



FIRE & EMS NEWS

November 6, 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.

SPRING 2010 FIRE TECHNOLOGY SCHEDULE

Registration for the Spring 2010 semester is as follows:

- **Nov 9th -10th:** EOPS, DSPS, Aspire, Veterans
- **Nov 11th - 20th:** Continuing students by priority number
- **Nov 23rd:** New and Former students
- **Nov 30th:** Concurrent Enrollment students

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

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

Chabot College Fire & EMS News

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 OPPORTUNITY:

Registration for the 2009 Fresno Training Officers Symposium is now open!!!

- The Fresno Symposium is being co-sponsored by the Northern California Training Officers Association and the Southern California Training Officers Associations.
- This year's [Fresno Training Officers Symposium](#) will be held **Monday November 16, 2009** through **Friday November 20, 2009** in Fresno, California!

For more information, go to the registration website at <http://register.calchiefs.org> - where you can download the class descriptions and complete online registration.

Classes being offered this year include, but are not limited to:

- Fire Command 1C - *(CSFM certificate class)*
- S-230/231 (Crew/Engine Boss) - *(CSFM certificate class)*
- Fire Management 2C - *(CSFM certificate class)*
- Rescue Systems 1 - *(CSFM certificate class)*
- Low Angle Rope Rescue - *(CSFM certificate class)*
- Trench Rescue Technician - *(CSFM certificate class)*
- Regional Instructor Orientation - *(CSFM certificate class)*
- Ethical Leadership in the Classroom - *(CSFM certificate class)*
- Auto Extrication - *(CSFM certificate class)*
- Emergency Response to Alternative Fuels Vehicles - *(CSFM certificate class)*
- Fire Control 3A and 3B – Train-the-trainer - *(CSFM certificate class)*
- Truck Academy – Commercial Ventilation Practices
- Truck Academy – RIC Operations
- Truck Academy – Forcible Entry Operations
- Thermal Imaging Camera
- Fireground Search Operations for Big Box, Multi-Story and High-Rise Occupancies
- Read and React: Calling the Mayday
- The Lost Art of the First Line
- The Art of Reading Smoke
- The Fireline Mind
- Improving Safety Officer Effectiveness
- Red Flags for Operational Conditions
- Strategy and Tactics – Situational Awareness
- NIOSH
- Calm the Chaos! Secrets to Mastering Fireground Command
- Mastering the Fire Service Assessment Center
- Fire Officer Survival
- Company & Command Cohesion
- PowerPoint Basics and Advanced

Chabot College Fire & EMS News

- Building Construction for Today's Fire Service.
- Maximizing the use of your Strike Team
- Preventing Command Dysfunction
- Suicide by Ego...A leadership guide to avoiding incident and career casualties
- 50 Ways to Kill your Brother & The Fire Service Perfect Storm
- Company Officer Development Academy
- Executive Leadership Institute: The Fire Chief
- Conflict Resolution & the Discipline Process.
- Real Leadership is not for Wimps!
- First-due: Mission Focused Tactics for First-Due Officers
- Professional Promotional Workshop
- Enhancing AFG Grant Writing Skills / Training Mandates for the Fire Service
- Realistic and Relevant Training that fits your budget: Drill ground props, training evolutions, classroom computer simulations and training DVD production
- And many more - see the website for more details.

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

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

October 2, 2009

FIRE PREVENTION WEEK, 2009

**BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
A PROCLAMATION**

As powerful as any force in the natural world, fire deserves our utmost attention. Unchecked, fire can destroy homes, devastate our environment, and, at its worst, injure or fatally harm individuals. Fire Prevention Week is a time to learn about important fire safety issues and empower our communities to stay "Fire Smart." It is also a time to honor our Nation's brave firefighters and volunteers who risk their lives to protect their fellow Americans.

Every year, thousands of Americans experience fires in their homes and workplaces. We can greatly reduce these tragedies by taking a few, very simple steps. For example, if each of us strives to remain attentive while cooking, to properly dispose of all smoking materials, and to regularly check and replace smoke alarm batteries, we can help keep our families safe from harm and protect personal property. Additional precautionary measures should also include the formation of an emergency plan and the education of our children about the proper ways to handle potentially dangerous situations with fire.

Chabot College Fire & EMS News

This week's theme, "Stay Fire Smart! Don't Get Burned," focuses on increasing burn awareness and prevention. We can each do more to avoid severe burns by testing water temperature, remaining aware of open flames, and ensuring that heating elements -- such as those in electric stoves, toasters, hair appliances, and space heaters -- are secure and operated properly. These easy, common sense practices can help Americans avoid suffering painful burns.

Fire can have a devastating impact on the life of an individual or family, and it can have far-reaching financial and human consequences. Wildfires can burn hundreds of acres and affect numerous communities, while household fires can spread to neighboring buildings. These and other emergency situations can endanger the lives of not only the public, but also our rescue workers and firefighters. During Fire Prevention Week, we are reminded of the dangers of fire, we honor the brave men and women who protect us from it, and we recommit ourselves to its responsible use.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, BARACK OBAMA, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim October 4 through October 10, 2009, as Fire Prevention Week. On Sunday, October 4, 2009, in accordance with Public Law 107-51, the flag of the United States will be flown at half staff on all Federal office buildings in honor of the National Fallen Firefighters Memorial Service. I call on all Americans to participate in this observance with appropriate programs and activities and by renewing their efforts to prevent fires and their tragic consequences.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this second day of October, in the year of our Lord two thousand nine, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and thirty-fourth.

BARACK OBAMA

FIRE SERVICE TRAINING OPPORTUNITY:

Firenuggets.com

PRESENTS

Deputy Chief Mike Bryant

Los Angeles County Fire Department

“COMMAND AND CONTROL”

- December 3 and 4, 2009 - 09:00 -16:00 each day -

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:

Petaluma Community Center
320 North McDowell Blvd.
Petaluma, 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.

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

Application Procedures Announced for the 2010 Harvard Fire Executive Fellowship Program

Chabot College Fire & EMS News

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 benefitted 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 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 | - Written Exercises |
| - Leaderless Group Exercises | - Subordinate Counseling |
| - In-Basket Exercises | - Practice Exercises |
| - Oral Presentations | - 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:

Ontario, CA

- **November 17** (Assessment Center)
- **November 18** (Simulator Workshop)

Ontario Fire Training Center
1408 East Francis
Ontario, CA 91761

Las Vegas, NV

- **November 20** (Assessment Center)
- **November 21** (Simulator Workshop)

Las Vegas Fire & Rescue Training Center
633 N. Mojave Road
Las Vegas, NV

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 GRANT OPPORTUNITY:

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY ANNOUNCES THE OPENING OF THE APPLICATION PERIOD FOR THE FY2009 STAFFING FOR ADEQUATE FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES (SAFER) GRANTS

The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) will begin accepting applications for FY2009 SAFER Grants beginning November 16, 2009 at 8:00 a.m. Eastern Time. The deadline for receipt of the SAFER Grant applications will be December 18, 2009 at 5:00 p.m. Eastern Time. The automated applications will be accessible from the Web site for the Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) Program at www.firegrantsupport.com.

The FY2009 SAFER program has approximately \$210 million available for Grants. The Program Guidance for the Grants will be posted in the near future on the program's Web site. The SAFER Grants are administered by the Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency.

FIRE SERVICE TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES:

I would like to invite you to Firehouse World 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 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 INFORMATION FROM THE U.S. FIRE ADMINISTRATION:

U.S. Fire Administration Kicks off Public Fire Safety Campaign On Home Smoke Alarms and Residential Fire Sprinklers

Washington, D.C. – The U.S. Fire Administration (USFA) today launched an effort to encourage everyone to install and maintain home smoke alarms and, if possible, sprinklers. More than 3,000 people die in home fires each year, and the majority of them have no working smoke alarm. To prevent these deaths, the USFA, a division of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) is sponsoring the nationwide ***Install. Inspect. Protect. Campaign***, which emphasizes that “Smoke Alarms Save Lives.”

“The U.S. Fire Administration tracks fatal home fires every day, and it is tragic to see how many deaths are linked to homes without working smoke alarms,” said Kelvin J. Cochran, U.S. Fire Administrator. “The USFA is committed to preventing the loss of life and we want residents and fire fighters to be safe.” He added, “Smoke alarms are inexpensive, easy to install, and easy to maintain. We are asking **everyone** to make sure they have working smoke alarms in their homes, and if possible, sprinklers.”

When both smoke alarms and fire sprinklers are present in a home, the risk of dying in a fire is reduced by 82 percent, when compared to a residence without either. According to the National Fire Protection Association, between 2003-2006, almost two-thirds of home fire deaths resulted from fires in homes with either no smoke alarms or no *working* smoke alarms.

Cochran also emphasized that firefighters often die in the line of duty trying to rescue people who did not get out at the first sign of a fire. He added, “Smoke alarms and sprinklers give you and your family more time to get out, before firefighters have to come in to rescue you.”

The ***Install. Inspect. Protect. Campaign*** is promoting fire safety through a free Campaign Toolkit DVD; featuring English and Spanish educational materials; print, radio and television PSAs; children’s materials, a video demonstration of how quickly a home fire spreads, and on the USFA’s consumer-friendly Web site at www.usfa.dhs.gov/smokealarms.

The USFA has always promoted fire safety and the use of smoke alarms through materials and in campaigns, such as “Tribute to Heroes” and “Prepare. Practice. Prevent the Unthinkable: A Parents’ Guide to Fire Safety for Babies and Toddlers,” to name a few. Now, emphasizing the importance of both smoke alarms and sprinklers, our PSAs --“My Dad” and “My Mom” – focus on the viewpoint of the child of a firefighter. The campaign materials

include real stories of people whose lives have been saved, because they had a working smoke alarm.

The USFA offers a few helpful tips on smoke alarms and sprinklers:

- Place properly installed and maintained smoke alarms **both inside and outside** of sleeping areas and on every level of your home.
- Interconnected smoke alarms are best, because if one sounds, they all sound.
- The U.S. Fire Administration recommends that every residence and place where people sleep be equipped with both ionization **and** photoelectric smoke alarms **or** dual sensor smoke alarms, which contain **both** ionization and photoelectric smoke sensors.
- Test smoke alarms monthly and change alkaline batteries at least once every year, or as instructed by the manufacturer. You can use a date you already know, like your birthday or when you change your clocks as a reminder.
- If possible, install residential fire sprinklers in your home.
- Avoid painting or covering the fire sprinkler, because that will affect the sensitivity to heat.

Organizations in partnership with the U.S. Fire Administration's ***Install. Inspect. Protect. Campaign*** include the American Fire Sprinkler Association, Burn Institute, Everyone Goes Home, Fire and Emergency Manufacturers and Services Association, Fire Department Safety Officers Association, Home Fire Sprinkler Coalition, Home Safety Council, International Association of Black Professional Fire Fighters, International Association of Fire Chiefs, International Association of Women in Fire & Emergency Services, National Association of State Fire Marshals (NASFM) , NASFM Fire Research and Education Foundation, National Association of Hispanic Firefighters, National Fallen Firefighters Foundation, National Fire Protection Association, National Fire Sprinkler Association, National Volunteer Fire Council, and Safe Kids Worldwide.

Materials can be downloaded at www.usfa.dhs.gov/smokealarms (English) or www.usfa.dhs.gov/detectoresdehumo (Spanish). The Campaign Toolkit disc with all campaign materials is available from the USFA Publications Center at www.usfa.dhs.gov or by calling (800)561-3356.

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.

EVERYONE GOES HOME – NOVEMBER 2009
NEWSLETTER:



[Everyone Goes Home® - Year Five](#)

November 2009
E-Newsletter

Ever since the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation received word that it was successful with its FIRE Act grant, members of the *Everyone Goes Home*® program have been planning for the implementation of the projects identified in the year five application. I have been retained to manage the program and I am excited about the possibilities. I am fortunate to have a dedicated team who are all committed to the mission of reducing line-of-duty deaths (LODDs).

» [Click Here to Read the Full Article](#)



The *Everyone Goes Home*® Firefighter Life Safety Initiatives Program is made

[Looking Forward in Year 5: Advocacy Program](#)

It is truly an honor to have been asked to return and serve as the Advocacy Manager for year five of the *Everyone Goes Home*® program. Back by my side to help lead us through is the Assistant Advocate Manager Steve Kimple, as well as, Dan McDonough, who will serve in a special projects and advisory role for the Advocacy program.

» [Click Here to Read the Full Article](#)

[Growing the Advocates Program in 2009 - 2010](#)

The 2009-2010 effort will focus on growing the Advocates Program, making it more responsive, providing them the resources and tools to be effective and measuring their progress. In FY 2009, the Advocates Program will reach out to fire academies, chiefs and training officers and "senior" respected fire personnel to establish a lasting culture of firefighter safety in firehouses across the country.

» [Click Here to Read the Full Article](#)

More November 2009 Articles:

- [National Fallen Firefighters Foundation's Vision for Year Five](#)
- [Who Moved My Culture?](#)
- [NFFF Supports the USFA's *Install. Inspect. Protect.* Campaign](#)

» **More:** [View the Complete November 2009 Newsletter](#)

» **Archives:** [Everyone Goes Home® Newsletters](#)

» For More Information Visit: www.everyonegoeshome.com

possible through the efforts of the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation, with funding provided by the Department of Homeland Security, Assistance to Firefighters Grant and the generosity of Fireman's Fund Insurance Company.



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

USFA and NIST Initiate Study of SCBA Thermal Performance

Emmitsburg, MD. – The United States Fire Administration (USFA) and the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) have started a research study to examine the enhancement of thermal performance of Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA) face pieces to increase the protection of firefighters.

"There have been incidents of serious SCBA face piece failure, sufficient to warrant this important study," said U.S. Fire Administrator Kelvin J. Cochran. "There is a clear need to examine ways to strengthen the protection provided by SCBA face pieces used by the fire service, before others are injured."

The initial phase of this study will examine documented on-duty injuries and fatalities of firefighters due to thermal exposure of SCBA face pieces. Also during this phase, USFA and NIST will work with the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) 1981 *Open-Circuit Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus* Technical Committee on identifying ways to enhance the operational effectiveness of SCBA face pieces. Finally, initial laboratory thermal testing of commercially available SCBA face pieces will also be conducted.

"Through both laboratory and operational testing, this study will examine ways to enhance the thermal performance of one of the most critical SCBA components, the face piece," said NIST researcher Nelson Bryner. "NIST is pleased to work with USFA in this effort to improve the operational safety of firefighters."

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 PUBLIC SAFETY INFORMATION:



[National Fallen Firefighters Foundation Supports the U.S. Fire Administration's *Install. Inspect. Protect. Campaign*](#)


October 28, 2009
News Alert

*More than 3,000 people die in home fires each year in the United States; most of whom are in homes without a working smoke alarm. To prevent these deaths, the U.S. Fire Administration (USFA), a division of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) is sponsoring a nationwide **Install. Inspect. Protect. Campaign** designed to raise awareness about how working, properly installed smoke alarms can lower a person's chances of dying in a fire. The National Fallen Firefighters Foundation and the Everyone Goes Home® Program are supporting this critical effort to reduce injuries and the loss of life.*


*The USFA's **Install. Inspect. Protect. Campaign** is aimed at encouraging Americans to practice fire safety by installing and maintaining smoke alarms and residential fire sprinklers, which can help save the lives of residents and fire fighters, practicing fire escape plans, and performing a home safety walk-through to remove fire hazards from the home. The campaign is promoting fire safety through a free Campaign Toolkit disc; educational materials; print, radio and television PSAs; children's materials, community organization-sponsored events and a consumer-friendly campaign website.*

» **Read:** [The Full Article on EveryoneGoesHome.com](#)

» For More Information Visit: www.everyonegoeshome.com



The *Everyone Goes Home*® Firefighter Life Safety Initiatives Program is made possible through the efforts of the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation, with funding provided by the Department of Homeland Security, Assistance to Firefighters Grant and the generosity of Fireman's Fund Insurance Company.




Homeland Security
Fireman's Fund
Insurance Company
A company of Allianz

FIRE SERVICE TRAINING & SAFETY INFORMATION:

FIREFIGHTER LIFE SAFETY


LEARNING



**Media
CENTER**

Everyone Goes Home® Learning Media Center E-Alert - October 30, 2009

Everyone Goes Home®
FIREFIGHTER LIFE SAFETY INITIATIVES



Smoke

- Product of incomplete combustion an aggregate of solids, aerosols, and fire gases that are toxic, flammable, and volatile.


• Dave Dodson ISO 2™ ed.

This Month's Feature


Learn how "reading smoke" can help improve firefighter safety with Dave Dodson. Material from this presentation is contained in the Firefighter Life Safety Initiatives Resource Kit Volume 4.

» [Click Here to View This Media Clip](#)

» Archive: [More Media](#)



**NATIONAL FALLEN
FIREFIGHTERS
FOUNDATION®**



**Homeland
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www.everyonegoeshome.com

FIRE SERVICE TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES:

Interested in preparing for a fire service promotional examination? Planning to become a fire officer? Are you a current fire officer who wants to sharpen their skills? If so, here are some training opportunities offered by Andoni Kastros:

Just scheduled is Mastering the Fire Service Assessment Center - El Dorado Hills, Ca.

- January 25 - 28, 2010

[Click here to download the Assessment Center Workshop flyer](#)

Calm the Chaos! Mastering Fireground Command - 2-Day Simulator workshops are sold out!

We are taking requests for waiting lists at the following location:

- Woodland Fire Department - December 8-9, 2009

Email us at info@trainfirefighters.com to be placed on a waiting list. Please include which workshop location you are interested in and your phone number.

[Click here to download the Calm the Chaos flyer](#) or go to his website at www.trainfirefighters.com for more information.

Thank you!

Andoni Kastros

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:	Carl Nordwall
Rank:	Captain
Age:	56
Gender:	Male
Status:	Career
Years of Service:	27
Date of Incident:	10/03/2009
Time of Incident:	0815hrs
Date of Death:	10/06/2009
Fire Department:	Norfolk Airport Fire Department
Address:	2200 Norview Avenue, Norfolk, VA 23518-5807
Fire Department Chief:	Charles Lavene

Incident Description: While he and his crew were participating in shift change and roll call, Captain Nordwall complained of not feeling well and collapsed. Medical assistance November 6, 2009

Chabot College Fire & EMS News

(CPR/AED) was rendered immediately by fellow firefighters and Nordwall was transported to the hospital. Despite all efforts of medical personnel, Captain Nordwall succumbed to his injury several days later.

Incident Location: Norfolk Airport Fire Department, 2200 Norview Avenue

Funeral Arrangements: The funeral will be held on Saturday, October 10, 2009 at 1400 hours at the Rosewood-Kellum Funeral Home, Witchduck Road, Virginia Beach, VA - (757) 340-1717.

Memorial Fund Contact and Address: Expressions of sympathy or condolences can be sent to Local 3406 at 4710 Pinehurst Avenue, Norfolk, VA 23513-3755.

Tribute is being paid to Captain Carl Nordwall at <http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/fireservice/fatalities/>

To date, 74 firefighter fatalities have been reported to USFA in 2009; 72 from incidents that occurred in 2009 and two 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:	Gary D. Street
Rank:	Firefighter
Age:	60
Gender:	Male
Status:	Volunteer
Years of Service:	5
Date of Incident:	10/17/2009
Time of Incident:	1333hrs
Date of Death:	10/17/2009
Fire Department:	East Lake Sinclair Volunteer Fire Department
Address:	4029 Lake Sinclair Drive, Sparta, GA 31087
Fire Department Chief:	James J. McClure
Fire Department Website:	http://elsvfd.com/index.htm

Incident Description: Firefighter Street was operating at the scene of an emergency medical call. After moving a fire department squad so that a responding ambulance could be brought forward to transport the patient, Street collapsed and subsequently passed away from an apparent heart attack.

Incident Location: 182 Deer Park, Sparta, GA

Funeral Arrangements: Pending

Memorial Fund Contact and Address: In honor of Firefighter Gary D. Street, c/o East Lake Sinclair Volunteer Fire Department, 4029 Lake Sinclair Drive, Sparta, GA 31087.

Chabot College Fire & EMS News

Tribute is being paid to Firefighter Gary D. Street at
<http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/fireservice/fatalities/>

To date, 75 firefighter fatalities have been reported to USFA in 2009; 73 from incidents that occurred in 2009 and two 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: John Thurman
Rank: Captain
Age: 52
Gender: Male
Status: Career
Years of Service: 21
Date of Incident: 10/21/2009
Time of Incident: 1700hrs
Date of Death: 10/21/2009
Fire Department: Clinton Fire Department
Address: 1234 Clinton-Raymond RD, Clinton, MS 39056
Fire Department Chief: Barry Burnside
Fire Department POC: Jeff Blackledge

Incident Description: Captain Thurman passed away from a cause still to be determined while on-duty performing fitness activities in a park adjacent to his fire station.

Incident Location: West Northside Drive (USNG: 15S YR 4873 8379)

Funeral Arrangements: Pending

Memorial Fund Contact and Address: In honor of Captain John Thurman, c/o

Tribute is being paid to Captain John Thurman at
<http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/fireservice/fatalities/>

To date, 76 firefighter fatalities have been reported to USFA in 2009; 74 from incidents that occurred in 2009 and two 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: Roy Everett Westover Jr.
Rank: Lieutenant
Age: 41
Gender: Male
Status: Volunteer
Years of Service: 28
November 6, 2009

Chabot College Fire & EMS News

Date of Incident: 10/24/2009
Time of Incident: 0030hrs
Date of Death: 10/24/2009
Fire Department: Westover Area Volunteer Fire Company
Address: PO Box 23, 583 W Bridge Street, Westover, PA 16692
Fire Department Chief: Santo Adamo

Incident Description: Lieutenant Westover began to feel ill while on a hose line at the scene of a structure fire. An advance life support team that was on the scene of the fire rendered immediate care to Westover before transporting him to Miners Medical Center, PA, where he succumbed to his injury. The nature of the fatal injury appears to have been a heart attack. The causes of both the fire and firefighter fatality, however, remain under investigation by the Pennsylvania State Police Fire Marshal's Office and Cambria County Coroner's Office respectively.

Incident Location: 4218 S Main St, Westover, PA (USNG: 17T PF 9565 1255)

Funeral Arrangements: Tuesday, October 27, 2009 – Viewing at Dimmick's Funeral Home, 91 Rose Street, Irvona (Clearfield County), 1400-1600hrs and 1800-2000hrs. The Firefighter Memorial Service will be held at 2000hrs
Wednesday, October 28, 2009 – Viewing at the Westover Baptist Church in Westover from 1000-1300hrs. The Funeral service will be at 1300hrs with the Burial to follow in the church cemetery.

Memorial Fund Contact and Address: A memorial fund has been established in Lt Westover's honor at: "Roy E. Westover, Jr. Memorial Fund", First National Bank, 297 Beaver St, Hastings, PA 16646.

Tribute is being paid to Lieutenant Roy Everett Westover Jr. at <http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/fireservice/fatalities/>

To date, 77 firefighter fatalities have been reported to USFA in 2009; 75 from incidents that occurred in 2009 and two 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: Phil Whitney
Rank: Chief
Age: 72
Gender: Male
Status: Volunteer
Years of Service: 32
Date of Incident: 10/27/09
Time of Incident: Pending
Date of Death: 10/28/2009

Chabot College Fire & EMS News

Fire Department: Springville Fire Department
Address: 75 W. Center Street, Springville, UT 84663
Fire Department Website: http://www.springville.org/departments/publicsafety/fire_emt/

Incident Description: After having made an emergency run on his shift the night before, Chief Whitney called the fire department early in the morning of October 28, 2009, to say he was not feeling well. Chief Whitney was found dead in his Springville home later that morning. The cause of death is pending further examination.

Funeral Arrangements: A public viewing will be held on Sunday, November 1, 2009, from 1800hrs to 2000hrs at the Springville Fire Department at 75 W. Center Street, Springville, Utah. Funeral services will be Monday, November 2, 2009 at 1100hrs at the Spring Creek North Stake Center at 760 N. 400 E. in Springville, Utah.

Memorial Fund Contact and Address: The family requests that donations be made to the Springville Fire Department Statue Fund in memory of Chief Whitney, 75 W. Center Street, Springville, Utah 84663.

Tribute is being paid to Chief Phil Whitney at <http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/fireservice/fatalities/>

To date, 78 firefighter fatalities have been reported to USFA in 2009; 76 from incidents that occurred in 2009 and two 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: Robert Stone
Rank: Firefighter
Age: 47
Gender: Male
Status: Volunteer
Years of Service: 2
Date of Incident: 11/3/2009
Time of Incident: 1655hrs
Date of Death: 11/4/2009
Fire Department: Amity Fire and Rescue
Address: 47 Pine Fords Road, Douglassville, PA 19518
Fire Department Chief: Matt Richter

Incident Description: Upon returning to the station after responding to a residential carbon monoxide alarm on November 3, 2009, Firefighter Stone began complaining of chest pains and was subsequently transported to Reading Hospital. After undergoing surgery at the hospital, Firefighter Stone went into cardiac arrest and was pronounced dead at approximately 0730hrs the following morning.

Funeral Arrangements: Pending

Memorial Fund Contact and Address: Pending

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

To date, 79 firefighter fatalities have been reported to USFA in 2009; 77 from incidents that occurred in 2009 and two 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: Chad Eric Greene
Rank: Deputy Chief
Age: 34
Gender: Male
Status: Career
Years of Service: 18
Date of Incident: 11/4/2009
Time of Incident: 1230hrs
Date of Death: 11/4/2009
Fire Department: Union Cross Fire and Rescue of Forsyth County, Inc.
Address: 4401 High Point Road, Kernersville, NC 27284
Fire Department Chief: Thomas (Dean) Mabe
Fire Department POC: Thomas (Dean) Mabe

Incident Description: Deputy Chief Greene completed his shift at approximately 0830hrs immediately after responding to a motor vehicle accident. After completing his shift, he left the station, dropped his son off at pre-school, and went home. When Deputy Chief Greene's wife returned home, she found him unresponsive and subsequently called 911 and began CPR. Deputy Chief Greene was transported to the NC Baptist Hospital where he was pronounced dead at approximately 1230hrs. The cause of death is pending further investigation.

Funeral Arrangements: Viewing will be held on November 7, 2009, 1800hrs-2100hrs - Greene Street Baptist Church, High Point, NC. The funeral will be held on November 8, 2009, 1400hrs – Greene Street Baptist Church, High Point, NC.

Memorial Fund Contact and Address: Pending

Tribute is being paid to Deputy Chief Chad Eric Greene at <http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/fireservice/fatalities/>

To date, 80 firefighter fatalities have been reported to USFA in 2009; 78 from incidents that occurred in 2009 and two 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

UPDATE: YONKERS FF KILLED IN THE LINE OF DUTY WHILE SEARCHING FOR VICTIMS.

REPORTS: RAPIDLY CHANGING FIRE CONDITIONS TRAPPED THE MEMBERS

As you know, 39-year-old Yonkers Firefighter Patrick Joyce Jr, was killed in the Line of Duty yesterday and 2 other Firefighters were seriously injured as they searched for reported trapped occupants in that early morning house fire. FF Patrick Joyce Jr., the father of 2 girls and a 16-year veteran of the department, either jumped or fell from the top floor of the burning 3-story, four-family dwelling. The 0100 Hours fire is suspicious because it was fully involved in two locations at the home.

Witnesses claim they saw the fire "explode" inside the tall, narrow vinyl-sided house and watched as the Firefighters jumped for their lives. One stated "It looked like somebody threw a bomb through the window," and "I heard Firefighters screaming."

The injured firefighters - **54-year-old Lt. Joe Murray** and **12-year veteran Firefighter William Kanych, 39** - were in serious but stable condition at Jacobi Medical Center in The Bronx, NYC. Both also either jumped or fell from the top floor window but the men are still not well enough to be interviewed by investigators, but rapidly changing and high heat conditions are indicated by numerous sources. Lt. Murray, who joined the YFD in 1982, was expected to undergo surgery for broken ribs and also has a punctured lung and second-degree burns on his hands. FF Kanych had a broken ankle, cracked vertebrae & burns on his face and neck.

FIREFIGHTER JOYCE FUNERAL DETAILS:

Calling hours for FF Joyce are set for Sunday from 2 to 6 p.m. and Monday from 2 to 4 p.m. and 7 to 9 p.m. at McGrath & Sons, 20 Cedar Street, Bronxville. His funeral is set for Tuesday at 9:45 a.m. at St. Margaret's Church, 6000 Riverdale Ave. in the Bronx. The last firefighter who died in the line of duty in Yonkers was in 1986. **More details to follow as we mourn the loss of FF Joyce and wish the best for a rapid recovery of Lt Joe Murray and FF William Kanych.**

2 FLORIDA FIREFIGHTERS BURNED AT THE FIRE HOUSE

Two Osceola County firefighters are recovering after an outdoor grill exploded next to them last night at their firehouse and the state fire marshal is investigating. Reports are that 2 Firefighters were making dinner on the grill but when they turned off the propane tank, something exploded, injuring both of them. The 2 Firefighters both have blisters and burns, one more serious than the other, but are expected to be OK.

REMINDER: You and your members can watch the NFFF Memorial Service HERE:

<http://www.wusa9.com/news/columnist/blogs/2009/09/nfff-statter911com-firehousecom-need.html>

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 10-3-09 / 0745 Hours

AND:

Hey,

A suspected arsonist has been arrested for setting that house fire, that resulted in the Line of Duty Death of Yonkers (N.Y.) Firefighter Patrick Joyce. Police arrested and charged dirtbag Rafael Rodan today with second-degree murder, second-degree arson and second-degree burglary. Investigators say he set the fire as payback for the landlord evicting him. Roldan is being held at the Westchester County Department of Corrections, until his arraignment Monday. Investigators called the fire suspicious, adding the fire erupted in multiple locations within the multi-family dwelling. Firefighter Patrick Joyce was killed in the Line of Duty Friday and flashover like conditions forced FF Joyce and the 2 other Firefighters out that third-story window, or they had no choice but to jump. We have a pic of that structure on our home page. Firefighter Joyce leaves behind a wife and two little girls. Meanwhile, Lt. Joseph Murray and Firefighter William Kanych are in serious but stable condition.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 10-3-09 / 2137 Hours

AND:

Hey,

As you will recall, a responding Phoenix (AZ) FD engine company (E910) was involved in a serious crash where, among others, the Captain was very seriously injured after being ejected. The facts related to the August 10, 2009 crash are as follows:

- The Driver/Engineer of E910 did stop at the red light on the west side of the intersection, clearing all southbound lanes of travel before proceeding.

Chabot College Fire & EMS News

- The Driver/Engineer of E910 **did not** clear all of the northbound lanes of travel before proceeding through the intersection. (They drove against the red light)
- The Captain of E910 **wasn't** wearing her seatbelt at the time of the crash.
- The civilian driver of the vehicle that struck E910 **wasn't** wearing a seatbelt at the time of the crash.
- No police citations will be issued to the Engineer of E910 but the driver of the vehicle that struck the engine company will be cited for a **suspended driver's license and driving without insurance.**

While there was much speculation on the crash, the above are now the facts.

Lessons? Nothing new.

- **All apparatus must stop first before going thru controlled intersections. All members must be belted in before the rig moves. Nothing new.**
- **Officers must not only set the example but also must insure their members "get it". Enforce and follow the law or policy. Nothing new.**
- **If not, Firefighters and Fire Officers get hurt, ejected and or killed. Nothing new.**

The facts are nothing new, and NO organization, agency or university needs another fire act or any other kind of Federal grant to figure this out. It has been figured out. We just have to do what we know or more of us will suffer the consequences as we know them as well.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 10-7-09 / 0300 Hours

AND:

VIRGINIA FIREFIGHTER DIES WHILE ON DUTY-MEDICAL EMERGENCY

It is with deep regret that we advise you of the Line of Duty death of Captain Carl Nordwall of the Norfolk Airport, Norfolk, Virginia. FF Nordwall, 56, who passed away on Tuesday, October 6, 2009 of cardiac arrest while on duty. The funeral will be held on Saturday, October 10, 2009 at 1400 hours at the Rosewood-Kellum Funeral Home- (757) 340-1717. Expressions of sympathy or condolences can be sent to Local 3406 at 4710 Pinehurst Avenue, Norfolk, VA 23513-3755.

FIRE APPARATUS CRASH AND FIRE IN INDIANA:

The Perry Clear-Creek FPD near Bloomington, Indiana, is down a tanker after a crash this morning that left the truck well involved. Their apparatus with 2 Firefighters were on the way back from a mutual aid run to Van Buren fire early this morning when their rig crashed their tanker into a tree. The accident happened on Rockport Road south of Ind. 37. We have posted a picture on our home page. The 2 Firefighters were treated and released from Bloomington Hospital and are fine.

Uhhhh WHO is/was/isn't GETTING A FIRE GRANT?!!

Naturally, it raises questions when we read how some **non-fire** agencies and organizations are getting FIRE related grants, be them Fire Act grants or Fire Prevention grants. While the

grant process is making huge differences to the great majority of communities, some of the awards are amongst the **things that make you go hmmm**.

For several weeks, we have been reading about **ACORN** (yeah, that Acorn) getting a Fire Prevention Grant. It is again covered this morning **HERE**:

<http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2009/oct/07/firefighters-lose-large-grant-to-acorn/>

THE FACTS:

Congress has added language to an FY2010 appropriations measure and signed into law by the President that **prohibits ACORN from receiving federal funds**. Although the "award" was made on paper, the funds **have not** been distributed, according to DHS officials.

If the way we read the section of the law is correct ("**None of the funds made available by this joint resolution or any prior Act may be provided to the Association of Community Organizations for Reform Now (ACORN), or any of its affiliates, subsidiaries, or allied organizations**") ACORN should give serious thought to removing their "affiliation" in fire prevention as it appears they will NOT receive the '09 grant. That's that.

When you first heard they were getting more funding, did that get you angry? Us too. But forget the anger. Take that energy and find out why YOUR FD or your community has NOT applied for FIRE PREVENTION grants. **Word is that it is not happening. Not enough FD's are applying.** If ACORN getting a grant for fire prevention has you worked up-but your community hasn't applied? What's the big deal? The funding is earmarked for FIRE PREVENTION. In theory, if ACORN can impact FIRE PREVENTION, then why not let them or any other NON fire group apply if we aren't? Worth giving some thought. Keep reading. Obviously, ACORN has been the subject of public controversy over embezzlement, management fights, voter registration fraud and other reported misconduct committed by its folks. We feel they have no business getting into the fire prevention business, based upon their history and the positive actions taken by the President and Congress. The fire service, should be taking the lead on fire prevention, not non-fire organizations with suspect motives, when it comes to fire prevention. **We just have to wanna.**

CHANGES IN HOUSTON:

The Line of Duty Deaths of 2 Houston firefighters last Easter is creating some changes and a plan of action at HFD. Last April Captain James Harlow and rookie FF Damian Hobbs were killed in the Line of Duty operating at a fire in southeast Houston. Their deaths have caused Officials with HFD to reevaluate how they operate at fires. They call the plan the 10 survival rules. The list, of which the HFD has reportedly enlisted the input of many from within and external to their organization, will be released next week. Not unexpectedly, not all are comfortable the new procedures. Jeff Caynon, President of their local is concerned about actions that may be taken to his members if they don't always follow the list. As stated to the media: "Will there be discipline?...You can't fight fires using a recipe book," Canyon said.

Understandably, members must know the policies, be fully trained on them and understand the consequences both on the fireground-as well as from a discipline standpoint. The changes are more focused on a firefighters ability to survive in situations where occupants

Chabot College Fire & EMS News

are not at risk such as operating at vacant structural fires. We'll post the new procedures when they are released to the members.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 10-7-09 1159 Hours

AND:

Hey,

While the National Association of Home Builders and their closest of friends and relatives continue to do whatever they can to fight AGAINST residential fire sprinklers, others are quietly proving them wrong.

Some of the others are the various associations and organizations who understand the need. Some of those are folks who have experienced the need. **Ask any Fire Chief, Officer or Firefighter who has responded to fires where sprinklers would have been good funeral prevention.**

And then there are others who had the guts to enact fire sprinkler laws, even though the home builder associations and their money tried to fight it.

In Prince Georges County, Maryland, during the 15-year period of 1992-2007, not one person died in a sprinklered residence. How'bout that? That's THE PROOF. Numerous lives and property were saved in Prince George's County thanks to residential sprinklers. **Firefighters** lives as well. **HERE is more:**

<http://pgfdpio.blogspot.com/2009/10/15-year-study-on-prince-georges.html>

Back then, Chief Jim Estep and the PG folks took the lead-and it mattered. Like today, the homebuilders fought it-and lost. Despite opposition, Prince George's County became the first county in the country to mandate sprinklers in all new single-family homes.

The story from Dave Statter is well worth reading and passing on to all elected officials.

<http://www.wusa9.com/news/columnist/blogs/2009/10/no-fatalities-in-sprinklered-homes-in.html>

While we absolutely do understand that folks have about had it with government mandates, some mandated laws do good for many-above those who may not support them. For example, a residential fire sprinkler does good for the kids of those who might fight it-without thinking of their own kids. That's why we have speed limits, seat belts and other stuff that protects us and those who may be impacted from what has proven to be harmful. Residential sprinklers not only do that, but also protect the firefighters of whom the homeowner never even asked an opinion of.

Take a look at the above information-a real success story.

GOOD NEWS:

Over 100 laid off Firefighters in Massachusetts are getting their jobs back. It's a start. Check it out HERE:<http://www.thebostonchannel.com/news/21227515/detail.html>

POLITICS:

Chabot College Fire & EMS News

Yesterday when we sent out the facts about ACORN and fire grants, and we got a lotta email. Funny how that works. As we stated, while for whatever reason, the ACORNERS were approved for a fire grant-the grant award has been stopped and they have not received funding at this point. Some wrote and said we were WRONG! What we wrote is and was accurate. We were right. We work pretty hard to make sure anything we send out is. We usually do pretty good on accuracy. Not always, but most of the time since we started this in 1997, we work real hard to be accurate. And when we are wrong, we also tellya, while wiping the egg off our face.

Of the emails we got, some FF's love what ACORN has done in their cash strapped towns. The FF's sent in facts related to what they have done with the funding they received from the past administration for helping the poor elderly and kids with smoke detectors etc. ACORN did good work in their community. We don't doubt that. Others wrote us and told us that ACORN is exactly what's been reported in the media recently. The worst of the worst, when it comes to corruption and all that other stuff that has become all to common. We don't doubt that either.

All of the emails were civil, friendly and generally good stuff. Unfortunately, the issue has the potential to make enemies. And in thinking yesterday, I started also thinking about some good, good folks that have passed on. My Dad was one. I miss him terribly. Another was Ray "Big Daddy" Muth, a Fire Chief, Fire-Rescue Commissioner and postman from Virginia. And another was Eddie Bennett, a Fire Chief and furniture delivery man from Long Island, NY. All 3 were men we loved, men who made a hugely positive difference and were all deeply respected-and are missed even more.

All 3 of them had one trait that we personally try hard to carry on. The ability to have differing opinions when it came to politics, while still being friends and respecting the other. That was a cool feature that many from that "greatest generation" had. The WW2 boys. You could fight and argue politics at the highest levels and then go have a coke, a beer, or an egg cream (look it up). If they were a Democrat and you were a Republican, you could still argue without ending all communication, without bad mouthing and without bringing your mother or sisters sexual habits into the discussion. Good old firehouse, barbershop or pub conversations where differing opinions were respected. Seems that in some circles, if you don't agree 100% with "their" opinion, you suck.

The ability to argue politics, respect the other opinions and then go have some fun (while still trying to convince the other of your opinion!) is how we like to play. That was a very cool trait that our fathers, mothers, grandmas and grandfathers had--and one that we plan on continuing to push forward.

Take Care-Be Careful.

BillyG

The Secret List 10-8-09 / 1122 Hours

AND:

Hey,

Pennsylvania State Police are searching for a man who struck/ dragged a Londonderry Township Fire policeman with his car Thursday night. Fire Policeman Robert Dougherty, 46,

of Elizabethtown, was injured when a vehicle stopped at the site of an earlier crash and then sped away, dragging FPO Dougherty for 20 to 30 feet. The driver approached the scene speeding around 2230. He struck several traffic cones, blocking the westbound lane and nearly hit a motorcyclist before coming to a stop. As fire police members approached the vehicle, the man drove away, taking FPO Dougherty with him. Dougherty was able to free himself, but the vehicle fled the scene. FPO Dougherty was injured but is expected to recover.

GOOD INTENTIONS-BAD RESULTS:

DC Firefighters intending to do the right thing ended up with some bad results this week. While doing a sprinklered/non-sprinklered demo, things went wrong as firefighters had to be extinguished. One Fire Officer was treated for burns. Yet another reminder of how any "live burn" (demo, training, whatever) needs to be treated as such with related plans for anything to potentially go wrong.

HERE is the video from Dave Statter:

<http://www.wusa9.com/news/columnist/blogs/2009/10/firefighters-catch-fire-during-dc-fire.html>

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 10-9-09 / 2005 Hours

AND:

Hey,

Media in the NY area is reporting that another Firefighter and 2 more Police officers who worked at Ground Zero in the days and weeks after Sept. 11 **have now died of cancer in the past five days**. You simply have GOT to shake your head and wonder WHY Congress hasn't moved on this-or simply ask your rep instead of shaking. **See below.**

Family members and advocates are **blaming their deaths** on cancerous toxins released into the air after the twin towers collapsed - (you know, the same "air" that folks like former EPA head Whitman said wasn't dangerous to breathe) - and they're urging Congress to act on a bill that would help pay for their medical care. "Everybody is denying that this stuff is connected to 9/11, but it is," said Stephen Grossman, whose son Robert died of cancer on Friday at the age of 44. Robert Grossman was a police officer in Harlem who worked at Ground Zero for several weeks after Sept. 11. "He never once said he was sorry he went down there," Grossman said. "None of them walked away even though they all knew it was really dangerous." The day after Grossman passed away, Firefighter Richard Manna, 44, died of cancer. And last Wednesday, 37-year-old Police Officer Cory Diaz died of cancer. Firefighter John McNamara, 44, died of cancer last month.

The James Zadroga 9/11 Health and Compensation Act - named after an NYPD detective who died from his post-9/11 ailments - is still sitting in Congress, and so many who do "get it" are urging lawmakers to act now. "These three deaths are proof that we need this bill passed today - not a year from now," said John Feal, founder of the FealGood Foundation. <http://www.fealgoodfoundation.com/>

The bill would provide \$10 billion for medical care for hundreds of first responders who have since become ill. But doctors haven't "**directly**" linked these illnesses to the World Trade Center. Sort of like the National League of Cities/Tri-Data information. Sorta.

"The facts are indisputable," said Kenny Specht, 40, a Firefighter who worked for the NYPD on Sept. 11 and was diagnosed with thyroid cancer three years ago. "This week alone proves what we've been saying is absolutely occurring." Feal said the deaths of Grossman, Diaz and Manna in a span of five days is hard to ignore. "How do you get this high cluster of serious cancer in just people that worked the pile? he said. "That isn't a coincidence." Something really stinks. Those who truly know say these latest line of Duty Deaths are just the tip of the iceberg. **We need to at least ask all Federally elected officials why we are unable to help our own? Never forget?**

WRITE Your Rep-It Will Matter: <https://writerep.house.gov/writerep/welcome.shtml> and find out **WHERE** your Rep is related to supporting **The James Zadroga 9/11 Health and Compensation Act.**

UPDATE FOR THOSE AWAITING RESPONSE TO THE REQUEST FOR WTC STEEL: They have been overwhelmed by the many responses about the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey's WTC artifacts program. They are processing all requests and will contact those of you who requested in the coming weeks to suggest a selection that suits your project, as described in your letter. **The number of available artifacts is far greater than the volume of requests at present, so there is no need for concern about shortages.** Please continue to be patient as the process will take several months overall. Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG
The Secret List 10-12-09 / 1700 Hours

AND:

Hey,
We have 2 more hose testing failures, and 1 with Firefighter injuries.

A Seminole County (FL) Firefighter, testing fire hose was struck in the head this afternoon, lost consciousness and was flown by helicopter to an Orlando hospital. The fire department did not release his name, and his condition was not immediately available. The incident happened about 1540 today at county Fire Station 42 In Decatur Twp. (IN) yesterday during annual hose testing, they had a 100' section of 5" hose fail catastrophically. Early information is that shortly after the hose was charged to the NFPA recommended testing pressure, crews heard a loud bang and witnessed the aftermath of the failure. Fortunately crews had just past the spot of failure en route to rack hose and no one was close to the site. When the one section failed, it cut another 5" section laying close by in half, pieces of the coupling were found 94 feet away. The section that failed was thrown 75 feet.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.
BillyG
The Secret List 10-14-09 / 1840 Hours

AND

(Note: many of you wrote in about the recent hose testing and related appliance failures. When we have more facts, you'll gett'm. Until then, follow the mfg recommendations and always use proper PPE while fully understanding that the equipment is under high pressure when testing-or at a fire. HERE are photos of one of the recent incidents: <http://firefighterclosecalls.com/fullstory.php?94487>)

Hey,

A Buckeye (AZ) Firefighter who was operating at a trailer fire has been hospitalized with serious burns but is expected to make a full recovery. 26-year-old Firefighter Marcus Haynes was searching for possible occupants in a large travel trailer at midmorning yesterday when the fire flashed over him and he was burned. FF Haynes was transported to the burn unit at Maricopa Medical Center in Phoenix and he suffered second-degree burns on his hands and one arm. Haynes has been a firefighter for three years. We wish him a rapid recovery.

WE HAVE A CREW BUT NO DRIVER:

It is no secret that some volunteer or call fire departments have trouble getting a crew on the road. And in most cases, when they don't it's no a surprise-perhaps except for "who" called 9-1-1. Generally VFD's know if they may-or may not get a crew on the road depending on the type of run and the time of day. Generally.

While there are many leadership solved solutions from recruitment, to proper funding (or use of available funding) to aggressive auto-mutual aid first alarm assignments, the bottom line must be that **if we say we are a fire department, then we should be able to provide the service**-at least to get a well staffed company to the scene within accepted time frames, along with a heavy 1st alarm assignment behind you. Duty crews, career personnel, aggressive **automatic** mutual aid- -whatever.

The debate can last forever. The bottom line is that when folks dial 9-1-1 (and the community fiscally supports that local FD thru taxes, fund raising or whatever source of revenue they use) the bottom line is that they needed us 10 minutes **ago**. **We have to remember that it's not "our" fire, it's "their" fire, so what's best for the folks having the fire should be the primary focus. Response. Trained Firefighters. Rescue. Water on the fire.** Whatever **may** be needed based upon planning ahead and what is reported to the dispatcher.

An recent example is in Onondaga County (NY) where the South Bay FD, as good as they are and as much as they tried-like so many VFD's, had a fire and then had a crew turnout-but no driver, at least not in a reasonable amount of time. **The FACTS are as follows:**

9:12 p.m.: Wife calls 911 to report the house fire, which dispatches the South Bay FD to her home.

9:16 p.m.: Owner and the police arrive. At the same time, a South Bay deputy fire chief (away from the area) asks the dispatcher to dispatch Bridgeport and Cicero FD's for mutual aid.

9:17 p.m.: Six firefighters show up at the South Bay firehouse but none can drive the truck. 911 puts out a second call, this time for a driver.

Chabot College Fire & EMS News

9:24 p.m.: South Bay engine responds.

9:25 p.m.: 911 dispatcher notes that, 13 minutes after the call, there are no fire units on the scene.

9:28 p.m.: South Bay engine arrives.

9:42 p.m.: The fire is out.

Volunteer fire departments in so many areas are well staffed, well trained, well lead and well funded. Many of those fire departments understand that they must change **with the support of the community**-to meet growth and related service challenges. 'Pretty much do whatever it takes to handle the worst emergency-and do it as if it were "our" own emergency. **HERE** is an example of a department that experienced a turnout problem-and the results of that "short" response:

http://www.syracuse.com/news/index.ssf/2009/10/cicero_family_watches_house_bu.html

NIOSH REPORT: FF WAS INTOXICATED AT THE TIME OF ATTEMPTED RESCUE:

An off-duty firefighter who died during a scuba diving rescue search in 2008 had a blood alcohol level of .25 percent, more than three times Rhode Island's legal driving limit of .08 percent, at the time of his death, according to **THIS REPORT:**

<http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/fire/reports/face200832.html> - released by NIOSH last week.

NIOSH found that the 25-year veteran of the FD, died from "probable cardiac arrhythmia in a person with hypertensive cardiovascular disease in the setting of acute ethanol intoxication," and that several factors likely contributed to his death on Aug. 3, 2008. **NIOSH found that the FF, who had high blood pressure and a pre-existing heart condition, had "inadequate capacity of the fire department" to conduct a diving search, inadequate training and that his health and condition increased the risks.** He also ignored fellow firefighters who told him to wait for on-duty divers and didn't put on diving fins that were essential for the dive, according to the NIOSH report.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 10-15-09 / 0414 Hours

AND

Hey,

As an update to the item we sent our earlier related to the **Arizona Firefighter** who was burned yesterday, check this video. **Another example of why our PPE matters, why we MUST take care of it, why your PPE specs are as important as your apparatus specs (if not more) and....that we must operate with no exposed skin and never breathe that crap.** Not during initial and continued firefighting operations. Not during overhaul (where smoke can be at it's worse). **Never breathe it.** In this case, full use of PPE probably saved this Firefighters life: <http://www.kpho.com/video/21300180/index.html>

We wish Firefighter Marcus Haynes of the Buckeye FD a rapid recovery.

REMEMBER THIS?

Additionally, after seeing the Washington DC Fire & EMS demo burn last week, some of you asked about the archived video from several years ago in Montgomery County, MD-where FF's, doing a demo for an open house type event, had things go very wrong.

HERE it is:

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nvHBnRqAO3o&feature=Playlist&p=CDE03B12991BA617&playnext=1&playnext_from=PL&index=4

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 10-15-09 / 0924 Hours

AND

Hey,

In Delaware this week, a Superior Court Judge has ruled that a Delaware City ambulance driver killed while tending to an injured man on a median was a "firefighter" under state law. The reported drunk, paraplegic, license suspended career criminal driving the car, Joseph Taye, was driving using a "stick" to attempt to control the gas and brakes. Taye's attorney has conceded that his client was driving the car that hit Smith and that his client's actions were "**less than careful**" that night.

Judge Jerome Herlihy made the ruling Wednesday in the bench trial of 29-year-old Joseph Taye, who is charged in the Line of Duty death of Michelle Smith in December 2008. Under state law, a person who kills a Firefighter on duty can be charged with murder. **But Herlihy says his ruling is preliminary and is not his final ruling on the facts.** Taye's attorney conceded that his client was driving the car that hit Smith and that his client's actions were "less than careful" that night. But he had argued that state law doesn't define firefighter and Smith was acting as an ambulance driver. **This MAY be a good wake up call for all to check what YOUR STATE defines as a Firefighter.**

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 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.

More to follow.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 10-16-09 / 0715 Hours

AND:

SIX FIREFIGHTERS FROM INDIA DIE IN THE LINE OF DUTY: TRAPPED IN ELEVATOR AT FIRE

Six Thane Firefighters suffocated to death after they operated at a fire scene in a multi-story, multi-family residential building early today. **The Firefighters suffocated and died in the Line of Duty due to smoke inhalation which filled the ELEVATOR of the 14-story building after, what most reports state is that they were initially attempting to reach the fire floor.** Some earlier reports stated they were leaving the fire floor, but that doesn't appear to be correct.

Apparently the Firefighters got trapped in the elevator and choked in the smoke that had accumulated in the shaft. All those dead were from the Wagle Estate Fire Brigade and had responded around 0430 hours to the 14-story Punarvasu Building in an upscale area. It was the second fire call from the same building in less than four hours as people were using fireworks. **NOTE: This is the second major loss of life FIRE in India after 32 people were killed in the explosion of a fireworks shop in the southern state of Tamil Nadu on Friday evening.**

The first call was just before midnight when a minor fire broke out in an apartment on the top floor of the building. Later around 4.30 hours and they responded to another call from the same building where a fire broke out on the terrace of the building as people were, again, using fireworks. Firefighters were on the elevator when they became trapped and were unable to escape. Sources say that the Firefighters who were running through a night of operating at several fires and may have been too tired and ignored standard SOP's of not to use an elevator during a fire. When the six did not respond after taking the elevator, a second crew of Firefighters went up and pried open the elevator door and found the deceased Firefighters. The Firefighters who were killed in the Line of Duty have been identified as: J.C. Singh, Avdhut Thanekar, S.R. Jamadar, Kishore Patil, S.K.S. Shinde and Kale. Our sincere condolences to all affected.

HERE is video from India which is non-English, but does show some views of the incident:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=N6mHRj3uEVk>

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 10-18-09 / 0918 hours

AND:

GEORGIA FIREFIGHTER DIES IN THE LINE OF DUTY-MEDICAL EMERGENCY ON EMS RUN

It is with deep regret that we advise you that **Firefighter J.D. Street, age 60, of Hancock County Volunteer Fire Department, Station # 2, FF J.D. Street, 60.** FF Street passed away while on an EMS run Saturday. As always, our most sincere condolences to all affected.

FIREFIGHTERS BURNED AT VACANT APARTMENT BUILDING FIRE

Two Kansas City Firefighters were burned this morning while operating at a fire in a vacant apartment building. Both Firefighters were taken to UK Hospital with burn injuries, one suffered serious burns to his hands the other suffered burns to his extremities.

Firefighters had reached the second floor interior when they were advised the fire had progressed too far and they were to pull back from the building. One firefighter was overcome by smoke inside and had trouble getting out. A second firefighter helped the first firefighter to exit the building. Both were burned.

PA FIREFIGHTERS, AMERICAN FLAGS AND FAIR PERSPECTIVE:

A rally is being planned in support of FF James Krapf, on Monday the 19th (tomorrow) at 0900 hours at Chester fire HQ at 14th and Providence Ave-in Chester, PA.

Who is James Krapf ?

Well, unfortunately Firefighters in Chester, Pa., are involved in a dispute over American flag decals, upside down flag displays and freedom of expression. **A cartoon some found offensive, that had been posted in the locker room at Fire Station No. 2, touched off a series of silent statements and dissension.**

Media is reporting that a black Firefighter, Robert Butler, replaced the cartoon with a sign reading "Black man has no free speech" and was subsequently suspended without pay for a day. Fire Commissioner James Johnson, who is also black, banned all fire station locker room decorations Aug. 29 following an argument about the cartoon. That probably made sense. But-the problem appears to be that the directive was not enforced until last week when, Firefighter James Krapf, who is white, was suspended without pay for refusing to remove a U.S. flag decal from the FD's locker that he uses.

Then, FF Butler wore a knit hat on Saturday displaying the U.S. flag turned upside down, which he said was not a sign of protest but was meant to indicate the "common meaning of distress." Stacy Landrum, President of the Chester Firefighters Union, said Firefighters who complained to the Fire Commissioner were told no departmental rule prevented Butler from wearing the upside-down flag.

Well, some will argue that the FD owns the lockers and therefore can decide what is on them. Others will argue free speech and patriotism on all counts. What many may not realize is that little of this has to do with either of those and has a lot to do with lost perspective, long time personal battles/issues and related "rest of the story" stuff. Without a doubt, the CFD is becoming a hostel environment. Try leading, managing or working in THAT environment. When that happens, good focus on the important stuff, being ready for a fire, can be affected. And Chester Firefighter go to a lot of fires.

We feel that the proper display (**as defined by Federal law:**

<http://www.usflag.org/uscode36.html> **as well as State law)** of the American flag is a very good thing. The flag flies at all of our firehouses and in front of my families home-always has-always will. **And it NEVER offends my Chinese, Indian and other American cul-de-sac neighbors.** They are immigrants like my Dad was, and they are here **BECAUSE** of what THAT FLAG stands for. The more properly displayed American flags out there, the better-as far as we are concerned. After all, this is America. It's our flag. And along with that, it is also critical to remember what that flag stands for, why it stands for that, and remembering those who have died protecting that. Displaying the flag is a solid reminder. Remember all the flags we all saw on 9/11? Where did they go? WTF!? Are people LESS patriotic now? **Fly and properly display the flag!**

Of course, flying the flag needs to be done in an environment of clear policies, procedures and fairness-and based upon the above US Flag Code. Anyone who is offended by the proper and appropriate display of the American flag needs to reevaluate their home address. But keep in mind, someone with bad eyesight can see there is much more to this issue in Chester than is being written about. If the CFD will not allow any decals (American flag included) on FD property, that's their right. It's not FF's property, HOWEVER, the decision should not be made reactively and like all SOP's & SOG's, needs to be **fairly enforced**, or just get rid of the policy.

Upside down flag? Negative. The flag should never be displayed with the union down, except as a signal of dire distress in instances of extreme danger to life or property. Not as personal distress or a protest at work, at home or anywhere. There are other ways for any American to express their personal/professional distress without disrespecting the flag.

What's YOUR FD policy for decals, stickers and American flag display? Might be a good time to find out or determine it, just in case. Maybe policies should REQUIRE the display of the flag.

HERE is more: <http://statter911.com/2009/10/18/second-firefighter-in-chester-pennsylvania-makes-a-statement-with-stars-and-stripes-wears-cap-with-upside-down-american-flag/>

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 10-18-09 / 1939 Hours

AND:

Hey,

Chester (PA) Firefighters and Fire Commissioner James Johnson reached a mutual agreement today and ended their conflict, partially over the display of an American flag on a locker, personalities and very high emotions. A rally of just under 100 folks protested outside the fire house in support of FF James Krapf this morning. As you know, FF Krapf was suspended last week after he refused to remove an American flag sticker off the outside of his locker under a newly implemented department directive. The "new" directive required firefighters to remove all decorations off their lockers and was ordered by The Commish after one of his other 61 firefighters posted a cartoon that others found offensive. After today's meeting, Commissioner Johnson, FF Krapf and union leaders announced that FF Krapf would be reinstated and the directive would be rewritten to allow displays in line with the U.S. Flag Code.

How 'bout that!?

Take Care-BE CAREFUL. FLY THE FLAG: Start With Your Home.

BillyG

The Secret List 10-19-09 / 1649 Hours

AND:

Hey,

On Feb. 23, 1991, smoke was reported in the early evening at the 38-story "One Meridian Plaza" office tower in Center City Philadelphia. **That fire would take the lives of Philadelphia Firefighters, Captain David P. Holcombe, age 52, Firefighter Phyllis**

November 6, 2009

www.chabotfire.com

39

McAllister, age 43 and Firefighter James A. Chappell, age 29. Their Line of Duty sacrifice will be honored today with the unveiling of a memorial at the site, now occupied by the Residences at the Ritz Carlton. (article below)

Like other recent Firefighter Line of Duty deaths across North America, **getting water on the fire was a problem.** This fire burned for 19 hours and ran from the 22nd floor to the 30th floor before a sprinkler system installed by a tenant on the 30th floor knocked it down. It eventually went to **12-alarms** using 51 engine companies, 15 ladder companies, 11 specialized units, and over 300 Firefighters.

Take a look at the below information to truly understand the depth of planning, operations and staffing required before and during this kind of fire, and what the PFD went thru that night, and following.

HERE are more reports information for you to check out on that fire:

<http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/downloads/pdf/publications/tr-049.pdf>

<http://www.nfpa.org/assets/files/pdf/MeridianPlaza.PDF>

<http://www.iklimnet.com/hotelfires/meridienplaza.html>

HERE is information about today's ceremony and interviews with Firefighters who were there:

http://www.philly.com/dailynews/local/20091021_Survivors_will_never_forget_fatal_Meridian_fire.html

Take Care-BE CAREFUL. WHERE IS YOUR WATER COMING FROM? Ya sure?

BillyG

The Secret List 10-21-09 / 0916 hours

AND:

Hey,

We pushed "send" a bit too quick earlier related to the ONE MERIDIAN PLAZA fire when a good friend of FFCC reminded us of the anniversary of another, tragically, well known fire. At least well known to those with no hair or gray hair-but perhaps not known at all to the younger members of your department. **Share this.**

The 23rd Street Fire took place on October 17, 1966 in New York City, Manhattan, when a group of FDNY Firefighters responding to a fire at 7 East 22nd Street and entered a building at 6 East 23rd Street as part of an effort to fight the fire. Twelve firefighters were killed after the floor collapsed, the largest loss of life in the department's history until the collapse of the World Trade Center 9-11-01 attacks and murders.

HERE is more excellent information:

<http://www.nytimes.com/2006/10/17/nyregion/17fire.html?pagewanted=print>

http://nyfd.com/history/23rd_street/23rd_street.html

<http://www.nyc.gov/html/fdny/insider/events/2008/101708a.shtml>

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 10-21-09 / 1002 hours

AND:

FIRE CAPTAIN DIES WHILE ON DUTY/DURING PT-LODD

Captain John Thurman, a 21-year veteran with the Clinton (MS) FD , was pronounced dead on arrival at a Jackson hospital after being found unconscious in the park next to Clinton Fire Station 3. Captain Thurman, who had been exercising while on duty, was found by someone walking through the park around 1700 hours. He was approx. 50 years old. Our sincere condolences to all affected.

"HOT" FIRE SPRINKLER INFORMATION:

NEXT WEEKS SPRINKLER HEARING: MORE INFORMATION AVAILABLE:

The IRC Fire Sprinkler Coalition has posted important documents related to the upcoming ICC hearing in Baltimore. For those who will be attending the International Residential Code hearing in Baltimore next week, they've prepared several documents that will help you to understand and participate in the process. These materials are your guide to the hearing process, voting procedures and issues of interest that will be discussed at the hearing.

INFO HERE: <http://www.ircfiresprinkler.org/BaltimoreHearingMaterials.aspx>

SMART SOUTH CAROLINA FIREFIGHTERS HELP POLITICIANS UNDERSTAND:

"WE CANNOT PROTECT THE CITY"

While Firefighters understand the real-life emotions involved when cuts are made, related to response times, staffing and our ability to get the job done, NUMBERS is usually the best way to get non-Firefighters to understand. That's what Columbia (SC) Firefighters did-they showed them the numbers. **They used facts from ISO as well as from NFPA to "show them the numbers"**

Their city council's decision to reduce staffing at 2 firehouses to save money has reduced the city's ability to meet national standards with response times, according to a study by that group of city Firefighters. The Columbia Firefighters Association said council's decision to take 2 companies out of service means the city is only able to respond to 73 percent of property in the city in under eight minutes. The national standard is 90 percent, according to firefighters and city officials.

"You can't build a city that we can't protect, and at this point, we have a city we can't protect," Anthony Holloway, secretary for the Columbia Firefighters Association, told City Council last night.

MORE HERE: <http://www.thestate.com/local/story/993757.html>

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 10-22-09 / 0730 Hours

AND:

NORTH CAROLINA EMS TECHNICIAN KILLED IN THE LINE OF DUTY-ROLLOVER CRASH

We have been advised that an EMS unit based in Fort Bragg (Fayetteville, N.C.) was involved in a rollover crash this morning. The crash has resulted in the Line of Duty Death of

Chabot College Fire & EMS News

the Technician who reportedly was riding the front seat and leaving the driver in critical condition. Initial reports are that the ambulance was responding on a run in the range area, which is where the soldiers train.

Additional details will follow.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 10-22-09 / 1310 hours

AND:

EMS LODD (TN) AMBULANCE HITS TN DOT TRUCK (The Secret List)

A Rural Metro Paramedic, who was also an off-duty Franklin, TN Firefighter has been killed along with a patient in the back of the ambulance after their ambulance slammed into the back of a TDOT vehicle on Interstate 65 near Wedgewood Avenue. Officials said the Rural/Metro ambulance was travelling in the northbound lanes when it hit the truck. An off-duty Nashville firefighter, Evans Johnson, was transported to Vanderbilt University Medical Center in critical condition. Johnson was tending to the patient in the ambulance. The driver of the TDOT truck, Robert Green from Columbia, was transported to a hospital with minor injuries. Our sincere condolences to all affected

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 10-22-09 / 2040 hours

AND

PENNSYLVANIA FIREFIGHTER DIES IN THE LINE OF DUTY: MEDICAL EMERGENCY AT STRUCTURE FIRE

A Firefighter from Westover Borough (Clearfield County) Fire Station #45 has died in the Line of Duty while operating at a house fire in Westover Borough. Firefighters responded to a reported working fire early this morning and upon arrival, started their attack and related operations. Reports are that Command then decided to allow the fire to burn because it was a vacant abandoned structure. While operating at this fire, a 42 year old male Firefighter reported that he did not feel well. Paramedics were already on the scene, treatment was started and the Firefighter was transported to Miners Hospital. Upon arrival at the hospital, the Firefighter went into what appeared to be cardiac arrest and later died in the Line of Duty, at the hospital.

More details will follow. As always our most sincere condolences to all affected.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 10-24-08 - 0905 hours

AND:

Two firetrucks collided in Brooklyn this morning, causing multiple injuries and leaving several firefighters trapped, authorities said. Engine 236 and Ladder 107 slammed into each other near Ashford Street and Hegeman Avenue in East New York at 9:38 AM this morning. One of the trucks - believed to be Ladder 107 from East New York - flipped over. Several firefighters

Chabot College Fire & EMS News

are pinned inside the trucks, police said. Several firefighters were injured and taken to three local hospitals. No civilians were hurt.

More details will follow.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 10-24-08 - 1105 hours

AND:

Hey,

As you know, Fire Lieutenant Roy Everett Westover Jr., 41, who lived in Westover, PA died in the Line of Duty yesterday while operating at a vacant house fire. That fire has now been declared an arson fire. The cause of death was ruled as a stress-induced heart attack. The fire was started an abandoned house off Route 36. All utilities had been cut off at the building, which has been vacant for about 30 years. His death will probably now be ruled a homicide because the arson fire set off a chain of events leading to his death. The Lieutenant had been working an exterior handline at the fire, which was discovered shortly after midnight. When Lt. Westover went back to the fire apparatus, he became lightheaded and told others he was not feeling well. Westover was transported by Hastings Emergency Medical Service to Miners Medical Center, about eight miles south of the fire scene, arriving there at 0102 hours. He passed away after his arrival at the hospital. He had been a charter member of the Westover Fire Company in 1980. He is survived by three young sons, 2 of which are Junior Firefighters in the company. Their Mom, who was the Lieutenants wife, had previously passed away.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL,

BillyG

The Secret List 10-25-09 / 0952 hours

AND

Hey,

While we don't normally post all LODD **funeral and memorial service info** (we figure those interested can easily get that info), we thought many FD's and FF's would want to know that PA's Westover Area FD Lt. Roy Westover, who was killed in the Line of Duty early Saturday at an arson fire, **leaves 3 kids behind without him or their Mom (his wife) as she passed away a few years ago.** A memorial fund has been set up in Lt Westover's honor at "Roy E. Westover, Jr Memorial Fund" First National Bank, 297 Beaver St, Hastings, PA 16646. We recommend all donations be clearly marked to benefit the children specifically. Funeral home visitation will be held at Dimmick's Funeral Home in Irvona. Viewing will be on Oct. 27, 2009 from 2-4 p.m. and 6-8 p.m., A Firefighters Memorial Service will be held on Oct. 27 at 8 p.m. A viewing will also be held on Oct. 28 at the Westover Baptist Church from 10:00 a.m. until 1 p.m. The Funeral service will begin at 1:00 p.m. with burial in the church cemetery. **Rest in Peace.**

REMEMBERING FIVE FIREFIGHTERS KILLED IN AN ARSON FIRE:

We take time today to remember Fire Capt. Mark Loutzenhiser, 43, FF's Daniel Najera, 20, Jess McLean, 27, Jason McKay 27 and Pablo Cerda, 23 who were **killed in the Line of Duty 3 years ago today** at the Esperanza fire in California. **FIRE REPORTS AND DETAILS**

HERE: http://www.fire.ca.gov/fire_protection/fire_protection_memorial_esperanza.php

NIOSH WARNING: Unexpected Brake Failure on Fire Apparatus:

NIOSH recommends that all fire departments operating fire apparatus equipped with automatic slack adjusters (ASAs) immediately take action to reduce the risk of fire fighters being injured in an apparatus crash due to brake failure. **MORE HERE:**

<http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/fire/SafetyAdvisory10202009.html>

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 10-26-09 / 1524 hours

AND:

Hey,

The National Association of Homebuilders and their allies attempts to eliminate required residential fire sprinklers have been overwhelmingly **defeated** (at the ICC meeting in Baltimore this evening)on all of their related proposals to eliminate residential fire sprinklers. **Elimination of residential fire sprinklers has been defeated-they stay in.**

More to follow.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 10-28-09 0929 Hours

AND:

UTAH FIRE CHIEF DIES FOLLOWING A RUN---LODD

Springville Fire Chief Phil Whitney, 75, passed away yesterday morning. The Chief (serving as Chief for 25 years) called in early Wednesday morning to say he wasn't feeling well and according to media, made a run the night before. His daughter found him collapsed on the bathroom floor in his home. Our sincere condolences to all affected.

DID THE FIREFIGHTERS HAVE ALL THE INFORMATION??

NEW ORLEANS FIREFIGHTERS ARRIVE AT HOUSE FIRE----SHOTS FIRED BY OCCUPANT

Around noon today, New Orleans FF's responded to a house fire. They reported on scene with a working fire and an occupant inside. **As they began initial fire operations they were met by gunfire from the occupant. The firefighters withdrew and none of them were struck by gunfire. The occupant was in the process of being evicted...and had an assault rifle.**

The bad guy inside the home told the deputy trying to deliver the eviction notice to hold a minute, while never opening door. The deputy then saw smoke coming from the home and called 911. **When the fire department arrived, according to police, the man fired at the firefighters who apparently, were not warned about the situation.** Reports are that Firefighters showed up, forced entry, they ran in and all of a sudden shots were fired and the Firefighters immediately exited. **The occupant is still in the house as of this writing and the cops are negotiating.**

IDAHO TILLER LADDER RESPONDS----WITHOUT TILLER DRIVER

Chabot College Fire & EMS News

A Boise Fire tiller truck and a pick-up truck crashed this afternoon while responding to an automatic fire alarm. Unfortunately, the tiller driver was not in the tiller seat at the time of the response. We have some more details and pictures on our home page. Thankfully no one was hurt.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 10-29-09 / 2115 Hours

AND:

Hey,

With just a few days left until election day, 2009, there are the usual thoughts of who is running for what, what their motivations are and how THEY will change, **improve or just not worsen things**. Sometimes we wonder if good, **grass roots folks like these** are the ones who need to be in charge: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ltFbLd_kflk&feature=related - Or http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uKc2Ld_T0tw

Of course, as Tip O'Neill said: "All politics is local" --be it the above video, or the below situation.

This situation concerns a young volunteer Firefighter who is running for office in a Pennsylvania township. He has taken a positive stand on residential sprinklers. He has the support of Career and Volunteer Firefighters in all political parties. The PA Professional FF's Association, an affiliate of the IAFF, supports his stand. Here is his website:

<http://www.votebrazunas.com>

Take a look under **ISSUES**.

In looking for anything to cause panic and win an election, his opponent is attacking him on this issue. Take a look **HERE**: <http://tredyffrinpolitics.blogspot.com> (Click on the ad)

Given that the election is November 3rd, I'm not sure what can be done to get the facts out that quickly, but their "last minute" attack ads are playing off the same old losing home builders' lame charges that fire sprinklers will greatly increase the cost of housing, require towns to hire more employees, will start "squirting water" for no reason and on and on. **Name it-they will say it in order to win-no matter what the cost-no matter the truth or not.**

We are passing this on because this won't be the last time that some desperate candidates, perhaps supported by home builders associations, will try this tactic. We are also passing it on to see if you can help. If you have any ideas, we know **Eamon would be interested in hearing them. He can be reached at:** electeamon@yahoo.com

This isn't a Democrat or Republican issue. Just like those who claim that communities can "live" with fire staffing cuts, firehouse shut downs, brown outs, layoff's and related issues without looking at the facts, they will say anything to win. It's an issue, like in so many elections this week-of fact vs lies. It's once again another opportunity for us to witness lying politicians who are all wet-but for all the wrong reasons.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 10-31-09 1405 Hours

AND:

Hey,

Reservations are now being accepted for the **Firefighter Cancer Support Network (FCSN)** Fundraiser Dinner/Gala "Fight Cancer With Fire". **The event will be held on November 10, 2009 during the IAFF's "Redmond Symposium" at the Hyatt Regency Century Plaza, Los Angeles.**

The event will start at 6:00 p.m. and guests will be greeted by the original "Squad 51" from the 1970's hit television show "Emergency" proudly on display. Opening ceremonies will include a performance by the California Professional Firefighters "Pipe and Drums". Los Angeles news anchor and T.V. personality on the "Jay Leno Show" Rick Chambers will serve as the event emcee. The FCSN will present the 2009 "Spirit of Debbi Wood Award" given to the FCSN member who displays the passion and hard work demonstrated by Debbi Wood as she fought her cancer. The 2009 "Dallas Jones Memorial Award" will also be given to the fire service member who promotes cancer awareness and provides assistance to those fighting the many effects of this disease. Dallas Jones who lost his battle with cancer in 2008 was an icon in the fire service.

The evening's entertainment will begin with a performance by the "Alley Cats" followed by the comedy of special guest "Paul Rodriguez". Rodriguez is nationally known for his stand up comedy and roles on television and on the big screen. Silent auction items will be up for bid and Paul will be assisted by the beautiful Audrina Patridge during a live auction of selected items. Don't forget to purchase raffle tickets and have the opportunity to walk away with incredible prizes including the all new Nintendo Wii game "Real Hero Firefighter" and meet the design team from Epicenter studios, a 46" HD flat panel T.V. will also be one of the many incredible prizes.

Reservations are encouraged as the event will sell out soon, you can make reservations by visiting: <http://firefightercancersupport.org/index.cfm?Section=1&pagenum=219&titles=0>

For those who plan to spend the evening a block of rooms have been set aside. The Hyatt Regency hotel is sold out; but, special arrangements have been made with the InterContinental Hotel (2151 Avenue Of The Stars, Century City). The rooms are held under the **IAFF Redmond Symposium name**; when making your hotel reservations please use their name. The reservation telephone number for the InterContinental Hotel is (310) 284-6500. If you have questions or need further assistance, please contact Event Coordinator Tom Knerl at (213) 500-6700.

Take Care,

BillyG

The Secret List 10-31-09 / 1530 Hours

AND:

PENN. FIREFIGHTER DIES IN THE LINE OF DUTY - MEDICAL EMERGENCY AT STATION AFTER A RUN

November 6, 2009

www.chabotfire.com

46

Chabot College Fire & EMS News

It is with deep regret that we advise you that a 47 year old Firefighter of the Amity Fire Department, Berks County, has died following run. Firefighter Robert Stone age 47, who was not married, responded to a CO alarm at a residence. After returning, FF Stone left the fire station to return a short time later as he was complaining of chest pains. The Firefighter was treated by EMS and transported to Reading Hospital. Hospital medical staff advised he needed to have surgery to repair an aortic separation. He underwent the procedure and was recovering. At approximately 0730 this morning, Firefighter Stone went in to cardiac arrest and could not be revived. As always, our sincere condolences to all affected.

Take Care-Be Careful.

BillyG

The Secret List 11-4-09 / 2000 hours

AND:

Hey,

The Baltimore Sun is reporting that the U.S. Justice Department has, at least for now, denied a \$295,194 benefit to the children of Racheal Wilson, the Baltimore fire cadet who died in an appropriately criticized training exercise in 2007, saying that the city's Fire Department failed to submit paperwork establishing her eligibility for the funds. More below but HERE are links about her horrific death:

- <http://firefighterclosecalls.com/pdf/BaltimoreTrainingLODDFinalReport82307.pdf>
- <http://firefighterclosecalls.com/pdf/BaltimoreTrainingLODDFinalReportAppendices.pdf> .
- <http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/fire/pdfs/face200709.pdf>

"The department and the city not only failed Racheal when she was alive, but they've failed her when she was dead," said Bob Sledgeski, the head of the firefighter's union. "It was always expected that the Fire Department would take care of your family if something bad happened. ... It is a death of that tradition." Fire Department officials are scrambling to determine what information they can provide to support an appeal that has been filed by the family, but the decision is a slap in the face to Wilson's survivors and another psychological blow to a city agency facing deep budget cuts and still struggling to find its footing after the cadet's death. Mayor Sheila Dixon suggested that any culpability on the part of the city be attached to the administration of the previous fire chief, saying that the failures of that era are "coming back to haunt us. She said she will seek help from the state's congressional delegation in appealing the Justice Department decision. "This is why you have different levels of representation," Dixon said. Ambrose Slaughter, Wilson's stepfather, declined to comment. The fathers of Wilson's children applied in May 2007 for the federal funds, known as the Public Safety Officer Benefit, given in a lump sum to survivors of police or firefighters who die in the line of duty.

Wilson died of asphyxiation after becoming trapped in a West Baltimore rowhouse that her instructors set on fire as part of a training exercise. The exercise violated dozens of recognized safety standards and roused calls for sweeping change within the department, which immediately discontinued its practice of setting fire to city rowhouses so that cadets could gain experience in extinguishing such blazes. It was the first public safety crisis that Dixon handled upon taking office, and she moved quickly - dismissing the commander in charge of the training academy and ordering an investigation. The report was released

publicly. Within months of Wilson's death, the fire chief stepped down and the mayor appointed a new one. A series of investigations into the death revealed that Wilson had been issued tattered protective gear, her instructor lacked a radio to call for help, and training officers set at least seven fires instead of the single fire that national safety standards permit for such exercises. The death, and the missteps that led to it, have been studied by fire departments across the country. At the time, Wilson's name became a rallying cry: Then-Chief William J. Goodwin Jr. pledged at her funeral that her memory would be "our driving force to excellence."

Last week, a Justice Department official e-mailed Baltimore Fire Chief James S. Clack to inform him of the agency's decision to deny the family's claim. The reason: "Information was sought several months ago from the City of Baltimore Fire Department. ... Nothing responsive has been received." The claim lacked Fire Department information outlining the "extent and nature" of Wilson's fire training and the "authority and responsibility" she had to respond to fires, according to the Justice Department report. Questions to the Fire Department were referred to Chief Joseph V. Brocato, who became the head of the fire academy two weeks after Wilson was killed and was charged with reforming the academy. "This is a priority for me both personally and professionally," Brocato said in an interview. "I feel a sense of obligation, not as a training chief but as a firefighter. We need to do everything we can to be sure her family has everything they need."

Brocato said he was unaware of any Justice Department requests for further information until last week when the benefit was denied. He noted that the Fire Department has undergone significant administrative changes since the claim was filed in 2007, and that he does not have a copy because it was filed by the fathers of Wilson's children. Brocato said he has made a series of calls to the Justice Department, left messages for officials and tracked down a former Fire Department attorney to brief him on the application. "The first thing I did was call [the Justice Department] and ask, 'What is it you didn't get?' " Brocato said. He said he has not heard back from the federal agency. Brocato said he might have to reconstruct some of Wilson's training files with information from other agencies because the department no longer has the original records. They were missing when he arrived at the academy, Brocato said.

The Justice Department's report acknowledges that Wilson was a fire cadet employed by the city Fire Department and that she died while attempting to extinguish a fire set in a Baltimore rowhouse - a statement that would seem to imply that she had the legal authority to suppress fires. The Justice Department declined to tell The Baltimore Sun what other information it needed or why it had denied the claim. Justice spokeswoman Matz, stressed that the denial "is not a final determination." The Public Safety Officer Benefit was established in 1976, and any payment would go to Wilson's two children, Princess J. Davis, 11, and Cameron J. Richardson, 14. In the past year, the federal agency has received 334 claims, of which 14 were denied, Matz said. In general, Matz said, a job description or a signed statement detailing the role of recruits could be enough to establish that a firefighter has authority to suppress a blaze. But she said, "because every PSOB claim is unique, other clarifying documentation may be requested to establish authority." There is no minimum amount of training required to be eligible, Matz said.

No matter what, a TRAINEE was killed in the line of duty due to failures by the fire

department and taking care of whatever needs to be taken care of is the priority. Be it BFD not doing all the paperwork or BFD trying to deal with the historically bureaucratic DOJ, we have trouble believing, and know this does not have to be THAT difficult.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 11-5-09 0942 hours

AND:

NORTH CAROLINA DEPUTY FIRE CHIEF DIES IN THE LINE OF DUTY-FOLLOWING A RUN

It is with deep regret that we advise you that Deputy Chief Chad Eric Greene, 34, Union Cross Fire and Rescue, died yesterday, 11/04/2009 after responding to a vehicle crash and completing a shift with Union Cross Fire Department in Forsyth County. He was found unresponsive around noon. After resuscitation efforts failed he was pronounced dead at NC Baptist Hospital at 1230 hours. Chief Greene was Deputy Chief and worked part-time with Union Cross FD (18 years) and also as a full-time Fire Equipment Operator with High Point FD (13 years). Deputy Chief Greene leaves behind his wife Kimberly, who is 10 weeks pregnant, his daughter Emma Kaytlin 8 years old, and his son Jacob Austin 4 years old. Condolences can be sent to Union Cross Fire and Rescue, 4401 High Point Rd. Kernersville NC 27284. As always, our most sincere condolences. Additionally, our condolences to all affected by today's murders in Fort Hood.

Take Care-Be Careful.

BillyG

The Secret List 11-5-09 / 1709 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 Rogue River (OR) Fire District will not have to trim its services after voters overwhelming decided to accept a tax to continue its current level. The continuance of the option tax cruised to victory by winning 62 percent of the 1,603 votes case: <http://www.mailtribune.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20091104/NEWS/911040328>

Stanislaus County (CA) fire departments are being more selective about the emergency calls they respond to, culling calls they don't consider medical emergencies. The switch is meant to provide more efficiency for budget-strapped departments. Instead of firefighters racing to such calls, now only paramedics and EMTs from private ambulance companies will be sent, and some will respond without lights and sirens: [http://cms.firehouse.com/web/online/News/To-Save-Money--Some-Calif-FFs-Skip-Non-Emergency-Calls/46\\$66004](http://cms.firehouse.com/web/online/News/To-Save-Money--Some-Calif-FFs-Skip-Non-Emergency-Calls/46$66004)
& <http://www.kcra.com/money/21233853/detail.html>

The union that represents San Diego's (CA) firefighters lost a bid to have overtime calculated in pension benefits, it was announced Monday:
<http://www.10news.com/news/21500637/detail.html>

The city of Ormond Beach (FL) mayor wants to reduce the number of firefighters, saying the reduction in force would save the city millions of dollars. Currently, there are three firefighters in every fire station in the city. If Mayor Fred Costello gets his way, that number will be whittled down. "I believe you can have two on a truck instead of three on a truck," Costello said:
http://www.cfnews13.com/Business/LocalBusinessHeadlines/2009/10/20/mayor_fewer_firefighters_would_save_ormond_beach_millions.html

Nearly everyone's investments lost money last year, and the Oregon Public Employees Retirement System was no exception. Figures released by consultants show the system's assets lost more than 25 percent of their value in 2008, or about \$13.3 billion. At the end of 2007, the system had \$51.6 billion in assets; 12 months later, it had \$38.3 billion: <http://www.kgw.com/sharedcontent/APStories/stories/D9B5BJH00.html>

The city of Brea (CA) is temporarily reducing staffing on paramedic engines in the fire department as a cost-saving measure. Paramedic engines that respond to advanced life support (ALS) calls will do so with three firefighters per engine, down from four, city officials said. The department will compensate by sending two paramedic engines to ALS calls with six firefighters instead of one engine with four. The department receives an average of 10 calls per day: <http://www.firerescue1.com/fire-news/595939-paramedic-fire-truck-staffing-cut-in-calif-city/>

Firefighters in Milwaukee (WI) are urged to take pay freezes as opposed to cuts. With a city budget deadline just weeks away, Milwaukee's firefighters union is heading to the bargaining table to negotiate on contract concessions that might stave off some proposed staffing cuts, the union's president said Monday:
<http://www.jsonline.com/news/milwaukee/64058572.html>

53 positions of police officers and 35 positions for firefighters are proposed to be eliminated in the latest budget cuts throughout the City of Colorado Springs (CO):
<http://www.krdotv.com/Global/story.asp?S=11287442>

County fire districts in Arizona struggle with funds during lean times:
http://www.paysonroundup.com/news/2009/oct/02/county_fire_districts_struggle_funds_during_lean_t/

Gilbert (AZ) volunteers help fill gaps for the fire department:

<http://www.abc15.com/content/news/southeastvalley/gilbert/story/Gilbert-volunteers-help-fill-gaps-for-fire/P0kO5FJXs06xQ7pPAfgTnA.csp>

Nearly 130 firefighters across the state of Massachusetts who were laid off because of budget cuts will be rehired, Governor Deval Patrick said yesterday, as he announced the release of \$8.2 million in federal stimulus funds to 13 local fire departments. The money will bring back 44 firefighters in Fall River, restore 33 in New Bedford, and return 16 in Worcester, all of whom were laid off after those cities suffered shortfalls in local and state tax revenues. Additional communities will benefit, leading to the total of 127 firefighters across the state getting their jobs back. However, the real question that needs to be answered – what happens when the stimulus funding (grants) expires and the cities are forced to then fund those positions? The cities may find themselves having to lay off those firefighters again; hopefully there is a contingency plan: http://www.boston.com/news/local/massachusetts/articles/2009/10/08/stimulus_funds_enable_rehiring_of_127_laid_off_firefighters_across_mass/

To weather the tough economy, Snohomish County (WA) Fire District 1 is finding creative ways to save money. The fire department recently upgraded an old medic truck instead of buying a new one, spokeswoman Leslie Hynes said. The truck was put into service recently at the department's busy Martha Lake station. The upgrade cost the department \$102,000, she said. A new vehicle would have cost \$167,000: <http://www.enterprisewpapers.com/article/20091007/ETP03/710079806/-1/ETP19&template%3DETPZoneMCard>

Spokane (WA) fire officials say they did not get enough people to take early retirement, and this could mean layoffs for the department. The department needed 20 people to offer to retire early, it only received nine: <http://www.krem.com/news/local/stories/krem2-100609-firefighters-budget.1ef23698e.html>

Chehalis (WA) city and fire officials said there might be dire consequences (such as layoffs) should the proposed renewal of the city's emergency medical services levy fail in the general election starting today: <http://www.theolympian.com/southsound/story/1004704.html>

The future of the City of Edmund's (WA) fire department hangs on a City Council vote. Council members say they expect a final vote by Nov. 10 that will determine whether the city continues to run its own fire department or pays Snohomish County Fire District 1 to provide fire protection and emergency medical services. They plan to discuss the issue at a 7 p.m. public hearing Tuesday at City Hall. "To me it really boils down to public safety," Councilman Strom Peterson said. "I think we'll have a better fire department. I think our firefighters think we'll have a better fire department. The icing on the cake is it's also going to save the city money every year." The discussions come at a tumultuous time for the city. Earlier this year, Edmonds issued staff furloughs and layoffs to bridge a \$5.2 million budget shortfall: <http://www.heraldnet.com/article/20091026/NEWS01/710269919/-1/NEWS>

In a step toward consolidation, four North County (San Diego, CA) fire agencies have decided to share the cost of a management team to save taxpayers money and provide better service. The announcement comes the same week as news that a coalition of East County cities is merging fire services. Beginning immediately, Encinitas, Del Mar, Solana Beach and the Rancho Santa Fe Fire Protection District will share one fire chief and other management positions, such as battalion chiefs. Each area will retain its own firefighters. The estimated savings will be \$1.43 million a year for the combined four communities, versus each city having its own fire management team, said Encinitas Fire Chief Mark Muir, who will be the Fire Chief in charge of all four jurisdictions: <http://www3.signonsandiego.com/stories/2009/oct/16/four-fire-agencies-merging-managing/?northcounty&zIndex=183589>

Dozens of firefighters showed up to put the City of Seaside (CA) on notice. They say any possible layoffs could put you in danger. Budget cuts have already been made to all seaside city departments, but now the city could potentially enforce layoffs. This has prompted the seaside firefighter association to come to tonight's city council meeting to address its concerns on what these possible cuts could mean for community safety:

www.kionrightnow.com/Global/story.asp?S=11324840&nav=menu1591_2

The San Ramon Valley (CA) Fire District should amend some of its benefits policies to avoid the spiking of pensions that have alarmed area taxpayers, a committee has recommended. Changing and eliminating some of the benefits would help end a practice that allows managers to add ancillary pay toward their final pension calculations, allowing them to make more in retirement than they did when employed: <http://www.firerescue1.com/labor-issues/articles/598317-Calif-fire-district-considers-pension-cuts/>

New San Diego (CA) Fire Chief Javier Mainar promised to give city leaders an honest and objectivement assessment of the department with harsh cuts on the horizon. "I commit myself first and foremost to making sure the community is protected to the best degree that we possibly can with all the resources that we are provided," said Mainar, 52, of Rancho San Diego. Mainar, a 29-year department veteran, takes over as the city wrestles with a projected \$179 million budget deficit for next year. The Mayor's Office has asked each department to outline 27 percent cuts for consideration: <http://www3.signonsandiego.com/stories/2009/oct/20/new-fire-chief-sworn-vowing-assess-lean-future/?uniontrib>

When the Oceanside (CA) City Council sits down Wednesday to trim \$10 million from its budget, a choice will be to cut the service time of one of its four ambulances. That, along with a proposed reduction of three support staff members, would decrease the Fire Department budget by \$934,000, on top of \$530,000 in fire service cuts approved in May. Some city officials say those reductions will turn the clock back on the Fire Department, which beefed up its operations after a 2007 study by a consultant found that the department needed to improve its response times to emergency calls: <http://www3.signonsandiego.com/stories/2009/oct/18/fire-dept-cuts-seen-step-backward/?northcounty&zIndex=184689>

The Grant County (WA) Fire District 5 Board of Commissioners decided to terminate employment of their paramedic staff, citing budget concerns. The paramedics were notified they have roughly six months of employment left, said Commissioner Pat Hochstatter:

<http://www.columbiabasinherald.com/articles/2009/10/21/news/doc4adf806218735629986970.txt>

Every municipal employee in the City of Colton (CA) has been asked to take a 15 percent pay cut to help the city's projected \$5 million revenue shortfall for the 2009-10 fiscal year. Administrators have also asked the city's firefighters union, San Bernardino County Professional Firefighters Local 935, to consider a "brownout" of one fire station, said Fire Chief Tom Hendrix. The brownout would affect one fire station weekly by closing it for two days over a six-day period:

http://www.sbsun.com/news/ci_13656801

Faced with a growing budget gap to pay for police, fire, street maintenance and other basic city services, Bend (OR) officials have started talking about finding new revenue — including possibly asking voters for a tax increase sometime next year:

http://www.bendbulletin.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20091021/NEWS0107/910210355/1041&nav_category=

San Ramon Valley (CA) fire district takes first step on pension reform:

http://www.insidebayarea.com/trivalleyherald/opinion/ci_13619072

Budget cuts and a decade of rapid growth have made it difficult for the Glendale (AZ) Fire Department to keep its firefighter and engine-company ranks at a level recommended by insurance industry experts. According to a report from the Insurance Services Office, an industry group that evaluates property and casualty risk, the city needs more firefighters, engines and ladder trucks to provide a needed level of fire response services to its expanding neighborhoods. But the Fire Department isn't failing by any means. Compared with most other U.S. municipalities, Glendale's firefighting resources are superior when judged by ISO's criteria:

<http://www.azcentral.com/arizonarepublic/local/articles/2009/10/23/20091023gl-firerating1024-ON.html>

Lawrence (MA) Mayor Michael Sullivan said he was ready to issue a press release yesterday announcing that eight firefighters laid off 11 weeks ago "will return to work immediately." That was the recommendation of City Hall administrators after a meeting with fire Chief Peter Takvorian, who then launched plans to reopen the Engine 6 firehouse on Prospect Hill as early as tomorrow, thanks to a federal grant. But Sullivan said he changed course after he received a long overdue civil service hearing officer's report upholding his initial decision to lay the men off:

http://www.eagletribune.com/punews/local_story_304003555.html?keyword=topstory

The city of Lockport (NY) is going to court to try to overturn a state arbitrator's ruling that the Fire Department doesn't assign enough firefighters to each shift:

<http://www.firerescue1.com/fire-jobs/articles/599880-ny-city-plans-to-fight-ruling-calling-for-more-firefighters/>

Baltimore's (MD) fire unions have tentatively agreed to take five furlough days between now and next June and to accept a wage freeze after that as their share of cuts demanded by the city to help close a \$60.2 million budget gap:

<http://www.baltimoresun.com/news/maryland/baltimore-city/bal-md.cuts23oct23,0,6983946.story>

After six years of talking about it, Palo Alto (CA) is preparing a new analysis of staffing levels at its Fire Department -- information the City Council hopes to use in next year's labor negotiations with firefighters. The analysis has been on the city's agenda since November 2003, when an audit of overtime expenditures recommended a staffing study to "assess the appropriateness of current Fire Department minimum staffing levels in the context of call volume, response times, and employee safety."

http://www.paloaltoonline.com/news/show_story.php?id=14238

Columbia (SC) City Council's decision to reduce staffing at two fire stations to save money has reduced the city's ability to meet national standards with response times, according to a study by a group of city firefighters:

[http://cms.firehouse.com/web/online/News/SC-Firefighters-Cant-Protect-City-After-Cuts/46\\$66285](http://cms.firehouse.com/web/online/News/SC-Firefighters-Cant-Protect-City-After-Cuts/46$66285)

Baltimore's (MD) 1,600 firefighters and fire officers voted overwhelmingly Wednesday night to take five unpaid furlough days before June in order to help the city close a \$60 million budget gap. The city's agreement with the two unions also calls for a pay freeze in the next fiscal year, but union members will be spared threatened pay cuts. The deal is worth \$2.9 million to the city. Bob Sledgeski, head of the 1,300-member Baltimore Firefighters' Local 734, said the agreement passed by a 2-to-1 vote. "I think our members recognized that the economy is ... not recovering as quickly as we had hoped," he said. "Our members were willing to accept part of the burden," he said, "showing the city of Baltimore that we support them and their city. It's my hope that the mayor will take a break from her oppressive treatment of the Fire Department."

<http://www.baltimoresun.com/news/maryland/baltimore-city/bal-md.furloughs29oct29%2C0%2C5098431.story>

A budget crunch has prompted the board of the North County (San Diego County, CA) Fire Protection District to consider cutting administrative office hours and to participate in a state bond program:

http://www.nctimes.com/news/local/sdcounty/article_bd952d99-472c-5727-a67c-8acee5037f71.html

Voters overwhelmingly approved a levy that provides Whatcom County (WA) Fire District No. 18 with 30 percent of its operating budget, but there may not be enough votes cast for the levy to pass: <http://www.bellinghamherald.com/102/story/1144704.html>

Merricourt, N.D., used to have its own fire department. Now fires in and around the town are fought by fire departments in Ellendale, N.D., and Edgeley, N.D. Merricourt, a town of less than five people about 50 miles south of Jamestown, lost its fire department about three years ago because its fire chief retired and no one took over, said John Elstad, deputy fire marshal for the central region of North Dakota. "It's never

a good thing when a fire department has to close up," Elstad said. Small town fire departments like Merricourt are closing not just in North Dakota but the entire Midwest, said Lois Hartman, retiring North Dakota Firefighters Association executive director. The departments have stretched budgets, need equipment upgrades and have expansive service areas that continue to grow, she said. These challenges result in longer response times, fewer volunteers and more areas at risk:

<http://www.firerescue1.com/volunteer/articles/601355-ND-rural-fire-departments-challenged-by-lack-of-funds-volunteers/>

Public Relations Nightmare Stories:

Caldwell (ID) Police Chief Chris Allgood confirmed Monday that a Caldwell woman who was suffocated while trying to crawl under a closing paramedic station door Oct. 1 called 911 for help when she was pinned. Melissa R. Farris, 35, who was a former paramedic at the Specht Street station, was found late that night by paramedics returning from a call. Police, firefighters and paramedics freed Farris and attempted to revive her: <http://www.idahostatesman.com/newsupdates/story/941654.html>

California auditors say some state employees earned more than \$150,000 a year in overtime as the state paid out more than \$2.1 billion in overtime in the last five years. The overtime went to firefighters, highway patrolmen and employees at the departments of Veterans Affairs, Mental Health, and Developmental Services. The audit released Tuesday did not include overtime paid to corrections employees who staff prisons around the clock:

<http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/n/a/2009/10/21/state/n173856D59.DTL>

The District of Columbia Fire Department (DCFD) Fire Chief & Council Member again point fingers as new water report comes out:

<http://www.wusa9.com/news/local/story.aspx?storyid=92554>

A Las Vegas (NV) deputy fire chief is accused of grabbing his wife and pushing his 19-year-old daughter against a wall during a fight inside their home, police said Thursday. Richard Garcia, 50, is charged with two counts of misdemeanor domestic violence and was placed on paid administrative leave after his arrest Saturday. Garcia has been released from custody: <http://www.fox5vegas.com/news/21466468/detail.html>

With a contract dispute unresolved and an election looming, the union that represents 93 firefighters in the Menlo Park (CA) Fire Protection District has provoked the ire of one board member by launching what he views as a misleading election campaign:

http://www.almanacnews.com/news/show_story.php?id=5115

The Mayor for the City of Akron (OH) accuses a firefighter of setting him up; Akron police back up the Mayor's account of the weekend incident:

http://www.ohio.com/news/break_news/64855582.html

On a positive note, the same firefighter mentioned above has apologized. An Akron (OH) firefighter met with Mayor Don Plusquellic on Tuesday afternoon and apologized

for his role in a recent incident in which police stopped and questioned the mayor."I want to express that I regret that my actions of Oct. 17, 2009, which triggered a series of events that led to your being questioned by the Akron police and subsequent media frenzy," Lt. Dennis Shumaker said in a written apology. Plusquellic said he accepts Shumaker's apology and will seek no disciplinary action against him:

<http://www.firerescue1.com/fire-news/600530-ohio-firefighter-apologizes-to-mayor/>

More than 600 Australian volunteer firefighters have joined a Facebook petition in protest of bright yellow shirts female crewmembers say become see-through when wet:

[http://cms.firehouse.com/web/online/News/Female-Aussie-FFs-Balk-at-See-Through-Shirts/46\\$66211](http://cms.firehouse.com/web/online/News/Female-Aussie-FFs-Balk-at-See-Through-Shirts/46$66211)

Collier County (FL) Medical Director Robert Tober has pulled advance life support certification for all East Naples firefighter-paramedics because he says they have failed to meet agreed-upon training standards:

<http://www.marconews.com/news/2009/oct/30/tober-certification-all-east-naples-firefighters/?partner=popular>

A budget-cutting "brown out" slowed Sacramento (CA) city firefighters response tonight to a two-alarm fire that burned a Curtis Park family out of its home, officials said: <http://www.sacbee.com/latest/story/2298493.html>

The city of Papillion (NE) must start all over with selecting its new crop of firefighters after an investigation revealed that recruits were given test answers ahead of time. Two current firefighters are accused of giving out the answers. The setback puts the Papillion Fire Department about three months behind in its hiring process. It'll also cost the city tens of thousands of dollars and inconvenienced 166 applicants:

<http://www.ketv.com/news/21352997/detail.html>

The Omaha (NE) city attorney said firefighters broke the law when they engaged in fundraising on the city's time: <http://cms.firehouse.com/content/article/article.jsp?id=65991>

A black firefighter is suing the city of New Haven (CT) over a 2003 promotional exam, one of the same tests that resulted in a landmark U.S. Supreme Court decision for 19 white and one Hispanic firefighters this year. Like his colleagues, Michael Briscoe, a nine-year veteran, says the city violated his civil rights under Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and, like them, he seeks retroactive promotion:

http://www.nhregister.com/articles/2009/10/16/news/new_haven/a1 -- briscoe.txt

The family of a 49-year-old man who died of a heart attack after a defibrillator on the Chicago (IL) Fire engine sent to resuscitate him did not work -- because the batteries hadn't been replaced -- will receive \$3.2 million under a settlement advanced Monday by a City Council committee: <http://cms.firehouse.com/content/article/article.jsp?id=65985>

A man in a firefighter costume steals a Lowell (MA) fire vehicle on Halloween: <http://www.firerescue1.com/fire-products/vehicles/articles/601363-Man-in-firefighter-costume-steals-Mass-fire-vehicle-on-Halloween/>

A former officer of the Augusta (ME) Fire Department has been charged with theft in connection with missing union funds. Robert MacMaster, who was a captain with the department until resigning this summer, was summonsed Friday on a charge of theft by unauthorized taking, Augusta police Lt. Keith Brann said:

<http://www.firerescue1.com/labor-issues/articles/600532-Maine-former-fire-captain-charged-with-felony-theft/>

A dozen New York City firefighters were hurt - including a seriously injured driver who was trapped in an overturned vehicle - when two trucks rushing to a gas leak collided in a Brooklyn intersection Saturday morning, officials said:

<http://www.newsday.com/news/new-york/fdny-trucks-collide-injuring-12-firefighters-1.1546030>

The San Bernardino (CA) City Professional Fire Managers may continue using their name for the time being, a judge ruled Thursday:

http://www.sgvtribune.com/california/ci_13574340

The city of Seattle (WA) must pay a former firefighter \$12.75 million for debilitating injuries suffered when he fell 15 feet through a fire-station pole hole, a King County Superior Court jury decided on Thursday:

http://www.tdn.com/articles/2009/10/23/breaking_news/doc4ae1c57f84d8c594998341.txt

Boise (ID) Police are investigating a collision this afternoon involving a Boise Fire Ladder Truck and a Toyota Tacoma pickup truck; apparently the Truck left the station without a tiller person at the rear steering the apparatus:

<http://www.ktvb.com/news/Fire-truck-sideswipes-pickup-67300692.html>

The widow of a firefighter killed nearly two years ago when a 40-foot tree fell on him during a training exercise is suing the Volusia County (FL) Fire Services department. Kristen Curry blames a "lack of training, instruction, preparation and warning" for John Curry's death:

<http://www.firerescue1.com/firefighter-safety/articles/599793-Widow-sues-in-training-death-of-Fla-firefighter/>

A sexual harassment investigation in process at a Jacksonville (FL) fire station:

[http://cms.firehouse.com/web/online/News/Sexual-Harassment-Investigated-in-Fla-Station/46\\$66139](http://cms.firehouse.com/web/online/News/Sexual-Harassment-Investigated-in-Fla-Station/46$66139)

Phoenix (AZ) Capt. Crystal Rezzonico was not wearing a seat belt on Aug. 10 when the rig she was riding collided with another vehicle in an intersection, leaving her critically injured, according to fire officials. And, while the rig did stop at the intersection, the driver did not make sure it was clear before proceeding against the red light, a memo issued Tuesday by Chief Bob Khan and IAFF President Pete Gorraiz stated:

[http://cms.firehouse.com/web/online/News/Phoenix-FF-Didnt-Wear-Seat-Belt-in-Aug-Crash/46\\$66010](http://cms.firehouse.com/web/online/News/Phoenix-FF-Didnt-Wear-Seat-Belt-in-Aug-Crash/46$66010)

A probe into a drug ring operating out of a Downtown Jersey City restaurant has led to 17 arrests, including a Hoboken police officer and Hoboken Fire Department battalion chief, as well as a Jersey City police officer who was already suspended, officials said: [http://cms.firehouse.com/web/online/News/NJ-Battalion-Chief-Arrested-in-Drug--Ring-Probe/46\\$66041](http://cms.firehouse.com/web/online/News/NJ-Battalion-Chief-Arrested-in-Drug--Ring-Probe/46$66041)

Police in Waterford (CT) are investigating seven volunteer firefighters after allegations that an alleged hazing incident took place: [http://cms.firehouse.com/web/online/News/Conn-Firefighters-Could-Face-Hazing-Charges/46\\$66032](http://cms.firehouse.com/web/online/News/Conn-Firefighters-Could-Face-Hazing-Charges/46$66032)

A Nashville (TN) fire captain faces disciplinary charges for allegedly making threatening remarks to police officers after he was suspected of being intoxicated near downtown: [http://cms.firehouse.com/web/online/News/Tenn-Fire-Captain-Allegedly-Threatened-Police/46\\$66035](http://cms.firehouse.com/web/online/News/Tenn-Fire-Captain-Allegedly-Threatened-Police/46$66035)

While still on the subject of the Nashville (TN) Fire Department: A Nashville firefighter has resigned after he reportedly admitted that he had sex with prostitutes inside the fire hall. Terry Canady, who was a firefighter for 23 years, admitted it had been going on "for years." Metro police said Canady was interviewed by police and the FBI after his name surfaced during an investigation into a prostitution ring. "During the interview, he did admit using the services of a prostitute at the fire hall," said Metro police spokesman Don Aaron: [http://cms.firehouse.com/web/online/News/Tenn-FF-Allegedly-Had-Prostitutes-in-Fire-Hall/46\\$66064](http://cms.firehouse.com/web/online/News/Tenn-FF-Allegedly-Had-Prostitutes-in-Fire-Hall/46$66064)

"Evidence suggests that the public is placed in danger by the lack of leadership of the Candia (NH) Volunteer Fire Department and the conduct of the department," Rockingham County Attorney Jim Reams wrote after his office investigated the volunteer fire department. Though no criminal charges resulted, the list of concerns include: 1. The failure of Fire Chief Rudy Cartier to immediately notify the state fire marshal about the suspicious nature of a fire involving the girlfriend of a Candia firefighter. 2. The "immaturity" of some Candia firefighters. 3. A lack of trust by fire chiefs from surrounding towns in Cartier's command: [http://cms.firehouse.com/web/online/News/NH-FFs-Called-Immature--Chief-a-Danger/46\\$66057](http://cms.firehouse.com/web/online/News/NH-FFs-Called-Immature--Chief-a-Danger/46$66057)

A Chester City (PA) firefighter was suspended without pay yesterday for refusing to remove an American flag sticker from his locker. James Krapf, an 11-year veteran of the department, could face more days of suspension if he does not remove the sticker, Fire Commissioner James Johnson said. Johnson directed the force's 61 members to remove all decorations from the outside of their lockers over the summer after a firefighter posted a cartoon that others found offensive. The drawing, which firefighters said was posted by a black colleague, showed two black men and included a racial slur: <http://www.firerescue1.com/fire-department-management/articles/597899-Pa-firefighter-suspended-over-decal/>

A Sparks (NV) firefighter has taken a complaint against his employer to court. An Oct. 8 lawsuit filed by Stephan Haase against the city of Sparks claims he was the victim of harassment and workplace discrimination. He claims the poor treatment was in retaliation for leaking information to the media in 2007 about an alleged child endagerer, who also worked for the Sparks Fire Department. Since then, Haase claims he has been the target of disciplinary letters, interrogations, threats of termination, intimidation and being passed over for promotions:

http://dailysparktribune.com/pages/full_story/push?article-Firefighter+files+harassment-+discrimination+complaint+against+Sparks+department%20&id=3969229&instance=home_news_1st_left

Hard-core porn in a San Jose (CA) firehouse led to \$200,000 sexual harassment settlement offer: http://www.mercurynews.com/ci_13555083?nclick_check=1

San Jose already has a far higher rate of retired police and firefighters on disability than other large California city. And in the three years since a Mercury News investigation documented that trend, pension trustees haven't denied one of the dozens of claims that have come before them. But a city physician's effort to demand more medical documentation of career-ending injuries now has officers calling for his ouster: http://www.mercurynews.com/ci_13534536?source=most_emailed

Federal authorities charged two former Boston (MA) firefighters yesterday with faking career-ending injuries and charged a Fire Department clerk with lying under oath, the first arrests in an ongoing investigation of pension abuse in the Boston Fire Department:

http://www.boston.com/news/local/massachusetts/articles/2009/10/22/3_arrested_in_inquiry_into_fire_pension_abuse/

A Fleming County (KY) volunteer firefighter has been charged with arson in connection with two mobile home fires, Kentucky State Police said:

[http://cms.firehouse.com/web/online/News/Kentucky-Firefighter-Charged-With-Arson/46\\$66354](http://cms.firehouse.com/web/online/News/Kentucky-Firefighter-Charged-With-Arson/46$66354)

A federal judge has declined to dismiss a lawsuit filed by a Windsor (CA) fire captain who claims he was terminated unfairly after getting into a drunken fight with a fellow captain. The Windsor Fire Protection District had sought to dismiss the suit filed by Troy Collier, who was fired in 2007 as the result of a fight that broke out in a limousine packed with firefighters returning from an awards banquet:

<http://www.pressdemocrat.com/article/20091027/ARTICLES/910279951/1350?Title=Judge-declines-to-halt-Windsor-fire-captain-s-lawsuit->

Two Tennessee volunteer firefighters are facing aggravated arson charges after being accused of starting at least one fire at a vacant residence on Mowbray Mountain then coming to the scene to put out the fire:

[http://cms.firehouse.com/web/online/News/Tennessee-Firefighters-Charged-With-Arson/46\\$66420](http://cms.firehouse.com/web/online/News/Tennessee-Firefighters-Charged-With-Arson/46$66420)

A Spalding County (GA) fire cadet was transported to the hospital after he became combative during training last week, according to the Griffin Daily News. Jonathan Graham, along with other cadets and veteran firefighters, were training in the department's burn building when the incident occurred on Oct. 21. "He came out of that burn building and for some odd reason, he went off," Georgia State Police Sgt. Willie O'Neal said. Assistant Fire Chief Kenny West said Graham was verbally abusive and made threats towards other cadets and firefighters:

[http://cms.firehouse.com/web/online/News/Georgia-Fire-Cadet-Goes-Off-During-Training/46\\$66379](http://cms.firehouse.com/web/online/News/Georgia-Fire-Cadet-Goes-Off-During-Training/46$66379)

Indiana Firefighters injured in a vehicle accident while in a fire apparatus were unfortunately not wearing their seatbelts:

http://www.kokomotribune.com/local/local_story_306225709.html

Andrew "Andy" Palmer was just 18 when he joined the national park's firefighting crews in June 2008 just days after graduating from Port Townsend High School on the northern tip of the Washington State peninsula. A husky young man with an engaging smile, Andy and his four-person engine team were dispatched July 22, 2008, to help fight the Eagle Fire that was burning as part of the Iron Complex in northern California's Shasta-Trinity National Forest. It was there, on the smoke-obscured slopes of the forest, that Andy bled to death. A 115-page report released Tuesday paints a picture of an over-anxious crew on an ill-fated assignment, one befallen by mechanical breakdowns, seemingly ignored orders, firefighters ill-equipped to tend to catastrophic injuries, on-the-ground confusion, and smoky skies that delayed a helicopter evacuation of the young man who was on just his second firefighting assignment:

<http://www.nationalparkstraveler.com/2009/11/report-details-errors-led-death-young-national-park-firefighter4871>

NIOSH Report: Ohio Firefighter was intoxicated during a fatal crash: An Ohio firefighter had a blood alcohol level in excess of the legal limit when the apparatus he was driving overturned several times, fatally injuring him, an investigation has found. Firefighter Richard L. Kear, 58, was not wearing a seat belt and was ejected from the vehicle on July 7 last year, according to the NIOSH fatality report released Thursday:

<http://www.firerescue1.com/firefighter-safety/articles/601429-report-ohio-firefighter-intoxicated-during-fatal-crash/>

A campaign video by the City of Boston (MA) firefighters' union blasting Mayor Thomas M. Menino for blocking them from responding when elderly people fall is full of "lies," the head of Boston's EMS told the Herald, while documents show jakes have resisted responding to the calls for years. "The statements in these ads are outright lies," said James Orsino, president of the Boston Police Patrolmens Association/EMS Division:

<http://www.firerescue1.com/fire-ems/articles/600243-Boston-EMS-head-rips-firefighters-video-as-lies/>

Caldwell (ID) city leaders and firefighters continue to battle over firefighter compensation because of differing interpretations of the firefighters' contract:

<http://www.idahopress.com/?2009-10-31-Caldwell-firefighters-dispute-with-city>

Missed opportunities let the Station fire (CA) become a disaster. By the time heli-tankers arrived in force, the blaze had leaped Angeles Crest Highway. The last best chance to prevent a catastrophe had vanished:

<http://www.latimes.com/news/local/la-me-station-fire1-2009nov01,0,1318879.story>

An Albuquerque (NM) firefighter arrested on DWI charges over the weekend is no stranger to police. Court records show that firefighter Peter Hess, 37, had three prior arrests when he was charged Friday with aggravated DWI. One of those arrests also was for drunken driving, but it occurred before Hess was hired as a firefighter in 1996. The other two arrests were in 2007, within a week of each other. He was jailed for battery against a household member and received a deferred sentence on a charge of obstructing a police officer, according to court records. Fire officials said Monday that they are investigating the arrests. Hess, who drives an engine truck for the No. 18 station on Taylor Ranch NW, has been placed on administrative leave. He is the second Albuquerque firefighter arrested for DWI in the past two weeks and the ninth this year:

<http://www.firerescue1.com/firefighter-safety/articles/601718-NM-firefighter-charged-with-DWI-is-citys-9th-this-year/>

Crews operating on the floor above a fire that had been burning for a significant duration and uncoordinated ventilation operations were key factors in the floor collapse that killed an Illinois firefighter, according to investigators:

<http://www.firerescue1.com/fire-products/ventilation/articles/601953-Uncoordinated-ventilation-cited-in-ill-floor-collapse-LODD/>

Mike Estrada, a San Francisco (CA) Firefighter, was supposed to be ordered away from a burning building by his superior. It was just one of many mistakes that put him in harm's way. In less than a second, he went from fighting fire to being on fire — unconscious, buried under a pile of blazing debris, and fighting for his life. Estrada somehow survived the collapse:

<http://www.sfweekly.com/2009-11-04/news/under-fire&page%3D1>

General Fire Service Related Stories:

A fire department that is a class act: "What better tribute to firefighters and their sacrifices..." That's how Loveland-Symmes Fire Chief Otto Huber proudly explained the murals on the engine parked near the National Fallen Firefighters' Memorial this past weekend. The middle panel door depicts a night shot of the 9/11 monument on the campus of the National Fire Academy:

[http://cms.firehouse.com/web/online/News/Ohio-Engine-a-Rolling-Tribute-to-Fallen-FFs/46\\$66027](http://cms.firehouse.com/web/online/News/Ohio-Engine-a-Rolling-Tribute-to-Fallen-FFs/46$66027)

Detroit (MI) Firefighter Walter Harris was killed -- his body trapped beneath a collapsed roof in a burning home he was trying to extinguish -- for a mere \$20, authorities said today:

<http://freep.com/article/20091105/NEWS01/91105014/1319/Worthy-Man-paid-20-to-set-blaze-that-killed-firefighter>

A great safety related article for everyone from the future firefighter to the fire chief. Candlemoth Syndrome is a firefighting cousin of Target Fixation, where firefighters are drawn closely to the fire in disregard for proper firefighting tactics and for firefighter safety: <http://thekitchentable.firerescue1.com/2009/11/candlemoth-syndrome.html>

New Orleans (LA) firefighters respond to a structure fire, and are then shot at by a man with an AK-47 while attempting to do their job:

<http://www.wdsu.com/news/21465561/detail.html>

A training and safety article with video relating to the hazards found in garages that are on fire:

<http://www.firerescue1.com/fire-products/tools/articles/601382-detached-garage-fire-hazards/>

The importance of incorporating medical monitoring of trainees into rehab programs has been stressed in a NIOSH firefighter fatality report. EMT Cecilia Turnbough suffered sudden cardiac death during firefighter maze training at the Public Safety Training Center in Dale City on November 9 last year. The report into her death also recommends that training maze props or trailers used in SCBA confidence training have adequate safety features such as emergency egress panels, emergency lighting and ventilation:

<http://www.firerescue1.com/fire-products/fire-breathing-apparatus/articles/599649-NIOSH-fatality-report-stresses-medical-monitoring-of-trainees/>

Concerned about how much fire-protection service the city of Thousand Oaks (CA) residents are getting compared to tax dollars spent, the Thousand Oaks City Council on Tuesday unanimously approved looking into alternatives to the Ventura County Fire Department:

<http://www.vcstar.com/news/2009/nov/04/thousand-oaks-to-evaluate-fire-service-options/>

Contra Costa County (CA) supervisors on Tuesday took the first step to vote themselves out as the governing board of the East Contra Costa Fire Protection District in favor of a new nine-member board of East County residents. The Brentwood and Oakley city councils approved Tuesday night a resolution in support of a locally governed fire district board. The approvals could end a two-year campaign to give East County control of its fire district, which is understaffed and underfunded compared with other fire departments and districts in the county. Supervisors now must give one last green light: http://www.pasadenastarnews.com/california/ci_13653799

A record number of uniformed officers in Dayton (OH) are set to retire in 2011 will leave the city's public safety departments at all-time lows as plans to replace them remain, at best, up in the air. Forty firefighters and 40 police officers — many of them captains, lieutenants, sergeants and detectives — will retire in 2011 as part of their

pension-investment agreements, city officials said. That will leave Dayton's public safety departments, which employ about 700 police and fire uniformed officers, at an all-time low, union officials said:

<http://www.firerescue1.com/fire-jobs/articles/600260-ohio-city-faces-staffing-shortage-as-firefighters-retire/>

A new breathing apparatus could replace traditional SCBA and go a long way toward eliminating many firefighting heat-related ailments in the near future. The SuperCritical Air Mobility Pack (SCAMP) system cools the wearer while also delivering the same amount of air as traditional SCBA, but in a smaller package:

<http://www.firerescue1.com/fire-products/fire-breathing-apparatus/articles/600098-Slim-air-pack-cools-firefighters-aims-to-replace-SCBA/>

Fire departments, municipalities and organizations like NFPA that set standards should consider developing and implementing a system for identifying and marking unoccupied, vacant or abandoned structures to improve firefighter safety, a NIOSH report recommends. The firefighter fatality report was released Monday almost three years after a firefighter from Atlanta, Georgia, was fatally injured during a fire in an abandoned house, prompting the NIOSH investigation:

<http://www.firerescue1.com/firefighter-safety/articles/596194-NIOSH-fatality-report-recommends-marking-vacant-buildings/>

Nearly \$1 million in Homeland Security funding typically earmarked for fire departments has been awarded to ACORN before Congress signaled that it intended to cut off federal funding to the embattled group. The grant to ACORN's Louisiana office became public in September before the House and Senate voted to cut off ACORN funding after employees were caught on video advising a fake prostitute and pimp on scams: http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2009/oct/07/firefighters-lose-large-grant-to-acorn/?feat=home_top5_shared

The consolidation of three East San Diego (CA) County fire departments came another step closer to fruition yesterday with the announcement that El Cajon Fire Chief Mike Scott has been named to head the new management team. Scott, El Cajon's fire chief since June 2005, will oversee the El Cajon, La Mesa and Lemon Grove departments when they take the first step toward merging Jan. 1. "I'm honored and proud to get the opportunity," Scott said. The three East County city councils agreed this month to combine their fire and emergency medical services in a move officials say will save \$560,000 a year. The agreement stops short of creating a single fire department, but moves the cities in that direction:

<http://www3.signonsandiego.com/stories/2009/oct/30/el-cajon-fire-chief-named-oversee-team-3-merging-f/?metro&zIndex=191732>

A coalition of East County (San Diego County, CA) cities has taken a major step toward combining fire and emergency medical services. The El Cajon and La Mesa city councils yesterday were the latest to approve a three-way agreement with Lemon Grove that will merge some services, including sharing costs and selecting a fire chief. The Lemon Grove City Council approved the same agreement last week. The agreement stops short of forming a single fire department, but moves the cities in that

direction: <http://www3.signonsandiego.com/stories/2009/oct/14/el-cajon-la-mesa-join-fire-service-partnership/?uniontrib>

Firefighters in the Covington (LA) area now have a pair of eyes watching their actions when they're on the road or at a fire scene. St. Tammany Parish's 12th Fire Protection District completed the installation of cameras in department vehicles this month, making it the first department in the state to have all its vehicles monitored by equipment that can sense and record poor driving, accidents and activities on a fire scene: <http://cms.firehouse.com/content/article/article.jsp?id=65986>

Salt Lake City (UT) Firefighters used a canine oxygen mask to revive a dog pulled from a burning home. Does your department have such equipment on board your apparatus? Just some added customer service to provide your community: http://www.sltrib.com/justice/ci_13513571

More than half the emergencies that drag firefighters out of bed in the middle of the night or away from the station in the afternoon are for medical aid - difficulty breathing, asthma attacks, chest pains and seizures. Firefighters still fight fires, officials said. But mandated changes in technology - from security, to seat belts to solar energy - are keeping people safer and keeping firefighters from battling blazes: http://www.dailybulletin.com/news/ci_13684792?source=rss

Despite the tough economic times and cuts to the city of Merced's budget, City Hall was abuzz Friday with applicants eager to join the city's payroll. The Merced (CA) City Fire Department is hiring two new firefighters, a move necessary to maintain more than \$1 million in federal grant funding, said Fire Chief Ken Mitten. More than 500 men and women traveled to Merced to test for one of the two jobs. Some were gathered outside before 6:30 a.m., when personnel analyst Pat Smith arrived for work. The city received a total of 561 applications for the two slots, Smith said. Surprisingly, the turnout was a bit smaller than city officials anticipated. "We've actually got less this time than we've had before," Mitten said. "I remember a time when there were 1,200 for one job." [http://cms.firehouse.com/web/online/News/500-Plus-Apply-for-Two-Calif-Firefighter-Jobs/46\\$66067](http://cms.firehouse.com/web/online/News/500-Plus-Apply-for-Two-Calif-Firefighter-Jobs/46$66067)

Along with civic leaders, police officers, educators, and Chamber of Commerce and Rotary committee members, I headed to Lehi's new Station 82 in North Lehi (UT) and suited up in full turnout uniform for the exercise. Twenty real firefighters shepherded us through hands-on drills in quenching a fire, emergency extrication and medical response. "We think this is a good educational tool to let people know what we do," said Lehi Fire Chief Dale Ekins: http://www.heraldextra.com/news/local/article_0dca5c6c-1598-56ae-8f2c-c289d9e652a1.html

Pittsburgh (PA) firefighters soon will be randomly tested for drugs and can be fired for failing as part of the five-year contract agreed to by city and union officials last week, Public Safety Director Mike Huss said Monday: [http://cms.firehouse.com/web/online/News/Random-Drug-Tests-OKd-by-Pittsburgh-FFs/46\\$66346](http://cms.firehouse.com/web/online/News/Random-Drug-Tests-OKd-by-Pittsburgh-FFs/46$66346)

A creative way to deliver fire prevention safety messages to the community. Getting pizza delivery is often a treat in itself, but when it comes with a fire truck chaser and firefighters with prizes and gifts, it's even sweeter. During Fire Prevention week, this Sunday through Saturday, firefighters with the Dixon (Ill.) Fire Department are following pizza delivery drivers as they make their pie deliveries in the city of 16,000 with the intent of equipping residents with smoke detectors and batteries, and rewarding those who already have them installed with pizza gift certificates: [http://cms.firehouse.com/web/online/News/Illinois-Dept-Delivers-Prevention-With-Pizza-46\\$65995](http://cms.firehouse.com/web/online/News/Illinois-Dept-Delivers-Prevention-With-Pizza-46$65995)

In the midst of National Fire Prevention Week, the Prince George's County Fire/EMS Department has released a 15-year study on residential fire sprinklers. The Maryland county was the first in the nation to mandate residential sprinklers in all new construction: [http://cms.firehouse.com/web/online/News/Maryland-County-Releases-Fire-Sprinkler-Study/46\\$66013](http://cms.firehouse.com/web/online/News/Maryland-County-Releases-Fire-Sprinkler-Study/46$66013)

A team of nearly 100 Las Vegas (NV) area firefighters plans to walk up the Stratosphere tower's stairs as part of a charity event to benefit sick and injured children. The firefighters plan to climb the 108-floor stairs Oct. 24 to raise funds for the Firefighters of Southern Nevada Burn Foundation: <http://www.fox5vegas.com/news/21281783/detail.html>

The Edmonds (WA) City Council on Monday night agreed to have Snohomish County Fire District 1 take over the city's century-old fire department. The council voted 6-1 to approve a \$6.2 million, 20-year contract with the fire district, which provides firefighting and emergency medical services to about 160,000 south county residents. With the contract, the fire district will serve more than 200,000 people. The contract is expected to start January 1, 2010: <http://www.heraldnet.com/article/20091103/NEWS01/711039898&news01ad%3D1>

The Windsor-Severance (CO) Fire Protection District is going pink. To show their support for men and women battling breast cancer, local firefighters and staff will participate in the second annual Cares Enough to Wear Pink campaign this week: <http://www.coloradoan.com/article/20091025/NEWS01/910250318/Windsor-Severance-firefighters-strong-enough-to-wear-pink>

District of Columbia Fire Department (DCFD) Fire Chief Dennis Rubin took full responsibility today for a scene that played out at a sprinkler demonstration last week that he said looked like a "comedy act." [http://cms.firehouse.com/web/online/News/DC-Chief-Addresses-Sprinkler-Demo-Mishap/46\\$66083](http://cms.firehouse.com/web/online/News/DC-Chief-Addresses-Sprinkler-Demo-Mishap/46$66083)

Washington D.C. (DCFD) Firefighters catch fire during a sprinkler demonstration; luckily they are ok: <http://www.wusa9.com/news/local/story.aspx?storyid=92152&catid=187>

Issaquah (WA) City officials took the first step toward forming a regional fire authority with rural King County fire districts last week. Officials in districts 10, 38 and 51 are

interested in forming the fire authority alongside Issaquah. Council Services & Committee members recommended legislation to allow Issaquah to participate in a planning committee to establish the fire authority:

<http://www.issaquahpress.com/2009/10/20/issaquah-fire-districts-mull-creation-of-regional-fire-authority/>

The Corvallis (OR) Fire Department rolls out new wellness program for its personnel:

http://gazettetimes.com/news/local/article_96e7989a-b518-11de-ac08-001cc4c03286.html

When it comes to innovative life saving technology, the Glendale (AZ) Fire Department has become a role model, not just in the state, but the entire country. "Arizona and the fire department's participation in CCC-CCR (continuous chest compressions) techniques have made us role models for the rest of the country in the area of cardiac resuscitation," said Deputy Fire Chief Resource Management Division Chuck Montgomery: <http://www.glendalestar.com/articles/2009/10/22/news/news10.txt>

Should a company officer still be "one of the guys" after getting promoted? Or is it better for officers to be apart from the crew, so they can see the big picture and enforce discipline? Or is there a middle ground between these two extremes? How is it possible to balance roles as an officer in a fire station? <http://www.firerescue1.com/cod-company-officer-development/articles/597987-The-Balancing-Act-for-New-Company-Officers/>

A fire engine retired from service by the Richmond (CA) Fire Department years ago will finally be sent to a department in Nicaragua in the next two weeks after a lengthy effort to raise donations for the shipping fee. After collecting more than the \$6,000 needed to send the 1973 engine by boat, the Richmond department qualified for a U.S. Department of Defense transport program. The truck will be flown to Nicaragua for free, Richmond fire Capt. Liz de Dios said: www.sgvtribune.com/california/ci_13534619

There's growing support for Proposition 1, the bond that would fund a new public safety building in downtown Salt Lake City (UT):

http://www.abc4.com/content/news/slc/story/Theres-growing-support-for-Proposition-1-in-Salt/Lp0ycjw6_UeL7o-G6iE8hA.csp

The Line-of-duty-deaths of two firefighters while tackling a house fire in April seemed to signal a worrying trend for the Houston (TX) Fire Department. Prior to 2000, and dating back to its inception in 1889, the department had never suffered a fatality during interior operations. But the fire that claimed the lives of Captain James Harlow and Probationary Firefighter Damien Hobbs brought the number to seven since the turn of the millennium. It prompted high-level discussion within the department, which has culminated with the creation of "The 10 Rules of Survival."

<http://www.firerescue1.com/fire-attack/articles/598079-Houstons-10-Rules-of-Survival-after-LODDs/>

Instead of fighting a fire Wednesday, the Gilbert (AZ) Fire Department is battling breast cancer. All 180 Gilbert firefighters were decked out in pink, handing out pins and pamphlets at valley businesses:

http://www.myfoxphoenix.com/dpp/health/gilbert_fire_wears_pink_10_21_2009

Detroit (MI) fire officials said firehouses are being broken into while firefighters are out on their runs. There have been at least five break-ins at three Detroit Fire Department engine houses on the city's east side in the last two weeks. Ladder 19 has been hit three times, while Engine 41 and Engine 23 have also had items stolen. Friday, just as firefighters at Engine 41 sat down for dinner, they were sent out on a call. When they returned, the food was gone from their table:

[http://cms.firehouse.com/web/online/News/Detroit-Firehouses-Robbed-While-Crews-Out/46\\$66333](http://cms.firehouse.com/web/online/News/Detroit-Firehouses-Robbed-While-Crews-Out/46$66333)

Los Angeles (CA) Fire Department firefighters belonging to the nonprofit group known as Los Bomberos will provide free training to Mexican firefighters beginning Monday. The training sessions at the Frank Hotchkin Memorial Training Center near Dodger Stadium will focus on fire tactics, strategy, CPR, and search and rescue:

http://www.dailynews.com/news/ci_13643460

They accidentally ran over a man they were trying to help. Police have cleared the St. Petersburg (FL) Fire Rescue paramedics who ran over and injured a homeless man they were sent to help. The St. Petersburg Police Department's final report said neither emergency medical technician and driver Jason Springer nor paramedic David Bucholz could see the victim lying directly in front of their fire station garage door on Sept. 24. It wasn't until Rescue 5 pulled forward — dispatched to help Ted Allen Lenox, 41 — that the men felt the rear tire roll over his legs. Firefighters then poured out of the station at 455 Eighth St. S to free and treat him. But police also uncovered evidence that suggests it wasn't a freak accident that left Lenox pinned under a 10-ton fire rescue truck — it might have been a failed suicide attempt by a drunken, despondent man:

<http://www.firerescue1.com/fire-ems/articles/597966-Fla-firefighters-cleared-after-running-over-homeless-man/>

Washoe County (NV) Commissioners agreed they want a role in negotiations for a new contract with Reno firefighters or else the county could start its own fire department:

http://www.rgj.com/article/20091027/NEWS/91027053&OAS_sitepage%3Dnews.rgj.com/breakingnews

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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