. Just do it, as they say. If we don't get that training, we need to make sure those who are responsible to train us-know it. Loud and clear. Good training (and continuous training based upon policy, which is really "the play book") helps us avoid NTS and keeps us from getting comfortable. It's a nudge. A reminder on what we are expected to do and how we are expected to do it.

Sort of like a Firefighter, who is well trained, but still driving too fast, blowing a red light etc. Really, 3 things correct our "frayed" behavior:

1-We self correct because we know we are wrong.

2-Our supervisor corrects our actions because they saw we are wrong-and the officer is doing their job..

3-We are forced to correct our action because something horrible has occurred but now, correcting our behavior is the least of our issues (injury, death, legal action etc).

As my friend said, "it could have been me, and I play by the rules here as much or more than anyone".

Bottom line as far as the above case-if this lowers the risk so that another civilian or Firefighter Line of Duty death doesn't occur, then that's a good thing-but clearly unfortunate for the good Fire Officers who were made an example of. The days of waiving off the rules at most FD's are less and less for a variety of reasons.

Look, RARELY does anyone in our business intentionally cause harm, we simply and very humanly get "comfortable" and let our guard down. And our action of getting comfortable is rarely directly related to something going wrong, because in most cases, nothing wrong happens. So we get comfortable. But on the other hand, when we look at "tragic events" and follow them from the event back, in many cases, "getting comfortable" was, at some point, at or near the start of what lead to the tragic event.

ANOTHER TRAGIC EXAMPLE:

We have thousands of video and CLOSE CALL examples of us, all of us, fire, EMS and police getting comfortable. And here is the most recent example. The below is a link to an incredible dash cam video of a Milford, CT Police car crash that killed 2 teenagers on June 13, 2009. When you watch this, and it will be a horrible crash, the issue of "getting comfortable" raises its nasty head again. After all, the LAST thing this Police Officer wanted or planned to do was hurt anyone.

However, there are consequences. The officer involved in the avoidable crash was charged with 2 counts of homicide with a motor vehicle-not to mention the mental anguish that he and his family will live with forever. But when people are seriously hurt or killed, we are held accountable, uncomfortable or not. What about the mental anguish and suffering of the families of those 2 kids?

At time of this crash, the police car was traveling a 94 mph while returning back to Milford after assisting neighboring police at a disturbance. The officers were not responding to a call at the time of the crash, 94 mph would be more than twice the posted speed limit on the roadway. No intentional harm-but horrific results due to NTS, and becoming comfortable.

HERE is the video:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PFdDW9aE6-A>

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

Don't Get Too Comfortable-AVOID NTS. TCCS (The Consequences Can Suck).

BillyG

The Secret List 11-18-09 / 0806 Hours

AND

Hey,

Just a few minutes ago, career criminal Joseph Taye was convicted of first degree murder and sentenced to life in prison for causing the Line of Duty Death of Delaware City (DE) Fire/EMT Michelle Smith. As you may recall, it started with a motorcycle crash occurred last December. The operator of the bike, Edward Reiss, was injured in the incident and was lying in the roadway. A Delaware City Fire Company ambulance (standing by to cover that area for the Wilmington Manor Fire Company) arrived on the scene within minutes and DCFC FF Michelle Smith got out of the ambulance, ran over to Mr. Reiss and began to administer care.

A New Castle County Police Officer then arrived on the scene and activates his emergency equipment. Moments later, veteran career criminal Taye, driving someone else's BMW drunk, southbound on Route 13 entered the crash scene and sideswiped the county police car causing significant damage. The Police officer leaped back into his car just prior to the impact and avoids injury. Taye loses control and strikes Smith and Reiss. The BMW comes to a stop on the right shoulder south of the crash scene. Smith later dies in the Line of Duty.

At that point, a light colored Honda pulls up to the crash scene. The operator of the Honda, an unidentified black male, ACTUALLY HELPS TAYE into the Honda (Taye is unable to walk himself due to his physical disability) and the Honda subsequently flees the scene. Witnesses describe the fleeing Honda and also advised that the operator was who we all now know as career criminal Taye, now on his way to his new home-prison for life.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 11-20-09 1000 Hours

AND

ST PAUL (MN) FIREFIGHTER CONTRACTS DISEASE ON A RUN-LINE OF DUTY DEATH

It is with sincere regret that we advise you that Firefighter Ramon E. Hain, age 50 (IAFF Local 21-St Paul Fire) passed away in the Line of Duty last Saturday, November 14, 2009 from heart disease. A memorial service is being held this afternoon, 1600 hours at St. Michael's Lutheran Church in Roseville, Minnesota.

In 1997, FF Hain responded to a cardiac arrest call during which he knelt down over the patient and came in contact with body fluids on the floor. The Firefighter had a sore on his own knee at the time, and a few days later he developed some kind of massive infection in the thigh of that same leg.

FF Hain was diagnosed with idiopathic cardiomyopathy, a weakening of the heart muscle from unknown causes so he was put on the transplant list and received a new heart Nov. 30, 1998. Dr's indicate his condition was due to his exposure to the bodily fluids on that run. He

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then became a stay at home Dad to be with his family as he was told he had a life expectancy of 10 years. Tragically, he lost his life last Saturday. Expressions of sympathy or condolences can be sent to Local 21 at 411 Main Street, Suite 316, Saint Paul, MN 55102-1031. As always, our sincere condolences to all affected.

HERE is more: http://www.twincities.com/ci_13837335?nclick_check=1

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 11-21-09 0936 Hours

AND:

PA EMS CHIEF COLLAPSES AT SCENE-LINE OF DUTY DEATH

It is with sincere regret that we advise you of the Line of Duty Death of Duquesne (PA) EMS Chief Harry Moore. The initial run was for a serious crash around 1930 Sunday evening. Three cars were involved in the crash that injured at least one person severely. The drivers were entrapped inside their cars and had to be removed with jaws, at least 1 patient was taken to UPMC Mercy by helicopter. Initial reports are that the Chief collapsed shortly after arriving on scene and was transported to a hospital where he sadly passed away. Our condolences to all affected.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 11-22-09 / 2204 Hours

AND:

ILLINOIS FIREFIGHTER DIES FOLLOWING SHIFT-LODD

It is with regret that we advise you that 37-year-old Rockford (IL) Firefighter Terrance Freeman died around noon last Sunday from an apparent heart attack. He had completed a shift about 4 hours earlier and was visiting family. FF Freeman, who is married and has a 2-year-old son, joined the RFD in 2005 and was training to be a paramedic. He was recently recognized for excellence in customer service. A visitation will be held from 1400-1600 on Saturday, followed by a memorial service at 1600 at Fitzgerald Funeral Home. As always, our sincere condolences.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 11-24-09 / 1506 hours

AND:

Hey,

A former EMT, is suing a Pennsylvania Firefighter/Apparatus Driver, the Fire Company and the Township Supervisors for damages that occurred at a crash scene on an icy day 2 years ago. **While there are many "lessons learned" in this case, once again, a responding apparatus is involved-and this time, another Firefighter and his Department is being named in a lawsuit. We have more on our home page to remind ALL of us just how serious apparatus training and related operations must be treated. NO FIREFIGHTER wants to hurt anyone or for this to happen-and NO FIREFIGHTER OR CHIEF EVER wants to be named in this type of lawsuit. Ever. Do whatever it takes to prevent something similar.**

In this case, on the morning of Dec. 27, 2007, weather contributed to a series of crashes. The crash (in the suit) sent 7 people, including 5 emergency responders, to the hospital for treatment. Vicki Levadnuk, who worked for Conemaugh Township EMS at the time (but no longer), and was one of the responders who was injured. She and her husband, David Levadnuk, have sued for damages. On the initial crash, the EMS crew arrived on scene. Levadnuk and her partner were part of the crew. A few minutes later, responding fire apparatus driven by Charles D. Saylor of the Hollsopple Volunteer Fire Company traveling 15 mph (according to previous reports) slid into the ambulance, injuring the crew and several Firefighters on the apparatus. "They hit the bridge and it was a solid sheet of ice. They tried to slow down but couldn't and they struck the rear end of the ambulance," Hollsopple Fire Chief David Boyer stated to the media. The driver even tried steering the truck into the concrete wall of the bridge in an attempt to stop, he added.

In the lawsuit, their Attorney wrote that Saylor was warned of the frozen and icy condition of the bridge and told not to venture onto it and that the warning was ignored. As a result of "the negligence, carelessness and recklessness of all defendants," Ms. Levadnuk sustained several injuries, "some or all of which may be permanent in nature." She suffered fractured ribs, compression injuries of the left leg and knee cap and an inflamed and infected left knee cap and suffers from "great pain, inconvenience, embarrassment, mental anguish and emotional and psychological trauma. She is asking for compensatory, punitive and compulsory damages and court costs from the initial drivers who caused the 1st crash and then the township, fire company and Saylor from the secondary crash. Her husband is asking for compulsory damages and court costs from all of the defendants for the inability to have normal marital relations.

RESPONDING APPARATUS STRIKES TEENAGE PEDESTRIAN-CRITICAL CONDITION:

Wednesday around noon a fire department rescue company from Meaux, France (approx. 30 mi NE of Paris) struck a 15 year old female pedestrian while she was crossing the street. The girl was in a pedestrian walkway, but was listening to an MP3 player and did not hear the approaching emergency vehicle's Hi-Lo two tone horns. The girl was unconscious and in critical condition with a head injury. She was transported by helicopter to a hospital in Paris. We have more with a photo of the apparatus on our home page.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 11-27-09 / 1200 hours

AND:

DIX HILLS, SUFFOLK CO., LONG ISLAND, N.Y. DIES IN THE LINE OF DUTY-MEDICAL

It is with regret that we have been advised of the Line of Duty Death of Firefighter Walter Hessling of the Dix Hills Fire Department in Suffolk County (Long Island, N.Y.) on November 27, 2009. Firefighter Hessling responded to a call on November 21, 2009 at 1033 hours and suffered a stroke at 1554 hours. Firefighter Hessling died due to complications from that medical emergency today, November 27, 2009. As always, our most sincere condolences.

NEW JERSEY FIREFIGHTERS CLOSE CALL - BON FIRE "EXPLOSION":

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Firefighters were on the scene of a high school related bon fire in Vineland, New Jersey 2 days ago when there was an explosion. According to reports, prior to the explosion, Firefighters had doused the pallets with diesel and another accelerant to "get the fire going". An investigation by several agencies, including the leadership of the Vineland FD, is being conducted. We have more details on our home page

HERE: www.FireFighterCloseCalls.com as well as **HERE:** <http://miniurl.org/R6F> from DaveS.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 11-27-09 / 1607 Hours

AND:

(Note: For those of you who are Facebook - ers, search: Firefighter Close Calls on Facebook to follow The Secret List and related stuff)

Hey,

Last night, Firefighters from Prince George's County (MD) were thrown 15-20' when a smoke explosion occurred, while operating at a working house fire. Firefighters did escape without any injuries after the described "backdraft" occurred. At about 2040 hours last night, FF's were alerted to a house fire with a report of three occupants possibly trapped inside. Firefighters arrived at 2304 Prima Way and encountered a large 2-story, sprinklered, single-family home with fire showing from the garage. Firefighters initiated a simultaneous interior attack on the fire and searched for trapped occupants. The fire was quickly extending towards the second floor and attic area as firefighters continued their efforts to extinguish the fire. Search teams and ventilation crews opened windows to allow for better visibility and heat removal while the search for occupants continued. After operating on the scene for about 8 minutes, an explosion occurred that the incident commander, Tony Kelleher, Volunteer Chief of the Kentland Fire/EMS Station, described as a "backdraft." **(Photos on our home page)**

Not immediately knowing the status of all Firefighters, Command requested additional resources to the scene and ordered the evacuation of all personnel from the house. Paramedics tended to 2 Firefighters that were blown into the front yard and a personnel accountability check was performed with all personnel being accounted for. The fire was extinguished in about 30 minutes and all searches were negative. There were about 60 personnel that were dispatched to the fire.

This house is located in a sub-division of relatively new homes that are fully sprinklered, by law, in all living areas. The garage and attic are not sprinklered and are the only areas of the home that had significant fire damage.

We have posted some photos of the explosion on our home page. **MORE INFORMATION AT THESE PG FIRE & EMS RELATED SITES:**

www.pgfdnews.com

www.pgfireems.com

www.youtube.com/pgfd800,

www.twitter.com/pgfdpio and on the **PGFD FACEBOOK PAGE.**

OPERATING TO DO MORE WITH LESS? SITTING ON A TIME BOMB.

1 of 2 Firefighters on the 1st alarm working house fire in East Liverpool (Ohio) Saturday morning was injured after falling through a weakened floor. Once again, in yet another community, the issue of what Firefighters should be expected to do - or directed to do - when there is little staffing, is out there.

HERE is more: <http://firefighterclosecalls.com/fullstory.php?97026>

When service related budget cuts are implemented as they are in so many areas, Chiefs and political leadership must make it real clear to the community-and the members-exactly what will-and may not change from an operating standpoint at **any** FD. As stated so many times before, when a FD's staffing or stations are cut, for example, it's unfair for the community, or the members, to think "nothing changes" when it comes to operating at fires. Furthermore, it's unfair and unrealistic to expect members to perform (as the public and elected officials "perceive" us to perform) without adequate response staffing levels. The fire service's own staffing studies (recent and past) prove the fact that we can do more with more-and less with less-and at some point, depending, we can simply do little. Clearly, Firefighters will go out of their way and take heroic and extraordinary risks when a life may be affected, but for anyone thinking that measurable cuts in services will be "business as usual" at ANY FD, are sitting on a ticking time bomb.

MORE STAFFING DETAILS: <http://firefighterclosecalls.com/staffing.php> (Scroll to the Nov, 2009 Update)

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 11-30-09 / 0815 Hours

AND:

Hey,

Each December, there are some very significant dates for the fire service, worthy of note and well worth discussion with Firefighters-especially your younger ones. For example, every Firefighter should well familiar with the multi LODD loss in Buffalo (NY) when 5 BFD Ladder 5 Firefighters (and 2 civilians) were killed in a propane explosion in December 1983. And that's just one example.

As we now approach December 2009, we remember that **10 YEARS AGO** (December of 1999), there were also 2 very significant multi-LODD fires that we must remember.

The first is the Worcester Cold Storage fire that occurred on December 3, 1999. The second, discussed below, is the loss of 3 Firefighters in Keokuk, Iowa.

===WORCESTER (MA) WAREHOUSE FIRE TAKES THE LIVES OF SIX FIREFIGHTERS

We all remember wonderful but also (and sadly), tragic events that have occurred in our lives as well. As a kid, I remember when President Kennedy was assassinated (Nov 22, 1963), as well as Dr. Martin Luther King's murder (April 4, 1968). When the Challenger shuttle blew up (January 28, 1986) and the "23rd Street Fire" in NYC (October 17, 1966) - we

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remember what we were doing when events like that happened-they get, as some say, "etched" in our mind.

On December 3rd of 1999, I was attending a community Christmas celebration in our town when beepers started to beep providing initial details about missing Firefighters in Worcester (MA)-and then more details-and then even more info and the final incredible details came out.

The Worcester Fire Department responded at 1813 hours that night to Box Alarm 1438 for a fire at 266 Franklin Street.(NOTE: 266 Franklin Street is now the the address and location of WFD's E-6, E-12, L-1, R-1 and Scuba-1 quarters)

2 members of rescue 1, Firefighter Paul Brotherton and Firefighter Jerry Lucey, entered the building searching for occupants. Fire conditions worsened in the building at a rapid and unexpected rate. FF's Brotherton and Lucey, on the fifth floor, became disoriented in the smoke-filled building. Lost, and running low on air, they called for help. Several crews began searching for the lost Firefighters. Two crews reaching the fifth floor also found themselves disoriented in the smoke and trapped by the maze of interior walls: Lieutenant Tom Spencer and Firefighter Tim Jackson from Ladder 2, and Firefighter Jay Lyons and Firefighter Joe McGuirk from Engine 3 were now trapped. Though many more highly heroic fire fighters attempted to locate their missing brothers, their efforts proved futile.

Be sure to read the link below, entitled "A Chiefs Perspective" about WFD District (Ret) Chief Mike McNamee, who made the beyond difficult decision to end search operations for the missing members-and saved more lives by doing so.

The Line of Duty Deaths of Worcester Firefighters Paul A. Brotherton, Timothy P. Jackson, Jeremiah M. Lucey, James F. "Jay" Lyons III, Joseph T. McGuirk, and Lt. Thomas E. Spencer devastated Worcester, the Fire service, the nation and the world. Their Line of Duty deaths marked the worst loss of Firefighters' lives in more than 20 years in a building fire in America, and the third worst fire in Massachusetts' history. R.I.P.

WORCESTER REPORTS & LINKS:

HERE is the USFA report as well as the "must read" Esquire Magazine/Sean Flynn article:

http://www.esquire.com/features/perfect-fire-0700?click=main_sr (Esquire Magazine)

<http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/downloads/pdf/publications/tr-134.pdf> (USFA Report on the fire)

NOTE-There is a memorial service planned for this week. **Details HERE:**

http://www.iaff1009.org/index.cfm?zone=/unionactive/view_article.cfm&HomeID=143268

HERE are links that we hope will be of value and interest to you and YOUR members:

Excellent Collection of Stories, Photos, Audio: <http://www.telegram.com/static/fire/>

Following their Father's Footsteps:

<http://www.telegram.com/article/20091129/NEWS/911290527/1052>

Remembering Their Son:

<http://www.telegram.com/article/20091129/NEWS/911290431/1052>

A Chiefs Perspective: <http://www.telegram.com/article/20091129/NEWS/911290432/1052>

X Marks The Spot:<http://www.telegram.com/article/20091130/NEWS/911300384/0/news06>

Photos: <http://www.pbase.com/tomcarmody/wor>

Photos: <http://www.capecodfd.com/PAGES%20Special/Worc1.htm>

WFD Sites: <http://www.iaff1009.org/index.cfm> <http://www.ci.worcester.ma.us/fire>

===KEOKUK, IOWA-THE LOSS OF 3 FIREFIGHTERS-AND 3 CHILDREN IN A DUPLEX FIRE

At 0824 Hours on Wednesday, December 22, 1999, a fire was reported in a multifamily dwelling in Keokuk, Iowa. Several neighbors phoned the Keokuk 911 center to report smoke coming from a residence, and that a woman was outside screaming that there were children trapped inside.

Assistant Fire Chief Dave McNally, 48, Firefighter Jason Bitting, 29, and Firefighter Nate Tuck, 39 were killed while attempting the rescue of 3 trapped kids in that fire-who also perished. The 3 Firefighters left 8 kids of their own behind. The Firefighters died when a flashover occurred while the 3 were doing their search. The fire started in the kitchen of an old wooden two-story b/f home that had been converted into apartments. Staffing is a major issue in Keokuk, and that morning, 4 of the 5 total (+ the Chief) on duty firefighters arrived on scene with heavy smoke showing, and upon hearing the mother screaming that her children were trapped inside, they immediately and understandably went in after them. **When "Mom" screams that her kids are inside-we go in.**

The 3 were inside, (the Asst Chief and 2 FF/pump operators) a Lt. was on the hydrant--couldn't see the building and one Firefighter was on side "A"... starting to pack up, to back the interior members up. The Chief made the terribly difficult decision to leave the scene for 3 minutes to personally transport a non-breathing rescued child--there were no other resources available... none. The hospital was a minute away. When he returned, the flashover had already occurred with only the Lt. and the one Firefighter left outside. A/C Dave McNally, FF Jason Bitting, and FF Nate Tuck perished in that duplex. R.I.P.

There are several excellent reports out on the fire:

HERE is the NIOSH report: <http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/fire/reports/face200004.html>

HERE is the NFPA report: <http://www.nfpa.org/assets/files/PDF/Keokuk.PDF>

KFD Link: <http://www.cityofkeokuk.org/kfd.html>

One of the best quotes I have ever heard came from KFD's Chief Mark Wessell. Mark is a good friend who has shown true leadership in taking the KFD forward-I don't know anyone who doesn't agree with that. Since that fire, Mark and I have become pretty close and I am continually in awe over how he has made it clear that his FD will (and has) change. Mark makes it clear that as horrible as this was-he will do whatever he has to, to make sure it never happens again. To all of us, he made a statement that sums it up... **"Always remember that we as firefighters are there to help people with a problem, while also doing ALL that we can to never become PART of that problem"**

The above information-and plenty from many other resources and websites as well-provides each of us with an opportunity to share:

-so younger Firefighters understand our history.

Chabot College Fire & EMS News

-so we all are reminded of the losses.

-so we learn from the lessons learned.

-and so we can honor the WFD and KFD members who gave their lives in the Line of Duty.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

PLEASE READ AND PRINT OFF ALL OF THE ABOVE TO POST IN THE FIREHOUSE & PASS IT ON (Also available on our home page with photos)

BillyG

The Secret List 12-1-09 / 0001 Hours

AND:

Hey,

A second person has died as a result of a crash Sunday involving an ambulance in Jacksonville, FL, leaving several others seriously injured. None of the civilians were wearing seat belts and alcohol was found in their car. The Liberty Ambulance crew members, EMT Driver Brian W. Gray, 25 and Julie K. Raymer, 44-year-old EMT are both in serious condition. Both were wearing seat belts. The ambulance had just dropped off a patient and was returning to its quarters when the accident occurred. The ambulance did not have its emergency equipment on. EMT Gray told investigators he was southbound on Philips Highway and had stopped at a red light at the northbound entrance to Interstate 95. The driver said the light changed to a green arrow and he turned at the same time as the northbound pickup entered the intersection. The front of the pickup hit the right front of the ambulance-no charges have been filed as of yet.

REMEMBERING CANARSIES BRAVEST:

Many of you recall December 18, 1998, when 3 FDNY Firefighters from Ladder 170 in Canarsie (Brooklyn) were killed in the Line of Duty at a high rise fire. Lt. Joseph Cavalieri, FF Chris Bopp and FF Jimmy Bohan died on the 10th floor of a "fireproof" multiple dwelling on Vandalia Ave. whose sprinklers had been shut down prior to the fire.

At 0454 hours Brooklyn transmitted box 4080 for a top floor fire at 17 Vandalia Avenue in the Starrett City development. The large area complex is located on Brooklyn's south shore. The 10 story 50 x 200 fireproof building is used as a senior citizen's residence. Engine 257 and Ladder 170, both quartered in the Canarsie section of Brooklyn, were 1st due and arrived within 4 minutes. Upon arrival, fire was showing from 2 windows. The 2nd and then 3rd alarms were quickly transmitted. At FDNY, the 1st due ladder company (which was L-170) searches the fire floor. Lt. Cavalieri, and FF's Bopp and Bohan went up the 10 flights of stairs with extinguishers and tools to rescue the resident in apartment 10-D, who was reported trapped. She escaped previously, but that was not known at the time.

NOTE: When the occupant escaped, she left the apartment door open and the air from the hallway fed the fire and blew out the windows. The halls were equipped with sprinklers but were deactivated at the time (See reports below). As the FF's arrived at the door, a sudden change in the wind direction forced an estimated 29-MPH wind gust into the apartment, and created a 2,000 degree fireball into the hallway. The 3 Firefighters just had enough time to get a Mayday out. The high heat asphyxiated them and burned their masks off of them. Despite the best efforts of other Firefighters and EMS, all 3 were pronounced dead at the hospital. Also injured in the fire were 6 other fire fighters and 4 residents.

NIOSH Report:

<http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/fire/reports/face9901.html>

From FDNY BC Frank Montagna:

<http://www.chiefmontagna.com/memorial/memorial.htm>

Related Articles and Links:

NY Times 1: <http://www.nytimes.com/1998/12/19/nyregion/3-firefighters-die-trying-to-rescue-a-woman-in-brooklyn.html?pagewanted=all>

NY Times 2: <http://www.nytimes.com/1998/12/22/nyregion/grieving-comrades-and-families-bury-2-young-firefighters.html?pagewanted=all>

Old Info from FFCC:

<http://www.firefighterclosecalls.com/maillist/archive.php?id=SecretList&issueID=243>

FDNY: <http://www.nyc.gov/html/fdny/html/home2.shtml>

Unofficial FDNY & History: <http://www.nyfd.com/>

FDNY History From Frank Raffa: <http://www.fdn newYork.com/>

FDNY VIDEO: While not directly related to the above LODD's, here is a link to the FDNY on-line video series you may find of interest w/ professional videoclips about **FDNY Engine, Ladder and Special Operations:**

<http://www.nyc.gov/html/fdny/media/video/fdny-series/index.shtml>

IT'S THE CHRISTMAS AND HOLIDAY SEASON-TIS' THE SEASON TO USE CAUTION:

Many of our FD's are out doing Christmas and related holiday details-all good stuff. Just do whatever it takes to make sure no one gets hurt. From stringing lights to riding the apparatus with Santa, just think ahead so it doesn't get nasty and regretful with someone getting hurt.

In what may be the season's first related FF injury, a Lancaster City (PA) Fire Captain was injured after falling from their aerial ladder truck during their Christmas tree lighting ceremony last weekend. The rig was not moving-he slipped-like any of us might have. Shortly after Santa arrived and joined the Mayor on the stage, the Captain slipped and fell about 10 feet from the ladder truck to the street. He has five broken ribs, a cracked thoracic vertebrae and a minor head injury-and it was his birthday. We wish Capt. Ken Barton a quick recovery.

HERE is more: <http://articles.lancasteronline.com/local/4/245594>

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 12-1-09 / 0954 Hours

AND:

Hey,

In what is clearly a CLOSE CALL, go to the below link showing fire companies operating on the scene of a working church fire. In it, you will see a civilian ignoring the apparatus and backup alarm (we need to expect that) and walking right into the path of a backing fire tanker-and the tanker striking him.

Fortunately, the outcome was positive as the civilian was uninjured-but the video is pretty dramatic and makes the point of us insuring we have safe passage, going forward-and when

backing. This situation could have been horrific for the civilian, the department and the Firefighter driving the apparatus.

CLICK HERE for more, and the video link.

<http://firefighterclosecalls.com/fullstory.php?97154>

51 Years Ago: THE OUR LADY OF ANGELS FIRE

Today is the 51st anniversary of the Our Lady of the Angels Fire in Chicago: December 1st, 1958. Here is a website dedicated to the fire. <http://www.olafire.com> and we have more links below. You can also get a CD, with proceeds going to the **Illinois Fire Safety Alliance and the IFSA Burn Camp for Children** by Fire Lt. Mike Mason. Mike, who is a survivor of Our Lady of Angels fire and a Lieutenant with the Downers Grove FD, created this excellent CD titled "Angels of Fire" which is dedicated to his classmates who perished in the tragedy on December 1, 1958.

Click **HERE** for more details:

<http://www.ricofirerescue.com/pages/gear.htm#Angle%20of%20Fire%20CD>

EXCELLENT VIDEO AND RELATED LINKS related to the fire:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=czM5ZCooYzY> (Documentary)

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YLhO25vBT5c> (Actual video footage from the fire)

<http://statter911.com/2008/11/28/50-years-ago-lessons-learned-from-tragedy-a-look-back-at-our-lady-of-the-angels-school-fire/> (An excellent selection of info from Dave S)

Be sure to check out the book: "To Sleep with the Angels: The Story of a Fire" by David Cowan and John Kuenster. There is a follow up book by Kuenster of the first book "Remembrances of the Angels: 50th Anniversary Reminiscences of the Fire No One Can Forget" 92 kids and 3 Nuns lost their lives in this fire. R.I.P.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 12-1-09 / 2025 Hours

AND

CANADIAN FIRE CHIEF DIES IN THE LINE OF DUTY-MEDICAL

It is with deep regret that we advise you that the Chatham-Kent, Tilbury Fire Station, Chief Bob Thibert has died in the Line of Duty after he was rushed to the hospital after collapsing. The Chief was commanding fire crews at a working fire at about 0300 hours today. Companies were called to a fire at a mechanic shop and the Chief had just requested an aerial ladder when he collapsed. Crews began CPR immediately and Chief Thibert was rushed to a Chatham-Kent hospital, where he died. As always, our sincere condolences to all affected.

Take Care-Be Careful,

BillyG

The Secret List 12-3-09 / 1626 hours

AND:

Hey,

Today, December 4th, 1989, the **Ellwood City Volunteer Fire Department** (PA) lost two of its Firefighters in the Line of Duty (Paul Fredricks and Ernie Martino) while operating at the Elton Hotel fire. The upper floors collapsed during interior firefighting operations, trapping the Firefighters while they were operating. RIP.

TODAYS FIREFIGHTER TIPS:

Don't Set Fires. Don't Ignore Your Officer's Orders.

A Philadelphia (PA) Firefighter is now on administrative leave after allegedly setting fire to a ladder truck earlier this week. **Yeah, a Firefighter, on duty, set a fire that caused their ladder truck to catch on fire, exposing him to potential career ending actions and possible criminal charges.**

The incident occurred the morning of Dec. 1 when Firefighter Paul Prendergas (a \$46,708-a-year firefighter with almost 3 years on the job) was "engaged in horseplay" as he lit paper and let it burn out inside a firehouse that houses Ladder 2. **His boss, Lt. Alfonso Mesete told the Firefighter to stop playing with fire, but FF Prendergas again lit another piece of paper and threw it into the truck's engine compartment, setting fire to the motor compartment, ignoring his bosses orders.**

The Philly Fire Commissioner, Lloyd Ayers, stated: "I can guarantee the proper discipline will be handed out. This is a very serious infraction," he added. "We don't take this lightly".

The Lt filed a report about the incident, which prompted the PFD Photo Unit to photograph the damage and a Fire Marshal to interview witnesses. FF Prendergas, who, according to the media, is known by PFD officials as a "problem child," and has faced other discipline in the past year prompting his transfer.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 12-4-09 / 2252 Hours

AND:

Hey,

And I don't want to take any of your 5 minutes from this, so please click below and read the piece we have sent you. The writer is a long time member of The Secret List and a veteran metro city Firefighter, Fire Officer and Chief-he has written one hell of a no nonsense document for us to read.

Again-please make it your priority to read this entire article. We would not waste your time in asking you to do so if I wasn't fully confident that reading it was not worth your time.

Hurry up, 4 minutes and 30 seconds left.

CLICK HERE: <http://www.firehouse.com/topic/health-and-wellness/1209-Trevino-Dance>

Take Care-READ IT.

BillyG

The Secret List 12-6-09 / 2031 Hours

AND

Hey,

December 13, 2009

www.chabotfire.com

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I wanted to pass this on to you, especially if you are a Fire/Rescue Chief, Commissioner, President, Fire Officer or in a leadership role of a Fire Department or Fire Company. With the holidays right around the corner, there is a cool opportunity for your organization to provide something to your members, and support the work of the Safety, Health and Survival Section of the IAFC. By policy, the IAFC does not fund the section, the section must raise all of their own funds in order to operate.

This is not some huge request (especially during these tough budget times), as this is for your FD to consider **\$1.50** (each) for the purchase of a pocket "Firefighter Survival" 2010 planner for all of your members. Quite honestly, it's a "dirt cheap" risk management tool that will put some very specific FIREFIGHTER SURVIVAL messages in front of all of your members-everyday. You can also have up to five lines printed on the cover for your FD ...and these will be delivered before Christmas.

Here is the info:

<http://www.positivepromotions.com/product.asp?pn=itp10cf>

http://www.iafcsafety.org/1256862796Calendar_Order_Form.pdf

It's \$1.50 per member. Please consider it for your fire department, fire company, county or regional association or even for your firefighter related business, as a give-away for customers.

100% of the proceeds go strictly toward the operation and programs of www.IAFCSafety.org in supporting FF safety, health and survival.

Thanks,

BillyG

The Secret List 12-8-09 / 1635 Hours

AND:

NEW SOUTH WALES (AU) RANGER KILLED DURING FIRE OPERATIONS

A New South Wales (Australia) Parks and Wildlife ranger was been killed the Line of Duty in a firefighting helicopter crash yesterday. The pilot is fighting for his life with critical chest, head and back injuries and is expected to be airlifted to a major hospital later today. About 1500 firefighters continue to battle 110 fires in hot and dry condition across the state, with 41 of them uncontained. This was the third serious incident involving firefighting helicopters in the state in two days.

The pilots of two water-bombing RFS helicopters narrowly escaped with their lives after their machines clipped each other mid-air over a bushfire in the NSW central west yesterday. In a separate incident yesterday, the pilot of a helicopter working over a fire about 40km southeast of Tamworth was forced to make an emergency landing due to engine trouble. As always, our sincere condolences.

SEAT BELTS SAVE 2 FIREFIGHTERS RETURNING TO QUARTERS (Photos)

We have some pictures on our home page on the 2 Canadian Firefighters who suffered minor injuries after their apparatus rolled into a ditch Monday. They were returning to the Thornton fire hall when the crash occurred around noon. The Firefighters had just finished a

call at a collision that claimed the life of a 74-year-old, when their crash occurred. The Firefighter who was driving the rig has been doing that job for about 10 years. The Chief suspects that a soft shoulder may have caused the problem, the cops are investigating.

WHY ARE WE HERE?

A Russian fire chief has been suspended along with five subordinates, following the nightclub fire that has now claimed 119 lives. And Russian authorities say the inspection records for the club appear to have been falsified. Wonderful. We joined the fire department to respond, save, protect, help, rescue-that stuff. But yet in the news lately, there are a few stories of some Fire Officers who have lost touch with the core mission. If we don't do what is expected-and respond-then not much else matters.

Now, I know the fire prevention folks will say that FIRE PREVENTION is the solution. I could not agree more-and when we have that under control (including sprinklers), then we'll smile. But until we do, RESPONSE with what's beyond possibly needed is what we do when all else fails.

FIRE PREVENTION is a role of FIRE OFFICERS. Inspections, pre-plans - all that stuff. And while Russia is probably not the best example of what we should look at from a fire services standpoint, they have failed in relation to their responsibility of FIRE PREVENTION. Here is the latest on the TERMINATION of several fire officials: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2009/12/07/AR2009120703904.html>

And then this morning, here is a story of **2 Florida Firefighters** (1 Officer) who have been fired because, from what is appears, they simply forgot why they were there. What their primary mission is. We really are only here for ONE thing: responding well when bad stuff happens to people. And on our job, it's like trying to win an arm wrestle while your opponent starts off with you pinned to the table---and now you have to win. So when we blow off a response-we really have forgotten why we are here-and we contribute to an already serious problem-while we are supposed to be the solution. Often, the only solution.

<http://www.heraldtribune.com/article/20091209/ARTICLE/912091035/-1/NEWSITEMAP>

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

DON'T FORGET to please order your 2010 Pocket Planners from the Safety, Health and Survival Section:

<http://www.positivepromotions.com/product.asp?pn=itp10cf>

BillyG

The Secret List 12-9-09 / 1045 Hours

AND:

PA FIREFIGHTER DIES IN THE LINE OF DUTY-MEDICAL EMERGENCY

It is with deep regret that we advise you of the Line of Duty death of Firefighter/Fire-Police Officer Gary F. Neidig, Jr., 36, of the Mount Carmel Volunteer Fire Department in Northumberland County. Shortly after clearing the scene of a mutual aid motor vehicle crash call, Fire Police Officer Neidig had a medical emergency from a cause still to be determined. FPO Neidig was transported to the hospital but succumbed to his injuries on December 4th, just a few hours after the run. He was a member of the fire police in Mount Carmel and

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Kulpmont and is survived by his wife, Michelle, three daughters, Stephanie, Brenda and Chrystal and a son Bradley. As always, our sincere condolences to all affected.

Take Care-Be Careful.

BillyG

The Secret List 12-9-09 / 2322 Hours

AND:

NORTH CAROLINA FIREFIGHTER DIES IN THE LINE OF DUTY WHILE RESPONDING

A White Oak Volunteer Fire Department Firefighter died in the Line of Duty this morning, December 10th, while responding on a run. The department received an alarm this morning at approximately 06:55 hours and Firefighter Jimmy Davis, Sr. responded from his house. He returned to his house before leaving to get something, and suffered a medical emergency. He was found by a family member near his truck. Further details and arrangements will be posted on www.Firenews.net when available. As always-our sincere condolences.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 12-10-09 / 2136 Hours

AND:

SHREVEPORT BATTALION CHIEF DIES FROM INJURIES-IN THE LINE OF DUTY

It is with deep regret that we advise you that Shreveport Fire Battalion Chief Tommy Adams died at 0230 hours today. Chief Adams had been in a comatose state since sustaining debilitating injuries when he fell from a Fire Department ladder truck following the Krewe of Gemini Mardi Gras parade Feb. 21. Chief Adams' family, including wife Traci, and Fire Chief Brian Crawford were at his side at the time. Chief Adams had 31 years of service. As always, our most sincere condolences.

Take Care-Be Careful.

BillyG

The Secret List 12-12-09 / 1430 hours

AND:

Hey,

This time of year, for those of you who may be new to The Secret List, we occasionally pass on information to you with some suggestions on ideas that we think are well worth your consideration.

The below two non-profit items, as far as we are concerned, are without question, well worth the few bucks you will spend. Now look, in most cases **DINNER OUT** will cost more than what these two items will cost-total. So, do yourself a favor, have your gang eat a nice salad **JUST ONE NIGHT** and order these items as gifts-knowing the money will make a huge difference. Times are very tight for all of us, and these two items are very low cost-but make great gifts while making a big difference.

==A COIN OF MEANING ...REPRESENTING THE TRUE SENSE OF "NEVER FORGET"

The first is a fundraiser featuring a brand new an absolutely beautiful September 11th Commemorative Coin which been struck to coincide with the 10 year anniversary of the

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attacks on the World Trade Center. This really sharp looking collectors coin is a fundraising project to fund and support 3 charitable FIRE service funds, disclosed on this website.

PLEASE GO TO: www.September11anniversaryFund.com to get a look at the beautiful new coin and for more information on the charitable funds. The coin costs \$20.00 and every penny will be dispersed to the listed fire service related funds. This project was kicked off by Chief John Salka (an original TSL member) along with some friends with their entire intent to raise funds to respectfully commemorate the 10 year anniversary of the 9/11 murders. Check it out-especially check out the logo on the coin.

==SUPERB IMAGES REMINDING OTHERS--AND US--OF WHAT WE DO:

The second item is simple. **Please listen to us on this one:** DO NOT go to the mall AGAIN and buy some lame calendars with babies in bubbles or dogs with bows on them-NO ONE WANTS THEM, trust us, we have done the research. You have also ALREADY given ALL the "Far Side" cartoon calendars as gifts-so no one wants THOSE again either (only the dates change). And, unfortunately, the Tiger Woods 2010 Achievements calendar just ain't what it used to be-we did that research on that as well.

So then...WHAT DO YOU DO **NOW** when your friends, loved ones and elected officials are COUNTING on a unique 2010 calendar from you? Again-we have the solution.

The 2010 IAFF Burn Foundation Calendar is THE ANSWER. This outstanding calendar features full-color award winning fire and rescue action photos from the annual media awards contest. Each month features different fire and rescue scenes of Fire Fighters "on the job" from locals across the United States and Canada. The cost is less than \$20.00 and the cause is well worth your support. IAFF member or not, these feature some of the absolute best fire photography out there-and are an outstanding gift-for a very good cause. **PLEASE GO TO:** <http://pro-calendar.com/iaffburnfoundation.html> for more information and ordering details for the calendar.

While throughout the year, we urge your fiscal consideration in supporting groups such as the NFFF www.FireHero.org , the FF Cancer Support Network www.FirefighterCancerSupport.org , as well as the WTC Tribute Center www.tributewtc.org for example. However, this time of year, we ask you consider others as well (such as the above coin and calendar) especially when looking for "stocking stuffers" and related value gifts that will make a difference and matter. **Thanks.**

Take Care,

BillyG

The Secret List 12-11-09 / 2231 Hours

To subscribe to the Secret List and get these emails for yourself, go to www.firefighterclosecalls.com

FIRE SERVICE SAFETY, TRAINING & NEWS **STORIES TO LEARN FROM:**

NOTE: All of the website links below were valid at the time of publishing; there is always the chance that the website links may not be valid when you attempt to open them up.

The budget woes continue, in various forms and fashions:

The city of Mesa (AZ) says it has saved \$20 million with changes in its police and fire operations. When Mesa faced budget cuts in the past year, it decided it had to reduce police and fire spending without jeopardizing public safety. The Fire Department now sends two firefighters in a small truck, instead of four in a fire truck, to non-emergency medical calls: <http://www.ktar.com/?nid=6&sid=1230162>

Budget problems lead to a brownout for the Gilroy (CA) fire department. Starting this month, Gilroy's Sunrise fire station will be shut down three weeks a month to offset losses because of the city's budget crisis: <http://www.kcba.com/Global/story.asp?S=11466641>

Northwest Gilroy's (CA) Sunrise Fire Station will only be open three days in the next 1.5 months, according to the city. As a result of these scheduled "brownouts" at the station, City Council members voted unanimously Monday to ask the fire union to reopen negotiations about temporarily decreasing staffing ratios at Gilroy's other two stations, thereby helping to keep the Sunrise open: <http://www.gilroydispatch.com/news/260999-council-reopens-negotiations-with-fire-union>

Omaha (NE) Mayor Jim Suttle said that half of the city's 2009 \$9.5 million budget shortfall is linked to the city's fire department. Suttle said that a large number of firefighters turning in claims for sick and leave time played a major factor in the department's \$4.7 million contribution to the shortfall: <http://www.ketv.com/news/21555023/detail.html>

A mix of budget woes, department retirements, reduced public education programs, deferred maintenance, aging equipment and population growth is prompting Sparks (NV) Fire Chief Andy Flock to say a "recipe for disaster" is brewing: <http://rgj.com/article/20091120/SPARKS/911200302/1021/Fire-chief-warns-of-recipe-for-disaster>

Budget cuts will run deep for Kirkland (WA) government, programs, including fire services: http://www.pnwlocalnews.com/east_king/kir/news/70243442.html

Fire departments can pump more money under a revised \$11 billion grant program approved Wednesday by the House of Representatives. Dozens of California agencies,

both large and small, already have received funding under the fire grant program that's grown dramatically since 2001. These same departments, and others like them, could gain additional aid under the new legislation." This is a very worthwhile program," Modesto Fire Chief Jim Miguel said via e-mail Wednesday. "Very few fire departments in California, and I am sure across the country, have been able to hire firefighters, and many have laid them off." The House bill approved by a 395-31 vote authorizes about \$2.2 billion annually for the next five years. It includes an amendment by Rep. Dennis Cardoza, D-Merced, that gives grant priority to high-unemployment areas:

<http://www.mcclatchydc.com/washington/story/79118.html>

Sammamish (WA) Council delivers a simple message to fire service: at a Nov. 17 meeting at City Hall, it was a simple piece of logic offered by councilor Kathy Huckabay which most succinctly surmised what is becoming a significant problem for her city. "I think (the funding model) is fundamentally flawed," she said. "I strongly recommend you go back and look at the funding model, because it's not working in my estimations." The outgoing councilor's somewhat frustrated expression at the end of the long discussion spoke most clearly what others had been sort of saying most of the night - the service we get from Eastside Fire and Rescue is fine, it's just expensive, and getting more so: http://www.pnwlocalnews.com/east_king/iss/news/70533312.html

The part-time hand crew employed by the Orange County (CA) Fire Authority, credited with keeping last year's Freeway Complex fire from racing through Anaheim Hills and Orange Park Acres was disbanded at the end of last year's fire season, and a plan to upgrade it with a round-the-clock crew was shelved because of hard economic times, fire officials said: <http://www.ocregister.com/news/-218240--.html>

The La Crosse (WI) firefighters union chief said he and his members were "blindsided" by an idea Mayor Matt Harter floated to convert the 95-person department to an all or partial volunteer force:

http://www.lacrossetribune.com/news/local/govt-and-politics/article_fd950a14-d408-11de-accf-001cc4c002e0.html

Ocean Shores (WA) Mayor Dean Bunkers plans to eliminate the position of fire chief and put one person in charge of the police and fire departments in an attempt to close the \$1.3 million shortfall in the city's 2010 general fund budget, according to The Daily World of Aberdeen: <http://www.theolympian.com/southsound/story/1034809.html>

Change appears to be in the cards for Utah's retirement system, perhaps including one revolutionary option of doing away with the nearly century-old pension system altogether for new hires and replacing it with individual 401(k)s – something that has been discussed in numerous states, including California. "Something has to be done in my opinion. How does it look? What should we do?" are questions that remain, said Sen. Dan Liljenquist, R-Bountiful, chairman of the legislative committee that oversees retirement: http://www.sltrib.com/utahpolitics/ci_13774630

Colorado Springs (CO) police officers and firefighters, largely shielded from the proposed 2010 budget cuts, may have to take unpaid days off next year, too: <http://www.gazette.com/articles/city-67528-days-employees.html>

Spokane Valley (WA) Fire Department patrons could save some cash by calling a plumber instead of the fire department when their toilets back up. Such calls are fairly common and sometimes are a source of amusement, but they also are expensive. "Every call that comes to us, we pay a dispatch fee," Assistant Fire Marshal Bill Clifford said. The regional fire dispatching center covers its costs by charging the department \$77.50 for each call the center handles. It makes no difference whether there's a house on fire or clogged commode. Clifford said several dubious calls in the past two weeks included a woman who thought some workmen had left a light on in her attic and that it might be a fire hazard. Instead of calling the workmen back, she called the fire department. Firefighters found no light on when they peered through the scuttle hole to the attic. Eventually, they discovered that the woman had seen a street light reflecting off metal on the gable end of her house:

http://www.fireengineering.com/index/articles/news_display/137752817.html

The Maple Valley (WA) fire department is facing a shrinking budget and layoffs in 2010 like other government agencies across the state and nation due to the recession. Interim Fire Chief Brad Doerflinger presented a budget for next year to the District 43 fire commissioners Nov. 3 calling for the layoff of one firefighter, one administrative assistant and leaving the facilities manager position unfilled after retirement in December: http://www.pnwlocalnews.com/south_king/cmv/news/69882602.html

Abuse of 911 system raises cost of 'free' service: A man at a bus shelter drank 10 beers and had a stomachache. A barber felt nervous and wondered if it was his blood pressure medication. A homeless guy needed a trip to the hospital — his fourth in three days. It was a typically frantic Friday night for the firefighters of downtown St. Petersburg's Station 5 as they hopped from one medical call to the next — at a cost of more than \$300 a trip. In the heated national debate over health care reform, this is the public option no one talks about: Health care by firefighter:

<http://www.tampabay.com/news/publicsafety/abuse-of-911-system-raises-cost-of-free-service/1051544>

Leaders of four Las Vegas (NV) city unions are weighing the impact of a proposed 8 percent wage cut aimed at reducing a growing budget shortfall. The International Association of Firefighters, the Las Vegas Peace Officers Association, the Las Vegas Police Protective Association and the Las Vegas City Employees' Association are the unions affected: <http://www.fox5vegas.com/news/21784851/detail.html>

The failure of a half-cent sales tax hike in Ventura (CA) is taking its toll. This week, the city council cut two public safety programs. The city will save \$180,000 a year by cutting its roving medic engine and several Police Department Foot Patrols:

<http://www.keyt.com/home/ticker/70333112.html>

The city of Buckeye (AZ) is having to make some tough budget decisions -- some that will most likely end up with firefighters and police officers losing their jobs. That's not sitting too well with people who live there. The growth of Buckeye forced the expansion of public safety -- more firefighters and police officers. But an anticipated deep-holed city budget deficit could now force those protecting departments to lay

people off. In the worst-case scenario, 24 firefighters and 16 police officers could lose their jobs: <http://www.azfamily.com/news/local/Buckeye-residents-up-in-arms-over-proposed-public-safety-cuts-70338407.html>

Neighborhood leaders, union heads and current and former Baltimore (MD) officials are stepping up calls to halt the money-saving practice of rotating fire-company closures after a man died in a rowhouse blaze early Wednesday just blocks from a shuttered firefighting unit:

<http://www.baltimoresun.com/news/maryland/baltimore-city/bal-md.fire10dec10,0,373953.story>

The FDNY plans to reduce staffing on 49 engine companies beginning today due to an increase in the firefighter absentee rate, according to a department press release. The department says it is following the Uniformed Firefighters Association (UFA) labor contract that calls for the reduction if the overall absentee rate exceeds 7.5 percent annually. According to the press release, firefighter medical leave rates have climbed this year and currently sit at 7.53 percent. The FDNY says it will reduce staff from five to four on the engines:

<http://www.firehouse.com/topics/top-headlines/fdny-reduces-engine-company-staffing>

The Visalia (CA) City Council voted unanimously to give the city's Fire Department the go-ahead to apply for a \$1.9 million federal grant that would finance a new nine-member engine company:

<http://www.visaliatimesdelta.com/article/20091209/NEWS01/912090318/Visalia+City+Council+approves+Fire+Department+request+to+apply+for+FEMA+grant+to+add+engine+company>

City of Canton (OH) officials said 26 police officers and 28 fire personnel would get layoff notices Monday:

<http://www.firehouse.com/topics/careers/ohio-city-lays-firefighters>

California may be known for its devastating fires, and it may represent 12% of the nation's population, but it received only about 5% of the federal funds provided last year to help fire departments pay for equipment and training:

<http://www.latimes.com/news/local/la-me-fire-funding5-2009dec05%2C0%2C5938552.story>

New taxes, fees and service districts are all on the table as Butte County (CA) Supervisors grapple with the task of ensuring more stable funding for fire protection. Parcel taxes, fire "flow" taxes, "subscription" fees for service, and forming assessment districts. They're all being considered as dwindling revenues continue to chip away at fire service levels. 21 people were laid off in the last round of cuts, with brown outs idling some fire stations on a rotating basis:

<http://www.khsitv.com/content/localnews/story/Butte-Supes-Tackle-Fire-Funding-and-New-Sheriff/Rp0SWY44P02J2vPpKAn1ow.csp>

Lewiston (ID) Fire Department Chief Gordy Gregg says the agency will try some on-the-go shuffling following the elimination of a division chief due to budget cuts:

<http://www.kpvi.com/Global/story.asp?S=11588047>

Funding for San Francisco (CA) fire stations is being sheltered from the fiscal storm that has city officials slashing budgets to close a projected \$522.2 million budget deficit. The Fire Department says it has been assured by Mayor Gavin Newsom's office that approximately \$144 million that goes to fund the operation of firehouses will be exempt from the budget ax, fire Chief Joanne Hayes-White said Thursday:
<http://www.sfexaminer.com/local/Firehouses-spared-from-closing-79032782.html>

Maple Valley (WA) fire department avoids layoffs after firefighters and staff make concessions: http://www.pnwlocalnews.com/south_king/cmvt/news/78378157.html

Public Relations Nightmare Stories:

A Highland (UT) couple is asking the city to build an \$8,000 berm in front of their home to shield them from their neighbors. Who might the new neighbors be that are keeping the couple up night and day with their bright, unpredictable lights and constant activity? The fire department:
http://www.heraldextra.com/news/local/north/highland/article_f26c915e-4875-5a55-b4fa-c316c1e8027e.html

In a federal lawsuit filed yesterday, an organization of African American firefighters accused the Philadelphia (PA) firefighters union of being "racially harassing and abusive" to blacks. The lawsuit said union leadership was dominated by members of a predominantly white firefighters organization dedicated to ending a 25-year-old federal consent decree that paved the way for the hiring of many black firefighters:
http://www.philly.com/inquirer/local/20091112_Philadelphia_black_firefighters_sue_union_cite_racism.html

The Winnipeg (Canada) Fire Paramedic Service is investigating the circumstances surrounding a pair of firefighters' decision to pose and take a cell phone photo in front of a Redwood Avenue blaze. On Thursday evening, Free Press photographer Boris Minkevich took a photo of a defensive fire with two Winnipeg firefighters in the foreground. One posed for a cellphone picture shot by the other while they waited for aerial equipment to be set up:
<http://www.firerescue1.com/fire-attack/articles/680015-Canada-firefighters-cell-photo-causes-flap/>

The Boston (MA) Fire Department failed to provide adequate training on how to handle firetrucks in emergency situations, so when a firefighter tried desperately to slow his ladder truck as it careened down a steep hill on Jan. 9, he had no knowledge of how to overcome the massive brake failure, according to crash investigation results released yesterday. The driver did not know to check brake pressure before he got behind the wheel that day and then, when the brakes failed, did not know how to engage secondary braking systems. Instead, he pumped the brakes, releasing any remaining air pressure from the brake system, and put the truck into neutral, preventing the secondary brakes from engaging. The truck eventually slammed into an apartment building, killing a passenger, Lieutenant Kevin M. Kelley:
http://www.boston.com/news/local/massachusetts/articles/2009/12/11/poor_training_cited_in_crash/

Avra Valley (AZ) Fire District Chief Tom Nix was put on paid administrative leave Friday as the fire board continued its struggle to find out why 14 of the district's 17 employees have publicly stated they have no confidence in him:

<http://www.firehouse.com/topics/top-headlines/fdny-reduces-engine-company-staffing>

Gerald Hurst, a chemist and inventor from Austin (TX) offers his services for free to help individuals he feels were wrongly convicted of arson. Hurst said he became disgusted by fire investigations based more on 'old wives' tales and folklore' than science. "Most fire investigators have no technical training, no knowledge of chemistry, physics, math, biology, that kind of stuff," Hurst said. "So you have to teach them that if you see A, it must mean B. It's a paint-by-numbers way of evaluating fires, which are some of the most complex phenomena imaginable:"

<http://www.statesman.com/news/content/news/stories/local/2009/11/15/1115hurst.html>

Embattled Avra Valley (AZ) Fire Chief Tom Nix will remain on paid administrative leave through the end of the year, and the fire district will buy out the remainder of his contract, the Avra Valley Fire District governing board decided last week. At the board's Nov. 17 meeting, 13 firefighters submitted a letter signed by 14 of the district's 17 employees, leveling several accusations against Nix, including discrimination, embezzling and lack of education, leadership and budgeting ability:

<http://azstarnet.com/sn/northwest/320595>

Three firefighters, including former Sheridan (CO) Fire Chief Ron Carter, are charged with felonies related to the forgery of firefighter training paperwork. Carter, Sheridan Fire Captain Brian Ribble and Federal Heights firefighter Don Ogborn are charged with multiple felony counts of forgery, conspiracy and attempt to influence a public official:

<http://www.9news.com/news/local/article.aspx?storyid=127442&catid=346>

The Fairmount (CO) Fire Protection District is "re-evaluating" its use of department cell phones after a CBS4 investigation revealed district taxpayers have paid thousands of dollars over the course of seven years for cell phones and monthly cell service for the fire chief's wife and the wives of two other top department commanders:

<http://cbs4denver.com/local/cell.phones.fairmount.2.1355981.html>

A dozen white firefighters have prevailed in their reverse discrimination lawsuits against the city. Settlement of the Bridgeport (CT) lawsuits filed was announced Tuesday, after lawyers representing the white firefighters said this summer that their position was bolstered by a U.S. Supreme Court ruling that favored white firefighters in New Haven who had made similar arguments: http://www.connpost.com/ci_13901932

In yet another contentious meeting Tuesday, the Northeast (MO) fire district board fired its two controversial attorneys and fire chief — but left the door open for them to walk away with hundreds of thousands of dollars in severance that a judge ruled last week they couldn't have:

<http://www.stltoday.com/stltoday/news/stories.nsf/stlouiscitycounty/story/8F7A458182A45FDA862576800018A93A?OpenDocument>

An ineffective incident management system and insufficient tactics and training contributed to the LODDs of two Boston (MA) firefighters in a restaurant fire, according to a NIOSH report. Investigators also listed an insufficient occupational safety and health program, insufficient incident management training and requirements and ineffective communications as other key contributing factors in the fatalities. Firefighters Paul Cahill, 55, and Warren Payne, 52, died while conducting an interior attack to locate, confine and extinguish a fire located in the cockloft of the restaurant in August 2007: <http://www.firerescue1.com/firefighter-safety/articles/602701-NIOSH-Insufficient-tactics-training-contributed-to-Boston-restaurant-LODDs/>

Related to the above story on the two Boston (MA) Firefighters who died in the line of duty, Suffolk prosecutors and Boston (MA) Fire Department brass yesterday strongly refuted findings in a federal report, saying they never blocked requests from safety investigators to hand over toxicology reports involving two jakes who died in a 2007 fire: <http://www.firerescue1.com/fire-department-management/articles/603655-Boston-Fire-Department-brass-refute-NIOSH-report/>

Deputy Chief lied during an investigation: Papillion (NE) officials have named two firefighters who they said provided recruits with test questions and answers, a move that caused the department to invalidate the tests and start over from scratch. Jeffrey Strawn, a deputy chief, and Matthew Sullivan, a captain, were both demoted to the rank of firefighter 1: <http://www.ketv.com/news/21565887/detail.html>

The director of the Oregon Department of Public Safety Standards and Training resigned Tuesday after becoming the target of a state criminal investigation: <http://www.statesmanjournal.com/article/20091125/NEWS/911250403/1001>

A Gibsonville (NC) firefighter arrested last month on his way to an apartment fire no longer faces felony charges, but the district attorney's office won't say whether the traffic offenses he racked up that day will stick. Gibsonville Fire Assistant Chief Joseph Loy was charged by Elon University campus police on Oct. 9 with flee/elude arrest, which is a felony, as well as speeding, failing to stop at a red light, reckless driving, failing to heed to a light or siren and unsafe passing yellow line: <http://www.firerescue1.com/volunteer/articles/602445-Firefighter-arrested-for-speeding-to-fire-call-in-NC/>

A formal settlement has been reached in an eight-year racial-discrimination lawsuit brought by two Camden (NJ) deputy fire chiefs against the city and its fire chief. Under the agreement, Terrence Crowder, who retired from the department in May, and Kevin Hailey, who is expected to retire next year, will receive \$1.15 million. In addition, Fire Chief Joseph Marini will step down, and all supervisory fire officers with the rank of captain or higher will undergo diversity training: <http://www.firerescue1.com/labor-issues/articles/602402-Pa-firefighter-racial-discrimination-lawsuit-settled/>

A deal to make ambulance service more efficient in Mesa, Gilbert, Queen Creek and Apache Junction (AZ) is being challenged in court by a company that lost out in the bidding process. A suit filed Tuesday by Professional Medical Transport Inc. alleges

that the bidding process used by the four municipalities' fire districts was biased against the company and favored its rival, Southwest Ambulance:

<http://www.fox11az.com/news/local/69731332.html>

Hartford (CT) Firefighter Mike Di'Giacomo said his SUV is banned from in the firehouse because the bumper stickers he has on it, displays his political views:

<http://www.firehouse.com/topics/news/bumper-stickers-leave-conn-firefighter-hot-water>

Three paramedics filed a complaint against Pikesville's (MD) volunteer fire company, saying they are victims of discrimination based on their Orthodox Jewish beliefs:

<http://wjz.com/seenon/pikesville.paramedics.2.1304293.html>

A police officer in Connecticut was reprimanded for an incident in which he handcuffed a firefighter at a medical call in Fair Haven, the police chief said. "I suspect if they both had a chance to step back, they both would have done something differently," said police Chief James Lewis. "I think both sides could have taken a deep breath and stepped back."

<http://www.firehouse.com/topics/news/conn-officer-reprimanded-cuffing-firefighter-during-med-call>

A federal court jury on Friday awarded nearly \$2.5 million to a woman who was forced out of the Fresno (CA) Fire Department's training academy in 2005, finding she was the victim of gender discrimination:

<http://www.firefightingnews.com/article.cfm?articleID=72781>

Driver distractions and the loss of direct communications between driver and spotter contributed to the death of a New Jersey firefighter during fire apparatus backing, according to investigators. Possible failure of the automatic reverse breaking system was also key factor identified in a NIOSH firefighter fatality report released Tuesday. Firefighter Gary Stephens, of the Elizabeth Fire Department, was killed on the fireground when the fire truck he was spotting ran over him on January 2, earlier this year: <http://www.firerescue1.com/vehicle-safety/articles/602908-NJ-fire-truck-backing-LODD-blamed-on-communication-breakdown/>

Four officers at FDNY fire companies in Manhattan, Queens and the Bronx are being docked pay and reassigned to fire headquarters for failing to carry out building inspection duties, officials said today. Two captains and two lieutenants failed to have their companies carry out three hours of weekly building inspections, as required by Fire Department regulations, the department said. Instead, the officers and their inspection crews left their firehouses late, returned early, or spent inspection time on other activities, such as shopping at stores. "Inspectional activity is a crucial part of the job for firefighters and fire officers, and failure to diligently perform this work is a dereliction of duty that will not be tolerated," Fire Commissioner Nicholas Scoppetta said:

http://www.nypost.com/p/news/local/manhattan/nyc_fire_officers_punished_for_flaking_U6y0KBKaNxuT0VaZqSpAkL

A would-be FDNY firefighter died after collapsing during training because he was singled out to repeat a dangerously grueling exercise without oxygen and other basic rescue equipment, his widow said in a \$10 million lawsuit filed Tuesday. Jamel Sears passed a strenuous test that involved hauling a 100-pound dummy and running up and down stairs in heavy gear, but instructors made him repeat it more times than any of the other nearly 300 probationary firefighters in his 2008 class — even after some trainees fainted during the exercise, the lawsuit said. And when the 33-year-old Navy veteran collapsed on Nov. 10, 2008, an instructor initially just told him to get up, the lawsuit said. When he ultimately was taken to a nearby room for treatment, the oxygen tank wasn't working, forcing another trainee to fetch his medic's gear from a parking lot, the lawsuit said. It said an ambulance took more than 15 minutes to get to the training site, on Randalls Island in the East River; Sears died at a hospital the next day: <http://www.lohud.com/article/20091117/NEWS05/911170395/-1/newsfront/Lawyer--Would-be-NYC-firefighter->

The city of Federal Heights (CO) is investigating a captain in the fire department for allegedly changing the results of a firefighter's test who was trying to get promoted. Meanwhile, the city is reevaluating its testing procedures:

<http://www.9news.com/news/article.aspx?storyid=127188&catid=339>

Two North Port (FL) city firefighters have lost their jobs after a lieutenant reportedly skipped an emergency medical call to coach a children's soccer game. Lt. Robert Combs resigned Thursday, the day after the North Port Fire Department said it found that he had violated several department policies by taking a ladder truck to the soccer match, skipping an emergency call and pressuring other firefighters to cover for him. The city said firefighter Frank Bellina was fired for aiding Combs in violating department policy: <http://www.heraldtribune.com/article/20091209/ARTICLE/912091035>

A volunteer firefighter in western Oregon stole more than \$20,000 -- about \$15,000 of which had been set aside for charity -- from his department's volunteer firefighting account, police said Tuesday: <http://www.kptv.com/news/21784624/detail.html>

The city of Oakland (CA) has agreed to pay \$245,000 to settle a lawsuit filed by an Oakland Fire Department captain who alleged that she was discriminated against after she suffered a seizure and passed out on the job:

<http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/c/a/2009/11/30/BAHD1AS5CN.DTL>

The State of South Carolina Law Enforcement Division continues to investigate the actions of several Dillon County firefighters amid allegations of misconduct in office. SLED agents launched the investigation more than a month ago after receiving a request from the state Attorney General's Office, SLED public information officer Jennifer Timmons said. Former Dillon County Administrator Charles Curry said in a previous interview the firefighters are notorious for violating county policy by being paid for fires they didn't fight:

<http://www.firehouse.com/topics/careers/sc-ffs-accused-falsifying-payroll>

A review of the Houston (TX) Fire Department uncovered scattered incidents of harassment and discrimination but nothing as extreme as the racist and sexist graffiti

scrawled on the walls inside a female firehouse dorm last summer, according to an independent investigation released Tuesday:

<http://www.chron.com/disp/story.mpl/metropolitan/6759918.html>

The Lynn (MA) Fire Department's top commanders are trading charges and counterclaims of incompetency and compromised public safety even as they prepare for a Dec. 9 examination to choose the city's next fire chief:

<http://www.thedailyitemoflynn.com/articles/2009/12/01/news/news01.txt>

General Fire Service Related Stories:

Four months after the U.S. Supreme Court ruled in favor of 20 New Haven firefighters, the controversial case has landed back in a local courthouse, where a jury trial looms. The case is Ricci v. DeStefano, the reverse discrimination suit filed by city firefighters that made national waves this year. The U.S. Supreme Court ruled in June in favor of Frank Ricci and 19 fellow firefighters, who claimed their rights were violated when the city threw out results of 2003 promotion exams because African-American firefighters performed poorly:

http://www.newhavenindependent.org/archives/2009/11/ricci_is_back_i.php

White firefighters in New Haven (CT) who won a discrimination case before the U.S. Supreme Court have formally received the promotions they sought:

http://news.yahoo.com/s/ap/20091210/ap_on_re_us/us_firefighters_lawsuit

The city of New Haven (CT) is wasting no time making court-ordered promotions for one Hispanic and 13 white firefighters who fought for and won advancement in the U.S. Supreme Court. Five years after it improperly scrapped two exams, and a week after a federal judge ordered it to do so, the city plans to submit the results from two Fire Department promotional exams to the Civil Service Commission tonight for certification. The city then plans to bring the lists to the fire commission Tuesday to promote 14 firefighters who have fought promotion since 2004:

http://www.nhregister.com/articles/2009/11/30/news/new_haven/a1-necivilservice.txt

Attorneys for a group of black New Haven (CT) firefighters Monday filed a motion asking a federal court to halt the promotion of 10 other firefighters (including four minorities) who scored well enough on 2003 exams to be promoted. The 10 firefighters' advancements were approved Friday by the Board of Fire Commissioners, just three days after the board ratified the promotions of 14 other firefighters (all but one of them white) mandated by the U.S. Supreme Court decision in Ricci v. DeStefano:

<http://www.nhregister.com/articles/2009/12/08/news/a3-blackfirefighters.txt>

Members of Raceland's (KY) volunteer fire brigade are unhappy about being told there are certain times when they're not permitted to be in the fire station, of all places. Firefighters said they were informed about a week ago that the city council had enacted an 11 p.m. curfew at the fire station. They also said they were told that the

city's police officers had been instructed to take down license numbers and descriptions of vehicles seen parked there after hours:

http://www.dailyindependent.com/local/local_story_342233733.html

The planning committee and sub-committees working on a plan to combine Grays Harbor Fire District 2 and the Montesano Fire Department are plugging along to put the proposal on the August 2010 ballot:

http://www.thedailyworld.com/articles/2009/12/02/local_news/doc4b16b98e885f4026983485.txt

Are women underrepresented in the Fresno Fire Department? Data from California's 10 largest local fire departments (as designated by the U.S. Fire Administration's National Fire Department Census) suggest that they are, although Fresno is far from the worst of the list: <http://www.fresnobee.com/local/story/1742725.html>

Six hours after a 21-year-old firefighter was shot in the head at an Arlington gas station early Tuesday morning, police arrested a woman who they said admitted to picking up the victim's gun pointing it at him. Jacksonville (FL) Fire and Rescue pronounced the man (one of their own firefighters) deceased at the scene. JFRD later confirmed the victim was firefighter Emanuel Porter II, who friends called Manny:

<http://www.firehouse.com/topics/news/florida-ffs-respond-shot-colleague>

After deliberating for less than four hours, a Roswell (NM) jury decided that El Paso Natural Gas Co. is not liable for the emotional distress firefighters and emergency personnel suffered while responding to a pipeline explosion that killed 12 people, many of them children, in 2000. Richard Wheatley, the Houston-based spokesman for El Paso Corp., the parent company of El Paso Natural Gas, said the corporation "deeply respects, and is grateful to, the brave men and women who risk their lives every day as firefighters. "Emergency response personnel have very difficult jobs," Wheatley said Monday, "but they are well aware of the risks inherent in their profession: <http://www.firerescue1.com/health/articles/680404-Jury-Utility-not-liable-for-NM-firefighters-distress/>

Utah's ambulance monopoly chases off competition:

http://www.sltrib.com/health/ci_13929665

Three El Mirage firefighters were assaulted as they responded to a medical call late Saturday, authorities said. A 16-year-old reportedly suffering from an overdose punched, kicked and scratched as the medics tried to take him to an ambulance, said Howard Munding, assistant fire chief in El Mirage:

<http://www.azcentral.com/news/articles/2009/12/08/20091208gl-nwvfireassault1208-ON.html>

Cal Fire officials plan to reduce their fire protection staffing Monday throughout San Bernardino County to winter levels. "The recent rains and cool temperatures have combined to reduce the threat of wildland fires," Cal fire spokesman Bill Peters said in a written statement. Four of the 10 state fire engines in the county will be left unmanned. And seasonal firefighters will be laid off:

<http://blogs.pe.com/news/digest/2009/12/cal-fire-to-reduce-staffing-mo.html>

Firefighters are hoping to make the holidays a little brighter for one Peoria (AZ) family after a man fell off a ladder while putting up Christmas lights. "It makes us real happy to know we helped his family," said Fire Captain John Alley. The day Jon Clark fell more than 20 feet to the ground, firefighters from Engine 194 responded in more than one way. "We thought with him having a wife and two small kids at home the least we could do is go back and finish the Christmas lights job he was originally working on," Alley said. But they didn't have enough lights to finish the job. "We used money from our Peoria Fire Department charities to purchase more Christmas lights so we could finish around the top of the house," Alley said:

<http://www.abc15.com/content/news/westvalley/peoria/story/How-firefighters-brightened-the-holidays-for-1/-1OQavDSkW25p-QFsEg9w.csp>

The Northwest Fire Board (AZ) voted unanimously, 4-0, in favor of exploring a consolidation of services with Golder Ranch, but it's a debate that's dividing the community. The idea behind the merge is to make fire fighters faster and stronger for the people living in the area: <http://www.kvoa.com/news/northwest-fire-districts-unite/>

The potential merger of Central Kitsap (WA) Fire & Rescue and the Bremerton Fire Department is still on the table. The CKFR Board of Commissioners met Monday to discuss a letter sent Nov. 18 to the department by BFD Chief Al Duke. The letter stated the city of Bremerton is still interested in some form of consolidation, saying it "would promote greater efficiencies in staffing, equipment acquisition, and use, reduction in service overlap and redundancy and overall service delivery enhancement: <http://www.pnwlocalnews.com/kitsap/pat/news/78465722.html>

Everyone knows firefighters have a tough job, but what's it really like to crawl through a home filled with pitch black smoke, heat and fire? News On 6 anchor Lori Fullbright found out firsthand when she went into a live fire while training with Tulsa (OK) firefighters this week: <http://www.newson6.com/Global/story.asp?S=11525668>

The Haverhill (MA) Fire Department is down 10 firefighters and recently lost three senior officers to retirement — leaving the department bleeding overtime money. The three officers who have retired within the last two months — Deputy Chief Lewis Poore and captains Paul Garon and Michael Friel — held several key public safety jobs and assignments that have either yet to be filled or have been filled on a temporary basis: http://www.eagletribune.com/punewshh/local_story_318210447.html?keyword=topstory

Aging of firefighters at the Scottsdale (AZ) Fire Department raises future concerns for department:

<http://www.azcentral.com/community/scottsdale/articles/2009/12/07/20091207sr-firepension1205.html>

Cooperation with neighboring emergency agencies is key for the Port Angeles (WA) Fire Department to cover its area well, Fire Chief Dan McKeen told a business group Tuesday. Because of this area's isolation and a spread-out population, it becomes more difficult to dispatch firefighters and medics to an emergency than in Seattle or another densely populated area, McKeen said. "In Seattle, within minutes you can have

a large group of firefighters at the scene of a fire at night," he said. "Here, we rely heavily on volunteers, and sometimes we would have to wake people up and get them there -- and that just takes a little time," he told the Port Angeles Business Association breakfast meeting at Joshua's Restaurant. For efficiency, the Port Angeles Fire Department and Clallam County Fire District No. 2 -- which covers the unincorporated area outside the city limit -- have a close relationship. "We try to erase those geopolitical boundaries and just do what makes the most sense," McKeen said:

<http://www.peninsuladailynews.com/article/20091119/news/311199987>

Shave of solidarity: Firefighters support colleague fighting cancer in Colorado:

<http://www.greeleytribune.com/article/20091112/NEWS/911129992/1039/NONE&parentprofile%3D1033>

Relatives of a Boston (MA) firefighter who was killed in January when the brakes failed on a 14-year-old fire truck and it slammed into a building in Mission Hill are outraged that a bill to upgrade the city's fire fleet has been bottled up for months in the City Council: http://www.boston.com/news/local/breaking_news/2009/12/firefighters_fa.html

Springfield (OR) Fire Chief Dennis Murphy is ready to retire next year, and he knows who should replace him: Eugene Fire Chief Randy Groves. Murphy doesn't want Groves to quit his Eugene job and work for Springfield; He wants Groves to lead the fire departments of both cities. Murphy and Groves support the administrative merger of the Eugene and Springfield fire departments, a first step that could lead to a full department merger in years ahead:

<http://www.registerguard.com/csp/cms/sites/web/news/cityregion/23420830-41/story.csp>

Firefighters in Prince George's County, Maryland say an explosion occurred during a house fire Sunday evening. It is being described as a "backdraft". Backdrafts have been known to seriously injure or kill firefighters. In this case firefighters were blown more than 15-feet, but were unhurt:

<http://www.wusa9.com/news/local/story.aspx?storyid=94322&catid=189>

A decade after six Massachusetts firefighters died in a massive warehouse blaze, researchers at a nearby college say they are inching closer to development of a sophisticated system that could quickly locate and get help to firefighters lost or trapped in a smoky inferno:

http://www.boston.com/news/education/higher/articles/2009/11/29/technology_eyed_to_locate_trapped_firefighters/

In a move to increase efficiency and communication, calls to the Rancho Cucamonga (CA) Fire Department will soon be dispatched from a center in Rialto. As of Dec. 16 calls for service for the Rancho Cucamonga Fire Department will be dispatched from the ConFire (Consolidated Fire Agencies of the East Valley) facility, according to Fire Chief Mike Bell: http://www.insidebayarea.com/ci_13827814

Carson City (NV) Fire Department Local 2251 is getting into the Christmas spirit this season by donating their time and money to shop for toys to give to families through the Carson City Salvation Army at 9 a.m. Thursday at the north Carson City Walmart

off College Parkway. CCFD Local 2251 has partnered with The Salvation Army Carson City Corps for a number of years to purchase toys for kids in The Salvation Army's Angel Tree Program. They are donating \$4,000 to shop for toys this Christmas:

<http://www.nevadaappeal.com/article/20091206/NEWS/912059979/1039&parentprofile%3D1063>

As he walked through the Marin County (CA) Fire Department's Woodacre station in uniform on a recent crisp, clear morning, Capt. Ruben Martin showed nary a sign of the nightmarish path he'd traveled since a similar morning 21 months ago. A small left-knee brace under his pant leg was the only hint of Martin's struggle to overcome injuries so severe that his first thought when they occurred was wanting to say goodbye to his wife and son:

http://www.marinij.com/marinnews/ci_13887977

Los Angeles County (CA) Fire Chief P. Michael Freeman announced Tuesday that he will be retiring in March after nearly 21 years heading the department:

<http://latimesblogs.latimes.com/lanow/2009/11/los-angeles-county-fire-chief-p-michael-freeman-announces-retirement.html>

Ten firefighter recruits will be trained and possibly hired via the Glendale (CA) city's fire academy, officials said. If the recruits pass muster, they'll likely be hired to replace retirees and fill vacant positions, fire officials said. On Tuesday, the City Council appropriated \$362,000 to run the Glendale Firefighter Recruit Academy with two training captains and a fire peer instructor. The Fire Department has six vacant sworn positions, and another five retirements anticipated by the end of this year, with one other planned for 2010, according to a city report. "Even with all the reductions we have made over the past year-and-a-half, come Jan. 1, it will be a total of 15 sworn positions and one non-sworn position in the Fire Department [that will be vacant]," Chief Harold Scoggins said Tuesday night. "We still have a need to hire firefighters due to the heavy retirements we have been having." Another six firefighters positions will be reassigned from the Basic Life Support program to fire stations, creating additional vacancies next year, according to the report:

<http://www.glendalenewspress.com/articles/2009/11/20/publicsafety/gnp-academy112009.txt>

A stumbling economy has pushed El Segundo (CA) to become the latest South Bay city to consider handing over its fire protection services to Los Angeles County. The City Council is expected tonight to request that the county investigate the feasibility of providing the community's fire services - the first step toward a move that leaders estimated could save at least \$4 million a year:

http://www.insidebayarea.com/ci_13896614

Fire departments should consider rollover protection for crew areas when upgrading or buying new fire apparatus, NIOSH investigators say. Investigators are making the recommendation after a Georgia firefighter was killed in a December 31, 2008, apparatus crash that left him pinned upside down with the roof collapsed around his head:

<http://www.firerescue1.com/firefighter-safety/articles/678075-insufficient-rollover-protection-cited-in-tenn-lodd/>

While Hermosa Beach (CA) continues to work with Redondo Beach on how to turn their fire departments into one, Manhattan Beach Fire Chief Scott Ferguson said they'd "absolutely" listen to the idea of merging, once the two cities reach an agreement. "Let them work it out," Ferguson said. "If they do, then we'd be more than interested ... it's our responsibility to listen to what's proposed. Absolutely we'd listen and see if it's practical." http://www.tbrnews.com/articles/2009/11/19/hermosa_beach_news/news02.txt

The Kent (WA) City Council will vote Dec. 8 whether to ask voters next spring to approve forming a regional fire authority merging the Kent Fire Department and King County Fire District 37. Voters in Kent and Fire District 37, which serves Covington and parts of unincorporated King County next to Kent and Covington, could see a measure on the April 27, 2010 ballot. Jim Schneider, fire chief of the Kent Fire Department and Fire District 37, presented the proposal Tuesday at a Kent City Council workshop. "We have confidence in the plan," Schneider said in an interview after the workshop. "We've worked on this for 5 1/2 years. We want to give citizens the chance to determine the level of service they want." Schneider said a regional fire authority would be able to levy a property tax as well as a new fire-benefit charge, to help provide more stable funding and improve response times to medical and fire calls: http://www.pnwlocalnews.com/south_king/ken/news/70421512.html

The United States Forest Service (USFS) should allow water-dropping helicopters to fly at night and make greater use of local agencies, the L.A. County Fire Department says in its report on the Station fire: <http://www.latimes.com/news/local/la-me-station-fire19-2009nov19%2C0%2C3849487.story>

A Montgomery County, Maryland firefighter is in a local hospital after being hit by a car at the scene of an apartment fire Monday night. The injured firefighter was the driver of the first arriving fire engine to the call at 10320 Westlake Drive in Bethesda around 7:30 PM. The 47-year-old firefighter is a veteran of the department assigned to Station 26 in Bethesda. According to Montgomery County Fire & Rescue Service Assistant Chief Scott Graham, the firefighter, wearing a reflective vest, was dragging a hose line across the street to a hydrant, when a car lurched forward. The firefighter ended up on the hood of that vehicle. The firefighter has serious, but non-life-threatening trauma. She is being treated for orthopedic injuries: <http://www.wusa9.com/news/local/story.aspx?storyid=93816&catid=158>

Over the last few years, helmet cameras have been adopted by countless members of the fire service as a tool to capture their heroics on film, but not everyone is entertained. More departments are banning the use of photography and video equipment while on duty, while others are making it clear that their policies forbidding the devices still stand. This past July, the Houston Fire Department released a policy banning such recording devices -- including helmet cameras. Just last month, the Baltimore City Fire Department reiterated its rule in a memo distributed to employees: <http://www.firehouse.com/topics/top-headlines/helmet-cameras-put-under-microscope>

A century-old reserve firefighter program was rescued from going up in smoke Tuesday when the City Council decided to reduce the workers' pay to minimum

wage to keep the program running. Earlier this month, city officials proposed eliminating the reserves division and all nine of its on-call firefighters as they sought ways to close a projected \$9 million general fund deficit. Bargaining groups and staff this month are negotiating the fate of dozens of other city employees, including a number of police officers. To save the program, reservists responded by asking city officials to cut their pay:

http://www.recordnet.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20091118/A_NEWS/911180311/-1/a_news#STS=q26huoqc.fiw

The death of a Rhode Island firefighter while operating an aerial ladder platform may have been avoided by using a ground ladder instead, having a spotter present or if he had worn head protection, NIOSH investigators found. Assistant Chief Allan "Pickles" LePage, of the Kingston Volunteer Fire Company, was killed June 29 this year when his head was pinned between the top of a fire station bay door and the ladder platform railing. He was likely extending and raising the aerial ladder to retrieve a pike pole that was lodged in a scuttle hatch, according to a NIOSH firefighter fatality report released Thursday: <http://www.firerescue1.com/firefighter-safety/articles/603416-NIOSH-RI-firefighter-likely-killed-retrieving-pike-pole/>

Red, White and Blue Fire (CO) will host a spaghetti dinner/silent auction fundraiser to assist one of its firefighters who has fallen ill. Earlier this summer, firefighter Steve Webster, one of the department's most experienced firefighters and paramedics, exhibited symptoms that left him unable to work and unable to receive treatment. Webster's diagnosis, chiari malformation, a rare abnormality at the base of the brain, may only be part of the problem as further tests revealed. Doctors are struggling to determine if he has other medical conditions:

<http://www.summitdaily.com/article/20091115/NEWS/911149992/1078&ParentProfile%3D1055>

Decatur County (GA) Commissioners approved the Department of Corrections Inmate Firefighter program on Tuesday evening. In a few short months, Decatur County should have 4 fire stations in the county staffed with inmates:

<http://bainbridgega.com/news/publish/112409inmates.shtml>

Kitsap County (WA) had 22 fire districts when Al Duke started his career in the fire service 25 years ago. Now it has six. That number would fall even more if Bremerton fire chief Duke's department merges with a neighboring fire district. The idea is regaining momentum. The question now is, with which district should Bremerton fire link up? <http://www.kitsapsun.com/news/2009/dec/05/bremerton-fire-merger-regains-momentum/>

Not to end on a somber note, but please take the time to read the following, very inspirational and motivating article from Fire Chief (retired) Mario Trevino, who was recently diagnosed with cancer. It is an eye-opening tale ALL of us can learn from. "We Danced With The Devil: One Firefighter's Cancer Chronicles":

<http://www.firehouse.com/1209-Trevino-Dance>

Please make every day a learning opportunity and train like your life depends on it – because it does!

Also, thanks to everyone for their continued support over the years. You may not agree with all of the information contained within these newsletters, but remember why the information is being included: to better prepare you for a career in the fire service, to prepare you for promoting in the fire service, and to just keep you up-to-date with what is going on in your fire service. Even more important than that, this information will hopefully keep you safe and may just save your life or the life of a brother or sister firefighter! Take care and don't just stay safe – make it safe!

Steve Prziborowski, Editor / Publisher – Chabot College Fire & EMS News

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Chabot College Fire Technology & EMS web site: www.chabotfire.com
Chabot College web site: www.chabotcollege.edu

***** PLEASE FEEL FREE TO PASS THIS ON TO YOUR FRIENDS OR CO-WORKERS*****

The Fine Print:

- If you would like to be added to our mailing list (no, I won't give your email address out to others), email me at sprziborowski@aol.com and I will add you to the list. Benefits of being on the mailing list include being notified when the latest Fire & EMS news is published, and being notified of firefighter testing opportunities, volunteer opportunities, or training opportunities.
- If you know of someone who wants to receive this newsletter (as well as other updates) email me at sprziborowski@aol.com and I will place them on the mailing list.
- If you want to take your name off of the mailing list, just send me an email at sprziborowski@aol.com and in the subject heading, and type in "unsubscribe from mailing list" and I will remove your name.
- If you are subscribed to my email mailing list and you are not receiving anything (a problem some earthlink, aol, hotmail and yahoo users have at times), make sure you add my name – Steve Prziborowski and the email address I use to send this newsletter and other fire and EMS related news items out – sprziborowski@aol.com to your address book, safe list, white list, etc. Since I mass mail items to thousands of people, some email providers may think these items are spam or junk mail, even though they are not. If you have not received anything from me in over two weeks, email me to let me know so that I can attempt to troubleshoot the issue.