



FIRE & EMS NEWS

July 18, 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.

SUMMER 2009 FIRE TECHNOLOGY SCHEDULE

The following fire-technology related courses are scheduled to be offered this summer:

COURSE	DAY	TIMES
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: June 17, 24, July 1, July 29 & August 5	Wednesday (pm)	1800 – 2150 hours
Health 61 (EMS First Responder – <i>prerequisite class to get into the EMT program</i>)	Mondays (am) & Wednesdays (am)	0900 – 1340 hours

Registration for the summer 2009 semester has begun!

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 Summer 2009 scheduling, check the Chabot College web site at www.chabotcollege.org

FALL 2009 FIRE TECHNOLOGY SCHEDULE

Registration for the Fall 2009 semester has begun!

The following fire-technology related courses are going to be offered this Fall:

July 18, 2009

www.chabotfire.com

COURSE	DAY	TIMES
FT 50 (Fire Protection Organization)	Monday (am)	0800 – 1150 hours
FT 50 (Fire Protection Organization)	Monday (pm)	1800 – 2150 hours
FT 51 (Fire Operations)	Tuesday (pm)	1800 – 2050 hours
FT 52 (Firefighter Safety/Public Education 1)	Tuesday (am)	0900 – 1150 hours
FT 52 (Firefighter Safety/Public Education 1)	Wednesday (pm)	1800 – 2050 hours
FT 53 (Fire Behavior & Combustion)	Tuesday (pm)	1500 – 1750 hours
FT 54 (Fire Prevention Technology)	Thursday (pm)	1900 – 2150 hours
FT 56 (Building Construction for Fire Protection)	Wednesday (pm)	1900 – 2150 hours
FT 89 (Firefighter 1 Academy evaluation) Note: Class only meets on the following dates: - October 14, 16 and 18 (Wed/Fri/Sun) - November 10, 12 and 14 (Tue/Thu/Sat)	Mon & Wed (pm) or 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
FT 91A (Wildland Interface Firefighting) Note: Class only meets on the following dates: December 1, 3, 5, 6, 8, 10 and 12	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: November 17, 19, 21, 22	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: November 10, 12, 14 and 15	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: August 19, September 2, October 7, November 4 and December 16	Wednesday (pm)	1800 – 2150 hours
Health 61 (First Responder)	Tuesday (mid)	1400 – 1750 hours
Health 61 (First Responder)	Wednesday (pm)	1800 – 2150 hours
Health 61 (First Responder)	Friday (am)	0830 – 1220 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: December 1, 3, 5, 8, 10 and 12	Tue & Thurs (pm) Saturday (all day)	1800 – 2200 hours 0800 – 1700 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 Fall 2009 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 CHARITY EVENT HOSTED BY OUR BROTHERS AT FIRENUGGETS.COM:

Greetings to everyone,

It is that time of the year again and so I extend to all of you an invitation to attend the 8th Annual Andy Fredericks Memorial Golf Tournament. This comes to you with mixed emotion as I have held off sending this, out of respect for the late Chief Bennie Crane, Chicago Fire Department, who passed away July 4. He was a Fire Service icon, legend, friend, mentor, and true class act. Should any of you wish to share your thoughts with the readers of Firenuggets.com or have any photos of Bennie you would like to have us post please feel free to send them my way.

Now to the business at hand. As most of you know, you **DO NOT** need to play golf to attend the golf tournament. It is an outstanding opportunity to meet leaders of our great profession to network and just have a good time, while keeping in mind the theme and purpose of the event, to honor Andy Fredericks and raise money for scholarships in his name. This annual event is attended by firefighters, training officers, and chief officers from all around the country, and representatives from some of the most generous apparatus and equipment manufacturers in our profession.

The golf tournament is scheduled for Thursday, October 1, 2009 at Greenhorn Creek Resort in Angels Camp, California. (www.greenhorncreek.com) As we have always done in the past, there will be a pizza and beer night the day before the tournament.

THE REGISTRATION FORM FOUND ON THE WEBSITE – www.firenuggets.com SHOULD ANSWER MOST OF YOUR QUESTIONS. PLEASE READ IT THOROUGHLY BEFORE FILLING OUT AND SUBMITTING. YOU WILL PREVENT MUCH GRIEF AND HEARTACHE BY GIVING IT YOUR UNDIVIDED ATTENTION BEFORE SUBMITTING.

If you have questions please feel free to e-mail me at tedcorp@mlode.com or call my cell phone at (209) 743-6205. Please note that I will have very limited access to my computer from July 21 through August 3.

Thank you,
Ted Corporandy
Firenuggets.com (www.firenuggets.com)

FIRE SERVICE TRAINING & SAFETY INFORMATION:

A must read for all, *Firefighter Fatalities in the United States in 2008* - for the second year in a row, 103 firefighters died while on duty:

<http://www.nfpa.org/publicJournalDetail.asp?categoryID=1858&itemID=43883&src=NFPAJournal&cookie%5Ftest=1>

ARE YOU A FIREFIGHTER WHO HAS BEEN LAID OFF?

If so, I want to extend to you a free, 2 hour oral interview private coaching session to help you get back on your feet. Included in this session will be free resume evaluation and critiquing for improvement.

While lay offs used to be unheard of in the fire service, we are starting to see more and more communities being forced to lay off firefighters due to the tough economic times. While some laid off firefighters are fortunate to get picked up rather quickly by other fire departments (our department picked up three laid off firefighters from a neighboring department), many find themselves in a very tough situation, due to a variety of reasons such as the lack of local openings and the fact that they may not be on top of their game when it comes to competing with the thousands of other firefighter candidates.

Just because you are laid off, it doesn't mean you automatically go to the top of the hiring list without having to participate in a testing process. Every fire department and governing body has different rules as to how to hire firefighters, so it is not guaranteed that a laid off firefighter gets a 100% score and ranks #1 on the hiring list, without having participated in a written exam, an oral interview, and the other typical components of a fire department testing process.

One of the challenges of being laid off is that you may have been on the job for a few years and the last thing you have been doing is staying on top of your oral interview skills, not to mention keeping your resume up-to-date.

For more information, please email me at sprziborowski@aol.com and I will provide you with more details, including what is required.

FIRE SERVICE EMPLOYMENT INFORMATION:

Las Vegas Fire & Rescue 2010 Firefighter Recruitment Information

Welcome and thank you for taking the time to consider Las Vegas Fire & Rescue as a career opportunity. We share your enthusiasm for the fire service. Built on tradition and dedicated to public service, our department contributes significantly to the quality of life and safety of our citizens. Given the amount of trust the public places on our profession, we always strive to hire the most suitable individuals as firefighters. We are committed to selecting the most prepared and competent individuals who will bring *pride* to our profession, *strength* to our department, and *quality* service to our community.

In seeking top candidates, Las Vegas Fire & Rescue has developed a specialized and highly competitive recruitment process. We have addressed some of the most frequently asked questions about our recruitment process below.

When will you be accepting firefighter applications?

The Las Vegas Fire & Rescue offers a testing opportunity every two years, from which a list of prospective candidates is created and utilized for a two-year period. We will be accepting applications for firefighter trainee beginning **8:00 a.m. on September 28, 2009**. The filing deadline for Firefighter Trainee applications is **4:30 p.m. on October 16, 2009**.

Where can I pick up an application?

You can pick up an application in person, or you can download an application off of their website - www.lasvegasnevada.gov. Human Resources is located on the 2nd floor of City Hall, 400 Stewart Avenue, Las Vegas, Nevada on the corner of Stewart Avenue and Las Vegas Boulevard. **Please note that we only accept applications for Firefighter Trainee during the open recruitment period (see FAQ above).**

How will I send in my application?

If you live in the local area you MUST deliver your application to Human Resources in person. Applicants who live outside of the local area may mail their application to City of Las Vegas, Human Resources, 400 Stewart Avenue, Las Vegas, NV 89101. Due to the large number of application received, we do not accept faxed applications for Firefighter Trainee. **Your application must be received and time stamped by Human Resources within the**

application period. We do not use post marked dates in determining whether an application is timely.

What are the minimum qualifications on the date of application?

- High School Diploma or GED
- Current Valid Driver's License
- Must be 18 years old.

Are there any other requirements?

Yes. On the date of conditional job offer a candidate must have an EMT-Basic certification and must meet current physical condition requirements. You do not have to meet these requirements on the date of application.

Does that have to be a Nevada EMT-Basic certification?

No. Your EMT-Basic certification can be from any state. National Registry certification is also acceptable. Please note that any certification must be current and valid at the time of conditional job offer.

What is your testing process?

Those candidates that meet the minimum requirements are scheduled for a Written Examination. Those applicants who score 90% or better on the written examination are scheduled for the Candidate Physical Ability Test – CPAT. This is a pass/fail test. The links below provide more information about this test.

When will you give the written exam for this recruitment?

The written exam will be held on **January 12, 2010** at the Texas Station Convention Center located at:

2101 Texas Star Lane - North Las Vegas, NV 89032 - (702) 631-1000

Can the written examination be taken at another time?

No. All applicants must take the written examination as scheduled or wait until the next recruitment period.

How do I study for the written exam?

You can download the Fire & Police Selection, Inc. (FPSI) study guide on their website - www.lasvegasnevada.gov. This is the only study guide we recommend.

What other information should I know about the written exam?

- There is a fifteen-dollar (\$15) administrative fee required at the time of the written exam (exact amount in CASH only).
- The written exam process is estimated to last approximately three (3) hours.
- You will receive your appointment time for the written exam by mail.
- No adjustments will be made to accommodate candidates exam dates and times.

When will you give the Candidate Physical Ability Test (CPAT)? Spring 2010.

I recently passed the CPAT with another agency. May I use my passing score on the CPAT to avoid taking the CPAT with the City of Las Vegas?

In lieu of taking the Candidate Physical Ability Test with the city of Las Vegas, the city of Las Vegas will accept a "Card of Completion" from the (CFFJAC) CPAT Center dated no earlier than **September 28, 2009**. We do not recognize any other CPAT completion cards or letters.

Is there more testing involved after the written exam and the CPAT?

Yes. Candidates who pass the physical ability examination will move to the second phase of testing which is completed over a 4 – 5 month period. Candidates should note that these events are not pre-scheduled and candidates typically receive approximately 2 weeks, or less, notice of each event. The candidate's personal schedule must be flexible during this phase.

The department will select from the most qualified candidates during this period and make conditional job offers. Those candidates not selected initially, will remain on the list and may be considered for any future openings during the two year period. The testing for this second phase may consist of:

- Oral Interview
- Criminal & Personal Background Check
- Suitability Assessment
- Medical Exam (upon conditional job offer)

I do not live in Las Vegas. May I still apply?

Yes. Please note, however, that the selection process involves many steps. Out-of-state applicants should plan on at least 3 trips to Las Vegas to complete the entire process. All travel is at the applicant's own expense.

I am already a firefighter. Do I have to take the written exam?

Yes. We do not have any lateral positions for firefighter. You will have to complete the entire testing process and complete the academy if selected.

Is there a maximum age limit for applicants?

No, but you do have to be 18 years of age to apply.

Do I have to be a US citizen to apply?

No. However, you must have the legal right to work in the United States.

How many firefighters will you hire in the next recruitment period?

The exact count is unknown. The number of people hired varies from year to year, depending on the number of employees retiring, employee turnover, and the number of new stations opened.

What is the salary for firefighter trainee?

The monthly salary for firefighter trainee while in the academy is approximately \$3,593. The monthly salary for firefighter is approximately \$4,178.

How long is the firefighter trainee academy?

The academy is approximately 16 weeks in length.

EMT-Basic Training

The city of Las Vegas does not provide Emergency Medical Technician – Basic training, nor do we endorse any training by any specific organization. As a courtesy, we are aware of three community organizations that provide this training and have provided their contact information below. You must contact the organization directly for further information.

American Medical Response
www.ncti-online.com (click on Las Vegas)

College of Southern Nevada
www.ccsn.edu/health (click on Emergency Medical Technician)

EMS Training Center of Southern Nevada
www.emstrainingcenter.com
(702) 651-9111

Community Information Seminars

THURSDAY

July 23, 6 pm – 8pm
Sahara West Library
9600 West Sahara Avenue, 89117

WEDNESDAY

August 19, 6 pm – 8 pm
West Charleston Library
6301 West Charleston Boulevard, 89146

Who can I contact for adult training assistance?

The Las Vegas Clark County Library District offers Adult Reading Tutoring individually or in a group setting. For more information contact Sebastian Gonzalez, Computer Assisted Literacy in Libraries (C.A.L.L.) Program Coordinator at (702) 507-3532 or visit www.lvccld.org/cardsservices/call.cfm.

For more information about the City of Las Vegas, the Las Vegas Fire-Rescue Department, and the testing process, go to their website at: <http://www.lasvegasnevada.gov>

FIRE SERVICE PUBLIC EDUCATION & SAFETY INFORMATION FROM THE L.A.F.D.:

Dear Friend of the Los Angeles Fire Department (LAFD):

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

- July 27, 2009

LAFD Invitational Golf Tournament

<http://snurl.com/l6bgb>

- August 16, 2009

Downed Officer Support Ride

<http://www.downedofficers.com>

- August 24, 2009

Fallen Firefighter Memorial Golf Tournament

<http://snurl.com/l6bgy>

Here are some recent articles of interest (with video) from the LAFD Blog...

- When Seconds Count...

<http://snurl.com/l6bie>

- Girls Meet Firefighters Who Saved Them:

<http://snurl.com/l6bj2>

- Not Seen on Television - "LAFD Valley Glen":

<http://snurl.com/l6bho>

- Who Will Rescue The Rescuers?:

<http://snurl.com/l6bjz>

- No Prom, No Graduation - When Life is Just a Click Away:

<http://snurl.com/l6bkq>

- LAFD Recruits - Having What It Takes:

<http://snurl.com/l6bl6>

Do you know someone who would like to join (or leave) this e-mail list? Simply have them visit:

<http://lafd.org/info.htm>

Respectfully Yours in Safety and Service,

Brian Humphrey

Firefighter/Specialist

Public Service Officer

Los Angeles Fire Department

LAFD Home Page: <http://lafd.org>

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

PROMOTIONAL PREPARATION COURSES:

By popular demand, I have scheduled some 2 day promotional preparation courses over the next few months around the State:

- Monday **July 27** and Tuesday **July 28**, 2009 – Petaluma, CA

Class size is limited, so register early!

How To Excel At Fire Service Promotional Exams!

- **Tired of not getting promoted off of your last fire service promotional examination?**
- **Preparing for an upcoming promotional process?**
- **Want to do so well you won't have to take the promotional examination again?**
- **Then this class is for you!**

TOPICS TO BE COVERED INCLUDE:

- So you want to promote in the fire service? An overview of what to expect & prepare for.
- 11 steps for success in the promotional process.
- Creating a value-added promotional resume!
- What to expect on the written test
- Ace your promotional interview!
- Personnel counseling problems
- In-Baskets / Writing Exercises
- Teaching demonstrations / oral presentations
- How to smoke the emergency simulation portion of the assessment center!
- ICS, Strategy and tactics review
- Preparing for the position, not just the test
- Going from just checking the box to understanding what you're doing
- Managing the incident, from beginning to end
- Simulator practice and critiquing on various types of incidents, including: Structure fires (residential, high-rise, commercial, apartment, etc.), Wildland fires, Mass-Casualty Incidents, & Haz Mat Incidents.

Instructor: Steve Prziborowski, Battalion Chief and Master Instructor. Steve was recently named as the 2008 California Fire Instructor of the Year and has coached and mentored numerous personnel to get promoted or hired in the fire service.

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Register: Go to www.code3firetraining.com for secure payment with Pay Pal, and most major credit cards. Or, if paying by Cashier's Check, Money Order, or Personal Check, email me at sprziborowski@aol.com for more information.

More Info: Contact Steve Prziborowski, 408-205-9006 or sprziborowski@aol.com - Also, visit our websites at www.chabotfire.com and www.code3firetraining.com for more information to assist you with your next promotional examination or career development needs!

Petaluma, CA
Monday July 27 <u>and</u> Tuesday July 28, 2009
Petaluma Community Center 320 N. McDowell Blvd. Petaluma, CA 94954
\$220.00 for the two-day session

Is your fire department interested in hosting one of these classes? If so, feel free to contact me at sprziborowski@aol.com for more information on how easy it is to do so; I will make it as turn-key as possible, and require only the use of a classroom. I will even handle registration!

FIRE SERVICE TRAINING OPPORTUNITY:

SUASI is providing Tuition FREE Incident Management Course in the bay area. If you have any city or district employees who work within your Emergency Operation Centers (EOC), or you have fire employees who have an interest in pursuing single resource overhead assignments, some of the prerequisite courses are being delivered here in the bay area.

To view more information and to sign up, go to:

<http://www.citygateassociates.com/IMT-training/>

CLASSES BEING OFFERED INCLUDE:

- **S-359 (Medical Unit Leader)** August 24 - 26, 2009 in Foster City, CA
- **S-440 (Planning Section Chief)** August 24 - 26, 2009 in Fremont, CA
- **S-460 (Finance/Administration Section Chief)** August 26 - 28, 2009 in Oakland, CA

FIRE SERVICE DONATION OPPORTUNITY:



Donate a car, truck, RV, boat or other vehicle to the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation through Charitable Auto Resources, Inc. and the proceeds will help the programs of National Fallen Firefighters Foundation. These programs offer support for families and co-workers of firefighters who have died in the line of duty.

There are two ways to donate your vehicle to the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation:

1. **Donate Online** - [Click Here to fill out the form](#) and have a representative contact you about how to complete the process.
2. **Contact Us by Phone** - Please call 877-870-NFFF (6333) and a representative will help you with your donation.

Have More Questions About How the Donation Process Works?
[View the Frequently Asked Questions Page](#)

PROMOTIONAL PREPARATION / TACTICS & STRATEGY WORKSHOP:

Scott Goodwin Associates Tactics and Strategy Workshops

August 17 & 18

Embassy Suites
901 E Calaveras Blvd
Milpitas, CA

August 19 & 20

Embassy Suites
1325 East Dyer Road
Santa Ana, CA

Topics covered:

- Size Up
- Positioning and Tactics
- Fire Attack Future
- Rescue & RIC
- Support
- Incident Command System
- Divisions & Groups
- Intelligence Gathering
- Decision Making based on Intelligence
- Simulations

Intended Audience:

- Current Company Officers
- Current Chief Officers
- Company Officers
- Future Chief Officers

Principle Presenter:

Scott has over 30 years in the Fire Service, with over 20 years as a Company/Chief Officer. He has been an Incident Commander on thousands of incidents; Scott brings his unique but simple approach to command and simulations. This will be done utilizing the newly developed 5 sided simulator. This is most realistic simulations on the circuit today. This is not a class designed to help on just the simulator, this class will make you a better Fire Ground Commander.

- **Cost: \$550**
- **Class size limited to 10**

Email: "scottgoodwinassoc@ymail.com to reserve your spot in the class and to get pre-workshop information

Workshop guaranteed to improve your simulation skills for your next promotional exam.

FIREFIGHTER SAFETY INFORMATION:

FIREFIGHTER LIFE SAFETY

LEARNING

Media CENTER

Everyone Goes Home® Learning Media Center E-Alert - June 29, 2009

Not Worth the Gamble
Listen and Learn
from



John Salka *John Norman*

This Month's Feature
[Not Worth the Gamble](#)

This clip asks you to learn from the leadership and experience of John Salka and John Norman. How can you apply the same firefighter life safety principles in your department?
» [Click Here to View This Media Clip](#)

» Archive: [More Learning Media](#)



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

www.everyonegoeshome.com

ONLINE FIRE TECHNOLOGY DEGREE & FIRE OFFICER CLASSES:

OFFICER & FIRE TECH CLASSES ON THE INTERNET REGISTER FOR FALL 2009 CLASSES, NOW!

Register Early, Classes are Expected to Fill Fast.

Take CFSTES Fire Officer and/or Fire Tech classes on the internet at Allan Hancock College in Santa Maria, California. The following courses will be available starting on August 24th and throughout the Fall 2009 Semester.

The following classes will delivered On-line and in a Hybrid (Internet\Classroom) format:

CFSTES Fire Officer Classes

Fire Management 1: Management\ Supervision for Company Officers
Fire Command 1A: Command Principles for Company Officers
Fire Command 1B: Incident Management for Company Officers
Fire Command 1C: I-Zone Fire Fighting for Company Officers
Fire Prevention 1A: Introduction to the California Fire Code
Fire Prevention 1B: Introduction to the California Fire Code

<u>Fire Technology Classes</u>	<u>Other Online Classes</u>
Fire Protection Organization Fire Prevention Technology Fire Protection Equipment & Systems Building Construction for Fire Protection Fire Behavior & Combustion Fire Hydraulics Apparatus & Equipment	Haz Mat FRO Refresher EMT 1 Basic Refresher Wildland Fire Behavior Wild Fire Safety & Survival

EMS, Emergency Management & Haz Mat classes, as well as General Education classes will also be offered on-line.

After prospective students have applied to the college, they may register for classes on the internet (WebReg), by fax, mail or in person starting November 26th.

For information on how to enroll as a student and register for classes, or if you want additional information on the Fire Technology Program, contact Dan Coffman at dcoffman@hancockcollege.edu

If classes are full at Hancock College or are you are interested in taking Fire Tech classes elsewhere let me know. NOTE: Fire Officer classes are only available at Hancock College.

PARAMEDIC PROGRAM INFORMATION:

UCLA-DANIEL FREEMAN

PARAMEDIC EDUCATION

<http://cpc.mednet.ucla.edu/paramedicinfo>

Excellence.

It's our history

As one of the original paramedic education programs in the country, and the first nationally accredited, we proudly continue the tradition of creating exceptional and compassionate healthcare professionals. We have a proven record with over 3,000 graduates around the world!

It's our passion

Our motto is "matching energy with energy" which allows us to create the most conducive learning environment for every motivated student. Our students have a 92% program completion rate, demonstrate a 90% first-time pass rate on the National Registry Exam, and have a 99% employment rate within 6 months of graduation.

and it's available to you!

Our program, as always, is also open and available to private students (students do not have to be affiliated with or sponsored by fireservice agencies) and gives them the opportunity to become paramedics in preparation to enter the fire-service or other healthcare environments after graduation.

UPCOMING COURSES with APPLICATION DEADLINES:

January 2010 Program - Deadline is 8/31/09

May 2010 Program - Deadline is 11/20/09

September 2010 Program - Deadline is 3/19/10

Program Highlights Include:

- **Nationally recognized faculty members like:**
 - **Dr. Baxter Larmon, PhD, MICP, Director, UCLA Center for Prehospital Care**
 - Associate Professor of David Geffen School Medicine at UCLA
 - Professor at David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA
 - Textbook author and international speaker
 - AND
 - **Ms. Heather Davis, MS, NREMT-P, Program Director**
 - NAEMT Education Committee Chair
 - National Registry Board of Directors
 - NAEMSE Board of Directors (former)
- **Faculty comprised of experienced licensed paramedics**

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- A *dynamic and innovative course curriculum* based on National EMS Education Standards for Paramedics
- **Human Anatomy Lab**
- **Clinical Internships** with affiliated Los Angeles area trauma centers and hospitals
- **Field Internships** with major and innovative fire departments in Los Angeles County!
- Up to 36 **college credit** units available through our partnership with West Los Angeles College
- **Federal Financial Aid** is available!

Come find out what we are about by visiting our web site, scheduling a visit or attending one of our free Student Information Sessions.

To obtain more Program Information, free Student Information Session dates, or an Application Packet visit:

<http://cpc.mednet.ucla.edu/paramedicinfo/>

or visit us in person at
333 North Prairie Avenue, Inglewood, CA 90301
Telephone (310) 680-1100

FIRE SERVICE EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY:

Here is an opportunity to take one firefighter examination and be eligible to be hired by one of over 10 fire departments in the **Denver, Colorado** area!

The following information was found on their website, which also includes an online application: <http://www.drco.org/index.cfm?page=FIRE>

The next application filing deadline is Wednesday September 30 at noon, Mountain Standard Time, to be eligible to take the next test on November 2, 2009!

The Denver Regional Council of Governments (DRCOG), on behalf of the member [districts/departments](#), manages the Firefighter Intraregional Recruitment and Employment (FIRE) program. Testing occurs twice a year. Candidates take one written exam and the results then determine an eligibility pool of qualified candidates for our 13 member departments. Files may be reviewed throughout the year as openings occur.

Minimum Employment Requirements

- Be legally entitled to work in the United States and able to obtain a Colorado driver's license.
- Some departments hire candidates 18 years of age or older--others require applicants to be at least 21. There is no maximum age.
- Have a high school diploma or GED; having some college credits is desirable as are EMT/firefighter/paramedic certifications. Departments prefer applicants acquire an EMT certification prior to being hired, although not required to test.
- Some departments will train hires with out-of-state firefighter certification for Colorado certification, but smaller departments require candidates to go through the reciprocity process with the International Fire Service Accreditation Congress (IFSAC)--call (720) 852-6735.

Fire Departments Participating

- [Black Hawk Fire Department](#)
- [Boulder Fire & Rescue](#)
- [Federal Heights Fire Department](#)
- [Littleton Fire Rescue](#)
- [Longmont Fire Department](#)
- [Louisville Fire Department](#)
- [Mountain View Fire Protection District](#)
- [North Metro Fire Rescue District](#)
- [North Washington Fire Protection District](#)
- [Parker Fire District](#)
- [Southwest Adams County Fire Rescue](#)
- [Thornton Fire Department](#)
- [Westminster Fire Department](#)

Online Application Process

Completing the application and paying the \$50 non-refundable fee confirms your seat. Candidates will receive special testing instructions via e-mail about a month before the test.

Deferrals

You may request to defer your payment (one-time) to the next test. You must call 303-480-6730 at least three business days prior to your test date to defer. Don't defer unless it's unavoidable because you may miss out on a recruitment process.

What Happens Next

You must score at least 70 percent (overall) to pass, but departments may set a higher score for their recruitments. Departments could contact you for further testing throughout the year so keep your contact information current within your online application.

Written Exam Used

DRCOG administers the New Generation CWH Management Solutions Exam to identify individuals who are most likely to be successful in the fire service. The test assesses skills and abilities that Denver-area firefighters know are essential for their jobs. The exam has 150 questions; applicants have three hours and 15 minutes to complete it. The test measures:

- **Basic educational skills (reading, writing and math),**
- **Practical skills (judgment and common sense),**
- **Interpersonal skills, and**
- **Emotional outlook (ethics, motivation and effectiveness under stress).**

If you are ready to begin your application, go to [online application](#) and begin!

[Information](#) is available for departments interested in taking part in the FIRE program.

If you have questions, contact [Suzi Walker](#) at 303-480-6730.

FIRE SERVICE TRAINING OPPORTUNITY:

- Mastering the Fire Service Assessment Center -

4 -day promotional preparation workshop

Monterey, CA – September 15 through 18, 2009

Countless firefighters have been promoted using this curriculum! This workshop is unlike any other you will find. Students will receive their book, ***Mastering the Fire Service Assessment Center***, published by **Fire Engineering**, which helps them identify strengths and weaknesses, utilize mock exercises, and build a plan for success. Their 9-step program includes 1) elimination of barriers, 2) assessment center orientation 3) the mentality, 4) knowledge, skills and abilities to be an excellent officer, 5) exercise-specific tools and key points 6) mock exercises, 7) common pitfalls and additional key points, 8) developing your plan/the self-assessment, 9) interviews.

Due to overwhelming demand from their students, they have expanded to add a day to their three-day workshop. This new four-day workshop deals with assessment centers and interviews for promotion and gives an additional day for hot seat time! Day one is focused on preparing for promotion and developing the requisite knowledge, skills and abilities. In addition, we focus on what assessment centers are, their components, and the best approach (that few people take). Day two, three and four allow students to perform the exercises and grade each other. This class is limited in size, due to the depth of instruction and involvement.

Students will participate in the following assessment center exercises: written essay, in-basket, modified in-basket, oral presentation, supervisory exercise, counseling/role-play, and emergency simulations. Students are evaluated by each other and the instructor. By sitting on both sides of the table, students see effective and poor behavior first hand. The approach to this class is unlike any other, by truly helping the student prepare for both the test and the

position. Personal counseling and coaching takes place during the exercises to give the aspiring officers as much potential for success as possible. This is not a canned class! They cater to the dynamic of the group each time.

- Cost - \$495.00 (Includes Fire Engineering book written by the instructor)
- 8 am - 5 pm each day.

For more information, or to register, go to their website at www.trainfirefighters.org

FIRE SERVICE TRAINING OPPORTUNITY:

SUNNYVALE FIRE

PRESENTS the 13th ANNUAL

AUTO EXTRICATION

WORKSHOP 2009

TWO FULL DAYS OF EXTRICATION TRAINING

- California State Fire Marshal Certification
- Recognized Instructors
- New Car Technology/Air Bags
- Hands On Extrication
- EMS/Patient Considerations
- Rescue Equipment Vendors
- Lunch Included Saturday & Sunday
- Great Local Accommodations Available

IN COOPERATION WITH

L.N.CURTIS & SONS
TOOLS FOR HEROES® since 1926

WHEN: OCTOBER 3rd and 4th, 2009 **COST:** Only \$275.00 + \$25.00 CE Units

WHERE: SUNNYVALE FIRE TRAINING GROUNDS (WOLFE ROAD at ARQUES)

HURRY: REGISTRATION IS LIMITED and FILLS FAST

For more information or to register, go to:

<http://secure.lenos.com/lenos/signal/snyextricationworkshop09/home.htm>

ACCOMMODATIONS: Rooms have been arranged / reserved:

Corporate Inn // Sunnyvale
805 East El Camino Real
Sunnyvale, Ca 94087

Hotel Reservations: 408-220-1000 Mention “Sunnyvale Auto-Extrication Workshop” for group rate price - Refer questions to Sales Manager Richard Dillon

**This course is sponsored by the Southbay Regional Public Safety Training Consortium which will offer ½ unit of college credit. Course fee includes registration, materials, and State Fire Marshal Certificate and Registration. *This workshop qualifies for 14 hours of Instructor Based Continuing Education for EMT’s and Paramedics issued by the City of Sunnyvale Department of Public Safety California CE Provider #43-2005.*

FIRE SERVICE TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES:

Public Safety Training Group

2009 COURSE SCHEDULE

- Level 1 State Fire Officers Courses - \$325 Per Class
- Classes located in Brentwood, CA

COURSE	LOCATION	DATES
National Registry EMT Prep	PSTG Facility	July 27 – 30
Hazmat First Responder	PSTG Facility	August 3 - 7
Prevention 1A	PSTG Facility	August 10 – 14
Management 1	PSTG Facility	August 31 – September 5
ICS 300	PSTG Facility	October 5 – 7

Chabot College Fire & EMS News

ICS 400	PSTG Facility	October 8 – 9
CPR	PSTG Facility	See Website for Details
Promotional Coaching	PSTG Facility	See Website for Details
Entry Level Coaching	PSTG Facility	See Website for Details

- For more information, including how to register, go to www.pstgonline.com

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

THE U.S. FIRE ADMINISTRATION NAMES A NEW FIRE ADMINISTRATOR:

Release Date: July 7, 2009

Secretary Napolitano Applauds President Obama's Intent to Nominate Kelvin Cochran as U.S. Fire Administrator

July 18, 2009

www.chabotfire.com

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U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Secretary Janet Napolitano applauds President Obama's intent to nominate Kelvin Cochran— who brings decades of experience in preventing and responding to fires and emergencies—as U.S. Fire Administrator. “Kelvin will play a vital role in strengthening our fire prevention and emergency management capabilities across the country,” said Secretary Napolitano. “Working closely with our state and local partners, Kelvin will lead our nationwide efforts to prepare for and respond to fire emergencies.”

As U.S. Fire Administrator, Cochran is charged with overseeing, coordinating, and directing national efforts to prevent fires and improve fire response. Cochran will oversee fire prevention and safety education programs and professional development opportunities for emergency responders at all levels of government.

Kelvin Cochran

Cochran has twenty-eight years of experience in the fire service including fire fighting, emergency medical services, hazardous materials, public education, research and development, personnel management, and administration, with a specialization in training and strategic planning. Most recently, Cochran served as Fire Chief for the City of Atlanta Fire Rescue Department, where he coordinated homeland security and emergency preparedness initiatives between the City of Atlanta and the Atlanta Fulton County Emergency Management Agency (AFCEMA) and oversaw 35 fire stations providing fire, rescue and emergency medical services.

Previously, he served in the Shreveport, La. fire department as a Firefighter, Assistant Chief Training Officer, and Fire Chief. Cochran also served as President of the Metropolitan Fire Chiefs Association, the 1st Vice President of the International Association of Fire Chiefs (IAFC), and Vice Chairman of Volunteers of America (VOA).

FIRE SERVICE PUBLIC EDUCATION & SAFETY **INFO FROM THE U.S. FIRE ADMINISTRATION:**

Kidde Recalls Dual Sensor Smoke Alarms; Can Fail to Warn of a Fire

WASHINGTON, D.C. - The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, in cooperation with the firm named below, today announced a voluntary recall of the following consumer product. Consumers should stop using recalled products immediately unless otherwise instructed.

Name of Product: Kidde Model PI2000 Dual Sensor Smoke Alarms

Units: About 94,000

Manufacturer: Walter Kidde Portable Equipment Inc., of Mebane, N.C.

Hazard: An electrostatic discharge can damage the unit, causing it not to warn consumers of a fire.

Incidents/Injuries: The firm has received two reported incidents of smoke alarm malfunctions involving electrostatic discharge during installation. No injuries have been reported.

Description: This recall involves Kidde dual sensor smoke alarms model PI2000. The alarms can be identified by two buttons, "HUSH" and "PUSH AND HOLD TO TEST WEEKLY," which are located on the front/center of the alarm. The model number and date code are on the back of the smoke alarm. Only date codes 2008 Aug.01 through 2009 May 04 are included in this recall.

Sold at: Retail, department, and hardware stores and through electrical distributors nationwide from August 2008 through May 2009 for between \$30 and \$40.

Manufactured in: China

Remedy: Consumers should contact Kidde immediately to receive a free replacement smoke alarm.

Consumer Contact: For additional information, contact Kidde toll-free at (877) 524-2086 between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. ET Monday through Friday, or visit the firm's Web site at www.kidde.com

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.firecareers.com

- www.firerecruit.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:	Brett Stearns
Rank:	Captain
Age:	29
Gender:	Male
Status:	Career
Years of Service:	10
Date of Incident:	06/26/2009
Time of Incident:	1630hrs
Date of Death:	06/26/2009
Fire Department:	Bureau of Land Management - Little Snake Field Office
Address:	455 Emerson Street, Craig, CO 81625
Fire Department Chief:	Field Manager John Husband

Incident Description: While working at Freeman Reservoir on a hazard tree abatement project with a dozen other BLM firefighters, Captain Stearns was struck and killed by a falling tree.

Incident Location: Freeman Reservoir

Funeral Arrangements: Pending

Memorial Fund Contact and Address: Pending

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

To date, 52 firefighter fatalities have been reported to USFA in 2009; 51 from incidents that occurred in 2009 and one from a previous year incident. 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:	Allen LePage
Rank:	Assistant Fire Chief
Age:	67
Gender:	Male

Chabot College Fire & EMS News

Status: Volunteer
Years of Service: 42
Date of Incident: 06/29/2009
Time of Incident: 1430hrs
Date of Death: 06/30/2009
Fire Department: Kingston Fire District
Address: PO Box 284, 35 Bills RD, Kingston, RI 02881-0284
Fire Department Chief: Nathan Barrington

Incident Description: Assistant Fire Chief LePage passed away from a head injury he suffered while working on a ladder truck. Investigators have not released details of the accident.

Incident Location: 35 Bills RD, Kingston, RI 02881

Funeral Arrangements: Pending

Memorial Fund Contact and Address: Pending

Tribute is being paid to Assistant Fire Chief Allen LePage at
<http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/fireservice/fatalities/>

To date, 53 firefighter fatalities have been reported to USFA in 2009; 52 from incidents that occurred in 2009 and one from a previous year incident. 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: Ryan Wingard
Rank: Firefighter
Age: 28
Gender: Male
Status: Volunteer
Years of Service: 8 months
Date of Incident: 07/06/2009
Time of Incident: 0354hrs
Date of Death: 7/06/2009
Fire Department: Strattanville Volunteer Fire Company, No. 1
Address: PO Box 93, 441 Washington ST, Strattanville, PA
Fire Department Chief: Bill Stroup

Incident Description: Firefighter Wingard was working a debris fire shortly after arriving at the site of a recently demolished house in Strattanville. After telling fellow firefighters that he was not feeling well, Wingard collapsed. CPR was initiated immediately by members at the scene and an ambulance was called for at 0409hrs. Firefighter Wingard was transported to the hospital where he passed away. Both the nature of the fatal injury and the cause of the fire are under investigation.

Incident Location: 151 Washington ST, Strattanville, PA 16254

Funeral Arrangements: Pending

Memorial Fund Contact and Address: Pending

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

To date, 54 firefighter fatalities have been reported to USFA in 2009; 53 from incidents that occurred in 2009 and one from a previous year incident. 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 Johnson
Rank:	Firefighter
Age:	75
Gender:	Male
Status:	Volunteer
Years of Service:	17
Date of Incident:	10/20/2008
Time of Incident:	Pending
Date of Death:	07/05/2009
Fire Department:	Mahopac Falls Volunteer Fire Department
Address:	PO Box 190, 17 Brook RD, Mahopac Falls, NY 10542
Fire Department Chief:	Ann Link

Incident Description: Firefighter Johnson passed away from a head injury he received from a fall while retrieving SCBA from fire apparatus during a fire safety demonstration at the Pine Grove Nursery School in Mahopac. The fire department reported that the cause of the fall is unknown; Johnson went around to the far side of the apparatus to get the air-pack and, when he did not return, was discovered by other firefighters unconscious on the ground. Firefighter Johnson was treated on-scene and transported to the hospital. However, he never regained consciousness and succumbed to his injury approximately nine months later.

Incident Location: Pine Grove Nursery School, 85 Myrtle Ave, Mahopac

Funeral Arrangements: Calling hours are from 1900-2100hrs 07/07/2009, and from 1400-1600hrs and 1900-2100hrs 07/08/2009 tomorrow at Joseph J. Smith Funeral Home, 692 U.S. Route 6 in Mahopac. A Mass will be held at 0945hrs, 07/09/2009, at St. John the Evangelist Church, 221 E. Lake Blvd., followed by interment at noon at Rose Hills Memorial Park in Putnam Valley.

Memorial Fund Contact and Address: Memorial donations may be made to Toys for Tots, Putnam-Westchester chapter, c/o Bill Lewis, 44 Somerset Lane, Putnam Valley, NY 10579.

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

To date, 55 firefighter fatalities have been reported to USFA in 2009; 53 from incidents that occurred in 2009 and 2 from a previous year incident. 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:	Dale Elliott Haddix
Rank:	Assistant Fire Chief
Age: 70	
Gender:	Male
Status:	Volunteer
Years of Service:	30
Date of Incident:	07/04/2009
Time of Incident:	2257hrs
Date of Death:	07/04/2009
Fire Department:	Schell City Fire Department
Address:	101 Main ST, Schell City, MO 64783
Fire Department Chief:	James Goodman

Incident Description: Upon arrival with a fire crew at the scene of a vacant residential structure fire, Assistant Fire Chief Haddix engaged the pump on the department apparatus and then slumped over when he experienced a medical emergency. Assistant Chief Haddix was rendered aid on-scene by a stand-by medical crew but succumbed to his injury. The nature of the fatal injury is under investigation. The cause of the fire was intentional and charges have been filed against one 18 year old and other charges are being considered. The investigation is continuing with the Vernon County Sheriff's Office and the State Fire Marshal's office.

Incident Location: 175 W. Second Street, Schell City, MO

Funeral Arrangements: Friday 1030hrs at the Schell City Christian Church.

Memorial Fund Contact and Address: Memorial fund donations in honor of Assistant Fire Chief Dale Elliott Haddix may be made to the Schell City Fire Department, 101 Main ST, Schell City, MO 64783

Tribute is being paid to Assistant Fire Chief Dale Elliott Haddix at <http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/fireservice/fatalities/>

To date, 56 firefighter fatalities have been reported to USFA in 2009; 54 from incidents that occurred in 2009 and one from a previous year incident. 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: David Grass Jr.
Rank: Firefighter
Age: 34
Gender: Male
Status: Volunteer
Years of Service: <1
Date of Incident: 07/07/2009
Time of Incident: 1545hrs
Date of Death: 07/08/2009
Fire Department: Ste. Genevieve Fire Department
Address: 165 South Fourth Street, Ste. Genevieve, MO 63670
Fire Department Chief: G. Mick Schwent

Incident Description: Firefighter Grass was at the fire station and participating in department sponsored physical fitness training when he experienced a medical emergency. Grass was flown to St. Louis University Medical Center by air ambulance where he succumbed to an apparent brain injury.

Incident Location: 165 South Fourth Street, Ste. Genevieve, MO 63670

Funeral Arrangements: Pending

Memorial Fund Contact and Address: Pending

Tribute is being paid to Firefighter David Grass Jr. at <http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/fireservice/fatalities/>

To date, 57 firefighter fatalities have been reported to USFA in 2009; 55 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: Joseph T. Grace
Rank: Apparatus Operator
Age: 47
Gender: Male
Status: Career
Years of Service: 7
Date of Incident: 07/09/2009
Time of Incident: 0645hrs
Date of Death: 07/10/2009
Fire Department: Saint Tammany Fire Protection District #4 – Mandeville F.D.
Address: 709 Girod St., Mandeville, LA 70448

Chabot College Fire & EMS News

Fire Department Chief: Merrick Tassin

Incident Description: On the evening of 7/8/09, Joseph Grace participated in a departmental drill for a “man down” drill. He had also responded to multiple incidents during the day of the 7/8/09 and over night into the early morning of 7/9/09. At approximately 0645 hours on 7/9/09, he responded to an incident prior to going off shift around 0730 hours. He reported to his second job as a paramedic and was in the process of cooking breakfast when crew members entered the kitchen and found him collapsed around 0830 hours. Care was initiated on scene and he was transported to a local care facility before being transferred to a larger medical center where he remained until his death. The nature of the fatal injury is still to be reported.

Incident Location: Pending

Funeral Arrangements: Pending

Memorial Fund Contact and Address: Pending

Tribute is being paid to Apparatus Operator Joseph T. Grace at <http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/fireservice/fatalities/>

To date, 58 firefighter fatalities have been reported to USFA in 2009; 56 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

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT (BLM) FIREFIGHTER STRUCK BY TREE - LODD

A firefighter with the Bureau of Land Management died Friday in Colorado after a tree fell on him. Brett Stearns, 29, of Craig was working on a hazard tree abatement project with a dozen other BLM firefighters at Freeman Reservoir, about 15 miles northeast of Craig, when the accident happened around 4:30 p.m. Stearns died at the scene. Stearns was an engine captain and worked in the BLM's Little Snake Field Office for 10 years. "He dedicated his life to protecting the lives and property of the public," said Little Snake Field manager, John Husband. The accident is being investigated by a federal accident investigation team, Husband added. Stearns is survived by his wife; parents, one brother and a half sister. Our sincere condolences to all affected.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 6-27-09 / 2030 Hours

AND:

Hey....

As they do annually, the NFPA provides an excellent report on how (within the NFPA definition of what an LODD is) firefighters lost their lives. **However, to be clear, the NFPA calculates LODD's differently than the United States Fire Administration.**

The way the NFPA looks at on-duty (LODD) deaths shows **103 Firefighter LODD's in 2008**. On the other hand, the USFA's report stated that there were **114 Firefighter LODD's** during the same time period.

Based upon the NFPA's determination of on duty firefighter fatalities in 2008, a total of 103 on-duty firefighter deaths occurred in the U.S. This is the same number of deaths (using the NFPA calculations) as occurred in the U.S. in 2007, and the fourth time in the last 10 years that the annual total has been 103. The largest share of deaths (39 deaths) occurred while firefighters were responding to or returning from emergency calls. This includes a single incident which resulted in nine deaths. Stress, exertion, and other medical-related issues, which usually result in heart attacks or other sudden cardiac events, continued to account for the largest number of fatalities.

Rita Fahy, one of the authors, has recently done a podcast about the fatalities, and the link is below if you would like to check it out. There is also a podcast that Mike Karter has done on the Patterns of Firefighter Fireground Injuries as well: Check it out **HERE:**

<http://feeds2.feedburner.com/NFPAPodcast>

Chabot College Fire & EMS News

For more information, based upon which LODD numbers you want to look at, go to our FIRE REPORTS page located here for the new **NFPA** report:

<http://firefighterclosecalls.com/fullstory.php?88488>

and here:

<http://www.firefighterclosecalls.com/firereports.php>

For the **USFA** reported information, go to:

<http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/media/press/2009releases/010709.shtm>

Why are the numbers different? In our opinion, it's the same reason FD company officers in different FD's wear different color helmets...and why some FD's lay 3" to supply a 1500 gpm pumper and why some FD's...err, uhh...well, you get the idea. Change is tough in our business and tradition, right or wrong-is also at the base of the issue. The IAFC Safety, Health and Survival Section www.IAFCSafety.org has reached out to the various organizations in an attempt to have one number based upon one common criteria.

Time will tell how that works out. Actually, the better news is that both the **NFPA** and the **USFA** reports both have ALL the info you would need to create solutions to your FD minimizing their chance of being the subject of those reports.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 6-28-09 / 2030 Hours

AND:

RHODE ISLAND FIREFIGHTER KILLED IN THE LINE OF DUTY-APPARATUS ACCIDENT

It is with deep regret that we advise you that Kingston fire officials have advised local media that a senior member of their department, who had been seriously injured while working on a ladder truck yesterday, has now died in the Line of Duty. Officials said the Firefighter, whose name has not been released, suffered a major head injury Monday afternoon just after returning from a run. The accident happened at the fire station. According to Chief of Department Nathan Barrington, the department is not releasing the name of the firefighter until family members are notified. However, officials have confirmed the victim was a volunteer firefighter for more than 40 years. During a news conference Tuesday morning, officials said the firefighter was working with other firefighters at the time of the incident. Another briefing is scheduled for 1500 hours. The incident remains under investigation. Funeral arrangements are pending. As always, our most sincere condolences to all affected.

APPARATUS ROLLOVER IN CANADA:

Firefighters in Whitby (Ontario, CN) had a close call on this morning when their fire apparatus rolled over into a ditch. The apparatus truck veered into the ditch to avoid slamming into traffic. The truck was cut off by a small car and narrowly missed hitting other cars. The driver took a sharp turn to avoid hitting the other vehicles and took out a hydro pole in the process. As a result, the apparatus landed on its side, trapping firefighters inside. 4 Firefighters were checked over by medical personnel as a precaution but no one was seriously injured in the accident.

TAke Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 6-30-09 / 1400 Hours

AND:

Hey...

As you may or may not be aware, there is a fire service related press release that was sent out by an organization, the Heritage Foundation, that impacts you. The "Heritage Foundation" has an opinion that urges **CONGRESS TO ELIMINATE THE FIRE ACT GRANT/SAFER PROGRAMS**. Nice.

And to be clear, and to those that asked us, this report was NOT done by Tri-Data. To make sure you are not confused, Tri-Data recently released a report that stated that their "**Study Fails to Establish Link between Cancer and Firefighting**". It would be easy for you to be confused since both reports provide **very** misleading and agenda driven information.

FACT:

There are clear and proven links between firefighting and cancer just like there are "links" between smoking and cancer. <http://www.iafcsafety.org/fullstory.php?85292>

And...while the Heritage Foundation is urging CONGRESS to eliminate all funding to support Firefighters and those we protect (because they claim that Fire Act and SAFER grants have not lead to safer firefighters or civilians)....they too, are wrong.

FACT:

The Fire Act and SAFER program funding HAS lead to safer firefighting and citizens being better served...and we don't need any funding or months of WTF research to prove it. Simply put, if SAFER funding can provide additional firefighters on a first alarm assignment, we are absolutely able to get water on the fire and save the stuff or the people inside that much quicker. It is a fact and can be proven and is proven daily. See that. How about THAT for a study?

And additionally, if a FD had out of date SCBA's without integral PASS alarms prior to getting their grant, and now have state of the art SCBA's the citizens and the firefighters are clearly better served. 4 door apparatus with seat belts are a clear and measurable improvement over 2 doors with FF's riding the tailboard. Radios that work as opposed to older un-operable radios are an improvement leading to a safer fireground. If a VFD received a SAFER grant for volunteer recruiting and recruited new members: there are now MORE available firefighters-which has been proven to lead to a safer and more survivable fireground.

It IS just THAT simple. It takes well TRAINED, well EQUIPPED and well STAFFED fire companies to make a difference to citizens who need us. And the FIRE ACT and SAFER Grant programs DO JUST THAT:

\$ = TRAINING = Safer and more effective fireground.

\$ = EQUIPMENT = Safer and more effective fireground.

\$ = PEOPLE = Safer and more effective fireground.

But the Heritage Foundations report claims that fire grants, including SAFER grants have no impact on fire casualties and that AFG \$ used to purchase firefighting equipment, vehicles,

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and fitness equipment does NOT reduce firefighter deaths, firefighter injuries, civilian deaths, and civilian injuries. INCREDIBLE.

Just like smoking doesn't cause cancer.

Just like there is no links between firefighting and cancer.

Absolutely Incredible.

The Heritage Foundation further insists that grants that funded fire prevention and safety projects failed to reduce firefighter deaths, firefighter injuries, civilian deaths, and civilian injuries; and that SAFER grants for firefighting positions failed to reduce firefighter deaths, firefighter injuries, civilian deaths, and civilian injuries.

So ALL the Universities and Fire Service Organizations that received related and research funding made no difference. None. A total waste of money....according to the heritage folks.

**The bottom line from The Heritage Foundation:
Congress should eliminate funding for the fire grant program.**

A friend wrote me the other day on this and said (calmly) that essentially every year Heritage or some other group suggests dropping the program etc. My concern and my response (not calmly) is the fact that THIS YEAR IS NOT "EVERY YEAR". THIS YEAR we, our Nation, have some very significant fiscal issues driven by the economy. It is NOT business as usual. **Over 5,000 Firefighters being impacted by job cuts is NOT BUSINESS AS USUAL. FD's and VFD's NOT being able to get FF survival related training, equipment and people is NOT business as usual.**

SO...should we assume THE POSITION? The THE MISSIONARY POSITION?

Take a moment to read Harry Carters take on this issue, in his article entitled: "The Missionary Position"....

[http://cms.firehouse.com/web/online/Leadership-and-Command/The-Missionary-Position/5\\$64295](http://cms.firehouse.com/web/online/Leadership-and-Command/The-Missionary-Position/5$64295)

HERE is the Heritage Foundation information and overview:

<http://www.heritage.org/research/economy/wm2499.cfm>

BUDGET CUTS & STAFFING REDUCTION INFORMATION:

We have received e-mails asking about the updates to our STAFFING page, which focuses on budget cuts, brownouts, layoffs and the related crisis so many FD's are experiencing.

The page is generally updated every weekend, and the most recent update has been done and is available **HERE:** <http://www.firefighterclosecalls.com/staffing.php>

For corrections, updates or to **SUBMIT** information about fire department cuts, send them to us **HERE:** staffing@FireFighterCloseCalls.com . The information is if significant value to many FD's, IAFF locals and others in understanding just how serious the issue is...and how lessons learned by one FD can be of value to another.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 6-30-09 / 1430 Hours

AND:

Hey...

A Toronto Deputy Fire Chief faces a charge under Ontario's strict street racing law after the fire department vehicle he was driving clocked 150 kilometres per hour on a highway last week. The cops say the vehicle was impounded for 7 days and Deputy Chief Daryl Fuglerud's license was suspended for a week on Friday after the red TFD Toyota Highlander he was driving heading eastbound in Port Hope was spotted by an aircraft patrol unit around 0926 Hours. Acting Chief of Dept Frank Lamie said D/C Fuglerud was on vacation at the time and on his way to the funeral of a retired member of the service. He said the chief, deputies and division commanders are assigned vehicles and ``use them all the time." The D/C was issued a summons to appear in court on August 5th.

ATTORNEY SERVICES:

For you Chiefs, Fire Officers and Firefighters who have been challenged by other Firefighters and Fire Officers that may not fully understand why they DO NOT want to have a serious "responding" fire apparatus or emergency vehicle crash, here is a page from a law firm that specializes in vehicle related issues.

In particular, this law firm has an entire section of their website focused on emergency vehicle drivers... for civilians. In other words, they are focused on representing those citizens who may get hurt by us.

<http://www.scarlettlawgroup.com/trucking-accidents/california-personal-injury-lawyers/emergency-vehicles.html>

While worrying about a powerful law firm coming after any of us professionally or personally following a crash shouldn't be the primary motivation to use caution while responding, it certainly is one motivation. While the primary motivation should be that we do no harm and we get there...to put...water on the fire or handle the reported emergency, it may not always be. Maybe the "attorney" part will help us "get it".

Take Care-BE CAREFUL,
BillyG

The Secret List 7-1-09 / 0530 Hours

AND:

Hey...

The Kingston (R.I.) Fire Chief, Nathaniel Barrington says it is still unclear how beloved veteran **Asst Chief Allan "Pickles" LePage**, 67, suffered a fatal head injury at the firehouse on Tuesday afternoon. Another firefighter discovered LePage, unconscious and bleeding heavily, in the bucket of a tower ladder about 20 feet above the ground. Asst Chief LePage was responsible for maintaining the Kingston Fire District's apparatus, and there is some speculation that while in the bucket he struck his head on the top sill of a firehouse bay. "We do not know at this time what caused this expert in ladder truck operations to be injured by the truck he knew so well and trained so many to operate," Barrington said. "This will be a focus of the ongoing investigation." Chief Barrington said the truck would be examined by an independent party and would be kept out of service until that examination is completed. A/C LePage was discovered at about 1445 hours and died in the Line of Duty in Rhode Island Hospital just before 1100 Wednesday morning. His wake is scheduled for 3 to 7 p.m. Friday in the Avery-Storti Funeral Home, Wakefield. The funeral will

be held at 10 a.m. Saturday in the University of Rhode Island's Ryan Center. Burial will be private.

BOSTON (Massachusetts) VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANIES?

It's a fact that within the confines of the City of New York, there are still a handful of small volunteer fire companies that still respond to runs...some who have existed even before the start of the formal formation in 1865 of the career FDNY...Check 2 of them out that are still providing service along with FDNY:

HERE: <http://richmondengine.org/> and

HERE: <http://www.edgewaterparkdabronx.com/page15.html>

But it's a whole lot different now in Boston, MA.

Not surprisingly, defiant off-duty BFD Firefighters are intentionally disobeying BFD orders and voluntarily staffing 3 Boston fire companies that were closed this week as part of a new "brown out" policy aimed at reducing overtime spending. "It's the people's firehouse. We are volunteering to staff these firehouses to make sure the public gets the protection it deserves," said Boston firefighters union President Ed Kelly, who used a department radio this morning to report that "**Volunteer Engine 20 is in service.**" The BFD "browned out" three fire companies in response to fiscal issues and the administrations claim that BFD FF's call in sick too frequently. Bills / **FireGeezer** has more **HERE:**

<http://www.firegeezer.com/2009/07/01/boston-firefighters-refuse-to-play-roulette/>

A 4th of JULY FIREFIGHTER LINE OF DUTY DEATH... REMINDER:

On July 5, 2002, a 44-year-old FF was killed while loading shells into mortars at a public fireworks display. Approximately 40 minutes into the show, the victim suddenly yelled and ran from the mortar, reportedly covered with sparks and trying to brush something from his clothing. Seconds later, a shell exploded, causing him bodily injury, and he fell. He was transported to a local hospital where he was pronounced dead later that night. A GRIM reminder with the 4th of July coming up.

HERE is the NIOSH REPORT: <http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/fire/reports/face200231.html>

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 7-2-09 / 1119 hours

AND:

NORTH CAROLINA FIREFIGHTER/U.S. SOLDIER KILLED IN THE LINE OF DUTY-

For those of your relatively new to The Secret List, we have always posted the Line of Duty Deaths of Firefighters who are soldiers or in other positions serving in our military and related support services. We also have a page where we attempt to keep the postings up to date: <http://firefighterclosecalls.com/iraq.php>

Fortunately in the last year or so, the notifications have been few and far between. Tragically, that has now changed as 4 North Carolina National Guard soldiers were killed earlier this week in Baghdad on the last day of regular combat operations for U.S. forces in Iraqi cities. One of them was a Firefighter.

We regretfully advise you that Sgt. 1st Class Edward C. Kramer, 39, of Wilmington gave his life serving his Country. Sgt. Kramer was a firefighter in Wilmington, was a veteran of Desert Shield and Desert Storm in 1991. He joined the National Guard in 1994 and deployed with the guard to Iraq in 2004. His family described Kramer in a statement Thursday as "a family man who put his family first and believed in serving his country." He liked ride his motorcycle and fish. "That's where he was most at peace - out on the beach," said Firefighter Michael Bannon. He started as a firefighter as a volunteer with the Seagate FD before joining the Camp Lejeune Fire Department and finally the City of Wilmington. He recently transferred to the Sunny Point Fire Rescue. He is survived by his wife Vicki and two daughters, 9-year-old Erica and 7-year-old Megan. "He loved us very much and he did this for his children so they wouldn't have to," his wife said in the statement. Our condolences to Sgt Kramers family, friends and those affected. R.I.P.

CALIFORNIA BRUSH TRUCK ROLLS DURING TRAINING-ALL MEMBERS BELTED IN

A Central (Calif) Fire Protection District (that serves Capitola, Soquel and Live Oak) crew wrecked a wildland engine while training in an off-road park on Wednesday. Three firefighters with experience battling wildland fires took the brush engine, to the Hollister Hills State Vehicle Recreation Area to practice off-road driving when they accidentally rolled the rig down a steep hillside. One firefighter suffered a minor injury in the crash, which remains under investigation. The fire crew was driving down a hill on a blue road, which means the terrain is moderate, around noon when the engine rolled to the left and down the slope. The crash was a "soft roll" at a slow speed and it was not a violent action, but the vehicle rolled 2½ times down a steep hillside toward a ravine before it was caught by a tree and came to rest upside down.. One firefighter suffered a minor shoulder injury when the engine flipped. The two firefighters inside, who were wearing seat belts, got out and hiked with the third firefighter, who was acting as a safety spotter, to the ranger station for help. After the wreck Wednesday, all of the firefighters involved were tested and cleared of being under the influence of intoxicants. It is standard practice for CFPD whenever there is an on-duty accident and that the agency has a no-tolerance drug policy. The suspicion is the road bed gave way, which shifted the engine's weight to one side and caused the rollover.

WALL COLLAPSE AT WORKING FIRE INJURES FIREFIGHTER IN MISSISSIPPI

One Greenwood firefighter was injured when an exterior brick wall of a taxpayer fire collapsed on him as he tried to scramble away. FF Richard Brown, 25, was taken by ambulance to Greenwood Leflore Hospital. "It looks like he got some scalp damage, some skull damage. We hope he's going to be fine," said Fire Chief Larry Griggs, who was helping man the hose when the wall came crashing down. Chief Griggs suffered a laceration to the hand and another unidentified FF took a glancing blow as they cleared away from the falling bricks. Chief Griggs said that openings that had been cut in the firewalls between the buildings over the years made it difficult for firefighters to contain the fire.

HERE is more from FFNation:

<http://www.firefighternation.com/forum/topics/miss-firefighter-injured-in>

Take care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 7-3-09 / 1345 Hours

AND:

Hey...

A rolling, unstaffed fire apparatus injured 2 civilians and a motorist inside a parked car at a southeastern Indiana July 4th fireworks display. Clarksburg Firefighters were responding to another run about 2200 Hours Saturday when the injuries occurred at Lake Santee, about 50 miles southeast of Indy. No one was inside the Clarksburg VFD apparatus when it began moving and then struck the two pedestrians and the parked vehicle. It's not clear why it began moving. They aren't disclosing the extent of the injuries, nor is the hospital where the three were taken. Details to follow.

FATAL EMS RESPONDING CRASH IN INDIANA:

A responding Clark County EMS unit collided with another vehicle Saturday afternoon, killing the driver of the car. The ambulance had its lights and siren on and was traveling through an intersection around 1400 when it crashed into a car. The woman driving the car was pronounced dead on the scene. The EMS workers were uninjured. **HERE** is more from Bills/FireGeezer - <http://www.firegeezer.com/2009/07/05/ambulance-crash-kills-1/>

NFPA REPORT ON LIGHTWEIGHT CONSTRUCTION:

The latest issue of NFPA explores the issues surrounding lightweight construction and fire. Based on recent studies, the widespread use of lightweight construction in homes is a well known source of severe danger when it comes to withstanding fires. The otherwise effective strength of lightweight structures has proven to have a much faster failure rate than traditional lumber structures when burning, a serious concern for Firefighters. **HERE** is more: <http://www.nfpa.org/newsReleaseDetails.asp?categoryid=488&itemId=44077>

JUST A FEW WEEKS UNTIL FIREHOUSE EXPO BALTIMORE-July 21-26....Details HERE:

<http://www.firehouseexpo.com/fhe/index.po>

.....and don't forget THE ANNUAL FOOLS EVENT AT FIREHOUSE EXPO:

<http://www.centralmarylandfools.com/>

We'll seeya in Balto at Firehouse Expo!

ATTENDING FIRE RESCUE INTERNATIONAL IN DALLAS?

Check out the FRI blog for speaker interviews, session previews and an inside look at FRI 2009-<http://fri.iafc.org>

PRE-CON: SAFETY, HEALTH AND SURVIVAL:

Register by **July 17th** and save big bucks on the IAFC SHS Section Seminars and FRI Registration. The SHS Section (www.IAFCSafety.org) is proud to bring you 2 days of seminars on safety and health and wellness co-sponsored by FireRescue magazine. The safety track will focus on RIT, fire testing of lightweight construction systems, situational awareness and fire ground survival. The health and wellness track takes a look at the Wellness-Fitness Initiative, cardiac disease prevention, fitness for duty and cancer awareness, detection and prevention. Full details are available at www.iafc.org/fri .

AND FINALLY...Were you aware that being a **FIREFIGHTER is a DEMANDING JOB?** Did you know it is THE MOST demanding job? See that-ANOTHER study they could've saved money on by just visiting you!

<http://www.careercast.com/jobs/content/most-demanding-jobs-jobs-rated>

Take Care-BE CAREFUL,

BillyG

The Secret List 7-5-09 / 0923 Hours

AND

PENNSYLVANIA FIREFIGHTER LINE OF DUTY DEATH-WHILE OPERATING AT A DWELLING FIRE

It is with deep regret that we advise you that a **27 year old Strattanville (Clarion County, PA) Firefighter died in the Line of Duty** early this morning. The Firefighter was transported to the Clarion Hospital after suffering cardiac arrest while operating at the at the scene of a dwelling fire and has succumbed to his injuries. Initial reports are that the FF complained of serious head pain and collapsed after that. CPR was initiated immediately by members at the scene but he tragically passed. Actual cause and details are not known at this time but it appears that this was a medically related LODD. As always, our sincere condolences to all affected.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 7-6-09 / 0730 hours

AND

NEW YORK FIREFIGHTER DIES FROM INJURIES SUSTAINED WHILE ON DUTY

A New York Firefighter has died in the Line of Duty, months after he was injured during a safety demonstration. **FF Robert Johnson** struck his head when he fell off a fire truck in October at a nursery school. He had served for 17 years in the Mahopac Falls Volunteer Fire Department in Putnam County. Fire Chief Ann Link advises that FF Johnson died late Sunday from complications due to his injuries. The former Marine was 75. FF Johnson had been in a coma since the Oct. 20 incident. He was trying to retrieve an air tank from the truck when he lost his footing and fell a few feet, striking his head on the ground and losing consciousness. Calling hours are from 7 to 9 p.m. today, and from 2 to 4 p.m. and 7 to 9 p.m. Wednesday at the Joseph J. Smith Funeral Home in Mahopac. A Mass will be held at 9:45 a.m. Thursday at St. John the Evangelist Church. As always, our most sincere condolences to all affected.

PRESIDENT OBAMA PROPOSES CHIEF KELVIN COCHRAN AS THE NEW US FIRE ADMIN:

Good news from the Obama administration yesterday as the President proposed former Shreveport (LA) and current Atlanta (GA) Fire Chief Kelvin Cochran as the new United States Fire Administrator. Chief Cochran is an EXCELLENT choice to be considered for this top fire leadership position. We have no doubt that he will be confirmed and look forward to passing on more information and opinion to you about him soon.

FIREFIGHTER CUTS=RUSSIAN ROULETTE:

CNN ran a story this weekend about the impact of budget cuts on fire services nation-wide. Note the comments from some city hall dwellers about how budget cuts, brownouts and layoffs will not impact emergency service. Note how they could not be more wrong. **HERE** is the video clip:

<http://www.cnn.com/video/?/video/politics/2009/07/06/meserve.budget.firefighters.cnn>

REST IN PEACE: We have 2 items related to this subject.

CHIEF BENNIE CRANE-CHICAGO FD:

We join the nations fire service, the Chicago FD as well as the **Fire Engineering** and **FDIC** Community as we all mourn the passing of a **true gentleman**, Chief Bennie Crane. A true "old school" Firefighter who thought forward and performed progressively while being absolutely one of the most "grounded" and "stand up" guys we knew. Rest in peace, Chief.

HERE is more:

http://www.fireengineering.com/display_article/365715/25/ONART/none/BRNIS/Fire-Engineering/FDIC-Contributor-Bennie-Crane-Passes-Away?dcmp=rss

FIREFIGHTER BRET TARVER-PHOENIX FD (AZ)

While FF Tarver died in the Line of Duty in March of 2001....perhaps the fact that an arrest has been made in conjunction with the fire that caused his death will allow him to Rest in Peace. A man has been arrested in Texas in connection with the death of the Phoenix firefighter in an arson-caused fire, as Chris Benitez was taken into custody on Saturday. FF Bret Tarver, 40, was operating at the Southwest Supermarket on March 14, 2001, when he ran out of air. FF's pulled his body out of the fire minutes before the building collapsed. An autopsy revealed he died of burns and smoke inhalation.

MORE ABOUT THE LODD OF PFD's BRET TARVER:

<http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/fire/reports/face200113.html> (NIOSH fire report)

http://www.firehouse.com/lodd/2001/az_mar14.html (article about the fire)

<http://phoenix.gov/googlesearch.html?cx=010461893690995692917%3Ad9ujarxigos&cof=FO RID%3A11&q=bret+tarver#1001> (PFD links to the LODD fire of Bret Tarver)

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Kx9oZUwhfa0> (Video related to the fire)

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 7-7-09 / 0830 hours

AND

2nd FIREFIGHTER KILLED IN IRAQ-WAS WITH Sgt KRAMER.... REST IN PEACE Sgt. ROGER ADAMS.

There was another Firefighter killed with Sgt 1st class Kramer. He is Sgt. Roger Adams of the Half Moon VFD. An improvised explosive device detonated near their Humvee in Baghdad on Monday, killing the 2 of them, as a part of the four soldiers who were lost-assigned to the 120th Combined Arms Battalion in Wilmington. 2 of the lost were Firefighters, Sgt. Roger L. Adams Jr., 36, of Jacksonville and Sgt. 1st Class Edward C. Kramer, 39, a Firefighter of Wilmington. Kramer and Adams were former Marines as well. Adams served as a Marine infantryman for 13 years before joining the National Guard in 2006. As a Marine he completed tours in Iraq and Afghanistan. He leaves behind a wife and four sons.

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"I lost the love of my life, the boys lost their dad," said Teresa Adams, his wife. "We were his world. His sons were his passion. He was the most selfless person I ever knew or ever will know." His family describes Adams as selfless and family oriented. Adams was EMT certified and worked with the Half Moon Volunteer Fire Department. His wife became a volunteer fire fighter and they answered his last call before deployment together. We paid tribute to Sgt Kramer earlier this week.

Our sincere condolences to the family and friends of Sgt Roger Adams.

Take Care.BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 7-7-09 / 1700 hours

AND:

ASST CHIEF LODD AT HOUSE FIRE-FIRE WORKS TO BLAME-SUSPECT CHARGED

A Schell City teenager has been charged in connection with two fires that lead to the Line of Duty death of the Assistant Fire Chief. Charles Stewart, 18, was charged with damaging a house and a storage building and is facing two charges of second-degree arson. **Schell City Assistant Fire Chief Dale Haddix died in the Line in Duty** while operating at the vacant dwelling fire. Assistant Fire Chief Haddix engaged the pump on the department apparatus and then slumped over as he experienced a medical emergency. Efforts to save the life of Chief Haddix were unsuccessful. Stewart admitted shooting a Roman candle at the structure that caught fire Saturday and also admitted to setting fire at an unoccupied home in Schell City June 20. As always, our sincere condolences to all affected.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 7-7-09 / 1730 hours

AND:

Hey

This week, another solemn fire service multi-LODD anniversary was remembered. **15 years ago in Colorado on Storm King Mountain, 14 Firefighters died in the Line of Duty.** HERE are more details on that fire and the loss of those Firefighters:

<http://coloradofirecamp.com/south-canyon-fire/index.htm>

<http://www.coloradofirecamp.com/Cramer/osha-south-canyon.htm>

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

REST IN PEACE

MORE INFORMATION: The Heritage Foundation and FIRE GRANTS:

But first, a **CLARIFICATION:** So there is **NO** confusion, the word **HERITAGE** within fire service circles includes 2 OUTSTANDING groups:

Fireman's Fund Insurance Company's Heritage Program, which supports FD's nationally with grants is not affiliated with the Heritage Foundation, a conservative think tank that advocates eliminating the Federal Fire grants, calling them ineffective. **Fireman's Fund does not support the Foundation's position.** www.firemansfund.com/heritage

The National Fire Heritage Center, whose primary objective is to archive the history of the American Fire Service and Fire Protection Disciplines. Check out the OUTSTANDING work of these good folks HERE: <http://nationalfireheritagecenter.com/>

MORE - Info on Federal Fire Grants and Heritage Foundation's Opinions.

After posting our initial concerns about the **Heritage Foundation's motives**, research was submitted to us to help readers of The Secret List determine what the true facts are related to the comments by the Heritage Foundation (using the NAPA report) to urge congress to eliminate all **FEDERAL FIRE GRANT FUNDING**:

On June 23rd, 2009, the Heritage Foundation announced on their website that they would be releasing a report that, "finds that fire grants, including grants that subsidize the salaries of firefighters, had no impact on fire casualties," and so these programs should not be renewed by Congress [1]. It is understandable that such an announcement would provoke an emotional response from members of the fire service, myself included, but it is important that we respond calmly and with fact, not to the Heritage Foundation, but to the **members of Congress and the executive leadership in our country** who ultimately will decide policy. In reading the announcement put forth by the Foundation, and the 178-page National Academy of Public Administration (NAPA) report that they cite heavily, here are some observations that can be used to answer the criticisms of the Foundation and affirm the legitimacy of the AFG program.

First off, the NAPA report, which was commissioned by the Department of Homeland Security to evaluate the effectiveness of the AFG and to determine strategic objectives for the program, does not support the idea that federal funding should be discontinued. According to the NAPA report, the AFG is uniquely positioned to help fire departments adapt to a changing environment, support EMS functions, support national preparedness, positively impact technology advancement, promote regionalism, increase ISO ratings, and increase fire prevention, all while maintaining social equity, a well-informed peer-review process, and using only a tiny fraction of the total funds spent on fire protection annually.

Without a doubt the fire service is constantly changing and adapting. No one can predict what tomorrow's emergencies might be, but we somehow need to be able to effectively handle them. **The NAPA report acknowledges that, "investments by the AFG program may be the assistance needed - especially in financially strapped communities to support needed improvements and to adapt to changing local and national demands" [2]. The NAPA believes that the AFG has the power to alter the behavior and best practices of the fire service through its guidelines, and that this is very important for the safety of the public.**

One adaptation that the NAPA specifically supports in its report is the strengthening of the nation's EMS system. More and more fire departments are taking on ambulance service delivery, and there are some gaps in the quality of care from community to community. According to the report, EMS response is one of three main areas that the AFG program can potentially impact [3]. The NAPA report also notes that the program can work, "with others to support strengthened EMS capabilities and effectiveness" [4].

As first responders, firefighters and EMTs are the frontline for disasters and emergencies. We are an important part of national preparedness at all levels. The NAPA report does not lose sight of this, and recognizes that the AFG program satisfies several of the necessary capabilities of the National Response Plan. These capabilities include, but are not limited to: firefighting operations/support; triage and prehospital treatment; and WMD/hazardous materials response [5]. In other words, building local capacity, which the AFG does, will increase national safety on the whole. The Foundation should stand behind this, as they, "want an America that is safe and secure" [6].

Given the state of the economy and the unfortunately high job loss that has resulted, every market is trying to brace itself. The NAPA report understands that funds provided by the AFG program have a significant impact on the public safety marketplace [7]. According to the report, "there is a clear federal interest in continuing to encourage both the supply and demand sides to innovate and improve" [8]. The report goes on to say that, "it can be argued that the AFG program's competitive grant process reinforces the competitive dynamics that support accelerated progress" [9]. This progress in turn makes the public safer in the hands of well-trained firefighters and EMTs.

Mutual aid agreements are nothing new in the fire service, especially as demand increases but funds decrease. There is a growing trend in governance to look at problems as crossing traditional municipal boundaries, and emergency response certainly must do this. This is why the AFG program was amended to include regional grants. The NAPA report believes this should actually be expanded, stating that, "the [NAPA] Panel believes that still greater emphasis on funding region-wide capabilities could increase returns from AFG spending both to national preparedness and to local public safety" [10].

One of the benefits of the AFG to local communities, besides improved local and regional preparedness, is in a better ISO rating. ISO is of course the Insurance Service Office, the agency that evaluates a community's fire prevention and suppression capabilities, which can have an impact on insurance premiums paid by citizens. Quoting Mike Waters, VP of ISO's Risk Decision Services Department, the NAPA Report states that, "while there are many assumptions made in review of this data...there is an indication that over 50 percent of the jurisdictions [that received AFG money for apparatus and PPC] improved their classification, and many by two or more classifications" [11]. To be fair, these findings are not conclusive yet, but they are illustrative of the AFG's potential positive impact on homeowners.

The best way to protect life safety at a fire is to put the fire out. It's even better, though, if the fire never starts. It's the recommendation of the NAPA report that the AFG program becomes more involved with projects that prevent fires, because there is real potential to impact the number of people hurt and killed by fire, and the dollars lost in property [12]. As is it, this isn't just the view of the NAPA, but of the program's stakeholders, which is us [13]. Fire prevention is an integral part of what we as first responders should stand for, and the AFG program can influence the importance and regularity of this behavior for the benefit of the citizenry.

It is the responsibility of public administrators to serve the public with professionalism and

equality to the best of their abilities. As first responders we are all front-line bureaucrats, interacting with the public and trying to deliver services without discrimination or favor to any individual or group. Unfortunately, some communities are better off than others in their capacity for response. **The NAPA believes that by following its recommendations, "the AFG program can increase the cost-effectiveness of its grants by targeting their use to places and people at greatest risk" [14]. One could argue that this concept of social equity, which the AFG and the fire service embody, is actually in line with the Heritage Foundation's mission to promote government that, "shows favor to none" [15].**

When it comes to government grant programs, government officials are usually responsible for assessing applications and defining program direction and funding priorities. This is not the case with the AFG. Instead, fire service leaders are responsible for ranking applications in a peer-review process. In mapping the future strategic direction of the AFG program, the NAPA remarks that, "The challenge for the AFG program will be to support a gradual shift in direction without losing major strengths of its current management approach, including industry driven priority setting and its well-respected peer-review process" [16]. It's important to note not only NAPA's affirmation of the peer-review process, but also the overall management of the program. **As they put it, "it is a positive case study in the management of a grant program by a government agency, although there is as always room for improvement" [17].**

For the most part, our emergency services are all locally funded, either by a municipality, a county, or a state. Compared to local funding, federal funding is tiny. "AFG awards made in federal FY2004 were \$675 million, while local governments managed expenditures of more than \$28 billion," according to the NAPA report [18]. This means that the AFG program represents only 2.41% of fire prevention and response spending annually. Even more amazing is the fact that, "the growth of state and local spending since the AFG program was enacted...exceeds the level of annual appropriations for the federal program" [19]. In other words, the growth alone in local spending each year is greater than the total cost of the AFG program. **Looking back on the list of benefits that the AFG program is capable of accomplishing, and comparing it to its relative cost, clearly there is a great deal of potential for a comparatively low fee.**

It is only fair to acknowledge that the NAPA report believes that response capacity may be at a point where additional funding is not as effective as that spent on prevention. Ultimately, however, the NAPA report says it best when it asks: "Would a shift to emphasizing prevention and protection efforts by its grant recipients have the expected influence on public death and injury rates? The obverse is also important; that is, would a shift away from the building of response capabilities having [sic] a negative effect on public deaths and injuries?" [20]. While death and injury rates are one metric to measure effectiveness, there are many other variables that must be considered: public investment, community assessed risks, effectiveness of EMS, prevention efforts, cost effectiveness of projects, regional projects, and national preparedness [21]. Only through this broader prism can we effectively judge the AFG program.

We hope this information is helpful as this week, reps from the major fire service organizations and firefighters themselves are communicating the IMPORTANCE of FULL FUNDING for the SAFER and THE FIRE ACT Programs to their Federally elected

officials.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 7-8-09 /0600 Hours

BIO & FOOTNOTES:

The author of the above information is a Firefighter/EMT from Massachusetts. He attended Worcester State College as a Tsongas Scholar, and graduated in 2007 with honors as a Commonwealth Honors Scholar with a BA in History and Urban Studies. His undergraduate capstone was published in 2007. Presently he is working towards a Masters in Public Administration at Northern Illinois University while working as an administrative and instructional assistant at a public safety training academy.

[1] David Muhlhausen, "Do DHS Fire Grants Reduce Fire Casualties?" The Heritage Foundation - Conservative Policy Research and Analysis, <http://www.heritage.org/research/economy/wm2499.cfm> (accessed July 5, 2009).

[2] James Kunde et al., Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program: Assessing Performance (Washington, D.C.: National Academy of Public Administration, 2007), p. 96.

[3] Ibid., pp 45-49.

[4] Ibid., p 139.

[5] Ibid., pp 100-101.

[6] The Heritage Foundation, "About The Heritage Foundation" The Heritage Foundation - Conservative Policy Research and Analysis, <http://www.heritage.org/About/aboutHeritage.cfm> (accessed July 5, 2009).

[7] James Kunde et al., Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program, p. 76.

[8] Ibid.

[9] Ibid.

[10] Ibid., p. 105.

[11] Ibid., p. 171.

[12] Ibid., pp. 141-143.

[13] Ibid., p. 141.

[14] Ibid., p. 105.

[15] The Heritage Foundation, "About The Heritage Foundation".

[16] James Kunde et al., Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program, p. 139.

[17] Ibid., p. 67.

[18] Ibid., p. 59.

[19] Ibid.

[20] Ibid., p. 175.

[21] Ibid., p. 164.

AND:

Hey....

Shaker Heights (Ohio) Fire Chief Don Barnes was fired this week after balking at orders from his mayor to make more cuts in the FD budget. But others claim there are other areas that should be cut first...such as flower maintenance and some "double dippers" who work at city hall. The mayor had asked him to cut \$250,000 from his \$8.3 million budget. The mayor said he did not want to cut firefighters because the city had laid off four this year. The mayor said he wanted Barnes to trim management costs.

On the other hand, some claims that the mayor doesn't give all the details. **He doesn't mention that the only employees that are not taking a pay cut are him, the finance director, and the CAO. The CAO retired and came back as a "civilian" so she gets 2 salaries, her pension and her salary. She makes more than the governor of Ohio.** The mayor also does not disclose that they paid for flower baskets and pay someone to go around and water the flower baskets.

Chief Barnes declined comment, referring all calls to his lawyer, Joseph Diemert. Barnes said in a letter to the mayor last month that cuts would damage the department and the protection it provides residents. "I just can't professionally or morally do what you have instructed without jeopardizing the health, safety and welfare of our residents and our firefighters," he wrote. **HERE is more:** <http://firefighterclosecalls.com/fullstory.php?89088>

REMEMBERING HACKENSACK FORD:

We planned to provide this info last week, but due to other LODD's and related events, were unable to and apologize. **20 years ago last week** that infamous 60-ton bow strung truss roof collapsed at a working fire killing Capt. Richard L. Williams, 53, Firefighter William Krejsa, 51, and Firefighter Leonard Radumski, 38. And then, two additional firefighters, Lt. Richard Reinhagen, 48, and Stephen Ennis, 30, survived the initial collapse but were trapped in a closet and running out of air...as the men cried out for help over a portable radio while rescuers struggled to find them, they too lost their lives in the Line of Duty. EVERY Firefighter should be educated on. Odd's are, many TSL's members were not old enough to remember this fire...or were not even born yet.

HERE is how you can learn about how those **5 Firefighters gave their lives**-and what has been learned since then:

<http://www.hackensackchronicle.com/NC/0/321.html>

Chabot College Fire & EMS News

<http://www.nytimes.com/1988/07/02/nyregion/5-firefighters-killed-in-jersey-as-a-roof-collapses.html>

<http://www.cyberonic.net/~mikef6/p0000120.htm>

<http://www.wusa9.com/news/columnist/blogs/2008/06/hackensack-ford-20-years-later.html>

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 7-8-09 / 1224 hours

AND

It is with deep regret that we advise that Firefighter David Grass Jr of the Ste. Genevieve (MO) FD has died in the Line of Duty. FF Grass passed away at 1140 hours, today, July 8th, 2009.

Firefighter Grass was at the fire station doing department sponsored physical fitness training when he became ill, yesterday, Tuesday, July 7th. Firefighter Grass was preparing for an upcoming State Firefighter Certification program at the time of the incident. After becoming ill, Firefighter Grass was flown to St. Louis University Medical Center by air ambulance. Despite the efforts of the medical staff, Firefighter Grass succumb to an apparent brain injury while involved in the physical fitness training. David Grass Jr. had been a Volunteer Firefighter since January 20th of this year. He was 34 years old and is survived by his wife Paula, of 9 years and two children Collin, age 8, and Alyssa, age 4. Funeral arrangements are pending at this time. As always, our most sincere condolences go out to all affected.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 7-8-09 2000 Hours

AND:

Hey...

A fire apparatus responding to an automatic alarm in **East Hampton** (CT) rolled over and crashed this morning. There were injured Firefighters and entrapment but reports from there indicate the injuries are non-life threatening. The apparatus from East Hampton was responding and for a yet to be determined reason, the driver lost control, crashed, rolled and in the process took out several utility polls. The crash occurred around 1100 hours this morning. We'll post updates on our home page later.

APPARATUS CRASH IN MAINE:

A station wagon collided with a Sanford (ME) FD pumper Wednesday afternoon. A man and woman in the car were injured, treated and released. SFD's Engine 2 was heading to a reported auto crash when the station wagon pulled in front of the engine company at the intersection. The 2 Firefighters in the truck were not injured in the crash.

N.J. RESCUE SQUAD RESPONDING VS POLICE SAYING STOP:

In Bound Brook NJ there is a dispute now being dealt with in court between as responding rescue company and a police office ordering where the rescue squad should be positioned and concerned about a railroad crossing. You can read more **HERE:**

http://www.nj.com/news/local/index.ssf/2009/07/bound_brook_rescue_squad_leade.html

CORRECTION: In our usual haste, it should have been noted that this was the 21st year of the tragic loss of the Hackensack Firefighters, not the 20th. **HERE** are photos from Bretts Fire Photos of this years service:

http://brettsfirephotos.smugmug.com/gallery/8773778_pFTpn#580832691_JrjaM

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 7-9-09 / 1410 Hours

AND:

Hey

I think like many of you, we have seen the below article in **Firehouse.com** this afternoon that gave me, and many others, some very serious concern.

THIS IS PART OF WHAT WAS PUBLISHED ON FIREHOUSE.COM:

"The neediest fire companies across the country would be all but eliminated from receiving fire grants under a proposal penned by several major fire service organizations. If approved, the match for departments serving populations of 20,000 or fewer would jump from 5 to 15 percent, while those with populations between 20,000 to 50,000 would be 15 percent, up 5 percent from what they pay now. The largest departments, however, would see a 5 percent decline in the funds they would have to promise. Right now, it's 20 percent, but their share would be just 15 percent. The proposal by the IAFF, IAFC, NFPA and CFSI surfaced Wednesday during a House subcommittee hearing on the Fire Act grant program reauthorization. The NVFC was not consulted, and other groups including the International Association of Arson Investigators did not sign off on the 15 percent proposal. "

TO BE CLEAR: The IAFC absolutely denies what was published as being accurate and they have countered with a response (below). The IAFC is requesting an immediate correction from Firehouse.com.

THIS IS PART OF WHAT THE IAFC HAS IMMEDIATELY RESPONDED WITH:

"This morning, Firehouse.com released an article that erroneously indicated that the IAFC supports raising the FIRE grant program's local match for smaller departments. The IAFC does not support raising the match for jurisdictions serving smaller populations. (The entire IAFC response is shown below, scroll down)

HERE is the entire article from Firehouse.com

<http://cms.firehouse.com/content/article/article.jsp?sectionId=46&id=64458>

HERE is information related to the testimony from the IAFC:

<http://www.iafc.org/displayindustryarticle.cfm?articlenbr=39771>

(Below is the IAFC STATEMENT regarding Firehouse.com's article being inaccurate)

It is no secret that we are gravely concerned about making sure that both the FIRE ACT GRANTS as well as the SAFER Grants receive full funding, including bringing the FIRE ACT

Grants back up to last years funding, as well raising SAFER to the level as is currently proposed. **More to follow.**

Take Care-BE CAREFUL,

BillyG

The Secret List 7-9-09 / 2113 hours

www.FireFighterCloseCalls.com

IAFC MEMBER ALERT-Contact: IAFC Government Relations Department

The IAFC Cites Inaccuracy in Firehouse.com Article on FIRE Grants, Requests Immediate Correction

Fairfax, Va., July 9, 2009... This morning, Firehouse.com released an article that erroneously indicated that the IAFC supports raising the FIRE grant program's local match for smaller departments. The IAFC does not support raising the match for jurisdictions serving smaller populations. According to the current statute, fire departments with a population of greater than 50,000 have to meet a 20 percent match. A jurisdiction with 20,000 to 50,000 residents has to meet a 10 percent match, and a jurisdiction with 20,000 or fewer residents only has to meet a 5 percent match. The IAFC joined with the IAFF, CFSI and NFPA in support of a proposal to reduce the match for communities of greater than 50,000 from 20 percent to 15 percent. The IAFC does not support increasing the match for the smaller jurisdictions, and has made that clear in both its testimony before the House Science and Technology Committee and in meetings on Capitol Hill.

The IAFC also has recommended that Congress create a waiver for jurisdictions that cannot meet these local match requirements. To quote Chief Johnson during yesterday's hearing before the House Science and Technology Committee, "According to the existing statute, most jurisdictions must meet a 20 percent match, while jurisdictions serving smaller populations must meet matches as low as 5 percent. Some jurisdictions cannot meet these requirements due to the economic downturn, but still need training or need to replace antiquated equipment. The IAFC recommends that Congress create the authority for DHS to waive the local match requirement for these needy departments. To read Chief Johnson's written testimony, please go to: www.iafc.org/displayindustryarticle.cfm?articlenbr=39771

The IAFC has asked that Firehouse.com correct its story, and Chief Johnson will talk with the Firehouse.com reporter tomorrow morning to make sure that the IAFC position is accurately understood.

AND:

Hey

There has been a apparatus rollover in **Raleigh, NC** this morning. It is reported that a Raleigh, NC Tiller Ladder has overturned at Dawson & South Streets in Downtown Raleigh. Apparently 3 firefighters have have injured, but we have received reports that all were wearing seatbelts at the time of the accident. Police on the scene speculate the driver was trying to make a left on South Street from Dawson Street and did a three-quarter flip into a grassy area off the road. The wreck occurred around 10:50 a.m. about a block away from a downtown fire station. The truck was on its way to a structure fire, said Rusty Styons,

Chabot College Fire & EMS News

Raleigh Fire Department's assistant chief. Four fire fighters were riding in the truck. Three were injured and taken to WakeMed Hospital. Two of the injuries were serious, but not life threatening, Styons said. The driver was not injured and remained the scene.

Pictures are posted on our homepage at: <http://firefighterclosecalls.com/fullstory.php?89226>
For news articles related to the crash visit: <http://www.wral.com/news/local/story/5546712/>

Take Care-BE CAREFUL,
BillyG
The Secret List 7-10-09 / 1313 hours

AND:

Hey...

A 28-year-old southwest Idaho Firefighter has been flown to Seattle with severe burns he suffered operating at a wildfire in Alaska. FF Todd Warner was transported to Fairbanks with second- and third-degree burns last night after a gasoline explosion around 1900 Hours. This morning, he was sent to Harbor View Hospital in Seattle to be treated for burns. FF Warner received those burns on his hands, arms and face with the initial indications were that he had about 20 percent burns to his body. FF Warner is a member of the 20-man Idaho City Hotshot crew that left for Alaska Wednesday morning with a 737 jet load of Firefighters to help with the growing number of fires. Initial indications were that FF Warner and a few other Firefighters were working with a water pump, which may have been drafting water, when the accident took place...and he was burned by either a flash fire or an explosion that was fueled by gasoline. The others in the area did not report injuries. FF Warner is a veteran FF who has been with the Idaho hotshots crew for several years...his wife was on the way to Seattle to be with him. We wish him a rapid recovery.

MA. FIREFIGHTERS TRANSPORTED FROM A HAZMAT RUN:

Eight Yarmouth Firefighters were hospitalized after a Level 3 hazmat incident involving fertilizer at a cranberry bog today, Friday about noon. Along with the 8 FF's who were sent to Cape Cod Hospital, another 23 had to be deconned.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.
BillyG
The Secret List 7-10-09 / 2137 hours

AND

Line of Duty Deaths - Louisiana and United Kingdom - www.FirefighterCloseCalls.com

It is with deep regret that we advise the Line of Duty Death of **Firefighter /Paramedic Joe Gravs of the Mandeville Fire Department in Mandeville, LA and Advance Care EMS**. FF Gravs had just completed a shift at the Mandeville FD and had just reported for work at Advance Care EMS. FF Gravs suffered a stroke and was transported to the hospital where he died on July 11, 2009. Our sincere condolences to all affected.

United Kingdom LODD - The Lothian and Borders Fire Service of Scotland in the United Kingdom reports the Line of Duty Death of Firefighter Ewan Williamson. FF Williamson died when a floor gave way when he was engaged in firefighting efforts at the Balmoral Bar.

Chabot College Fire & EMS News

Twenty people also had to be rescued from apartments above the fire including an infant. The cause of the fire is not known at this time. Our sincere condolences to all affected.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 7-12-09 / 1200 hours

AND

Hey...

A **Belleplain (Cape May County, NJ) Emergency Corps** ambulance responding to 9-1-1 cardiac emergency call lost control and subsequently struck the porch of a home. A woman sitting on the porch was also hit. Companies were dispatched to the scene with additional ambulances and paramedics around 1720 this afternoon. The civilian on the porch believed to be in her 50's was airlifted to Atlanticare Regional Medical Center's trauma unit in Atlantic City, her condition is reported to be stable. The EMT's in the responding ambulance received minor injuries.

Also please note that there was an error in the name of the Mandeville Louisiana LODD. The correct name is Operator/Paramedic Joseph Grace. Our sincere condolences to all affected.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 7-13-09 2130 Hours

AND

Hey

A Fire Police Officer in Delaware was struck last night by a reported drunk driver. The Fire Police Officer from the **Blades Volunteer Fire Company** was handling traffic at a separate detail when he was struck. While he was seriously injured with some fractures and related injuries and is currently in ICU, his injuries are currently reported to be non-life threatening.

Another reminder of how bad it is out there and how we must act as if the intent of drivers is to strike us...and then take action based upon that assumption.

We wish the BVFC FPO a rapid recovery.

And on a rare positive note from us, especially for fire apparatus buffs (**especially** Mack CF's) PA FF Matt Grant was toned out to respond on a fire call last Saturday. When he left his home to go on the run, he saw the working fire was "right there" threatening his neighbor's home in Lancaster County's Denver, so he did what he could...which was to help use his own Mack CF. **HERE is more:**

<http://articles.lancasteronline.com/local/4/239790>

Take Care-BE CAREFUL,

BillyG

The Secret List 7-14-09 / 0851 hours

AND:

Hey-

As you will remember, on January 25 of this year, 2 Firefighters were killed in the Line of Duty after falling from the bucket of a tower ladder during training in Texas. The NIOSH report (below) identifies factors leading to the tragic ending including Firefighters being unfamiliar with the controls on the newly purchased aerial platform truck, training in a "high risk" scenario before becoming familiar with new equipment, failure to use fall restraints, the design of the platform railing and integrated doors and the location of the lifting eyes underneath the platform...all which contributed to the platform snagging on the building's parapet wall.

Firefighters Kyle Perkins, 45, and Cory Galloway, 28, both died in the Line of Duty after falling approximately 83 feet to the ground.

The Firefighters were training on their newly purchased 95-foot mid-mount truck. 4 FF's were standing in the bucket which was raised to the roof of an 8 story dormitory building at a local college. The bucket became stuck on the concrete parapet wall at the top of the building. During attempts to free the bucket, the top edge of the parapet wall gave way and the aerial ladder sprung back from the top of the building, then began to whip violently back and forth. 2 of the 4 Fire fighters standing in the bucket were ejected from the platform by the motion. The Firefighters fell approximately 83 feet to the ground and died from their injuries.

HERE is the report: <http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/fire/reports/face200906.html>

HERE is an article:

<http://www.tylerpaper.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20090717/NEWS01/907170335>

FIREFIGHTER KILLED AT WAR:

Illinois Army National Guard Spc. Christopher M. Talbert has given his life for our Country. Talbert was a medic in Afghanistan with the 33rd Infantry Brigade Combat Team, based in Milan. He was killed July 7 when an improvised explosive device blew up near his vehicle near Shindad. Talbert also served as a Firefighter in East Galesburg. He enlisted in the National Guard last year. Our sincere condolences.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL-See you in Baltimore at FIREHOUSE next week,
BillyG

The Secret List 7-17-09 / 0950 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:

Sacramento (CA) Union officials sent a letter to city negotiators late Monday that proposed freezing firefighter salaries for 30 months in exchange for city assurance that no firefighters would be laid off this year. Up to 68 firefighters face layoffs later this week if the union and city are unable to agree on salary concessions, which city officials say are needed to help fill a \$50 million citywide budget deficit for the 2009-2010 fiscal year: <http://www.sacbee.com/latest/story/1989238.html>

In a sign there may be a breakthrough in the city's contentious negotiations with the fire union, the Sacramento (CA) City Council has scheduled a closed session today to discuss labor strategies. While city officials would not discuss today's agenda, the meeting was scheduled minutes after city negotiators finished talks Tuesday afternoon with the fire union on a proposal to freeze firefighter salaries for 30 months: <http://www.sacbee.com/city/story/1991100.html>

A new fiscal year in Vallejo (CA) kicks off this morning with the closure of the city's third of eight fire stations, this time on Mare Island. The station's 8 a.m. closure, considered by Vallejo officials as separate from the city's year-old Chapter 9 bankruptcy filing, is one of many coming changes, that include layoffs and employee wage and benefit cuts: http://www.timesheraldonline.com/ci_12729815

The Clark County (NV) Fire Department may have fire stations take turns shutting down for a shift at a time (24 hours) to help make up for the county's budget shortfall: http://www.rgj.com/article/20090630/NEWS/90630017&OAS_sitepage%3Dnews.rgj.com/breakingnews

Don't believe everything you hear....The Clark County (NV) Fire Department now says the idea of temporarily shutting down stations to ease the county's money crunch is not on the drawing board: <http://www.kxnt.com/Fire-Department--Brownouts--Not-Considered/4714803>

Paradise Pines (CA) POA Manager Richard Alloway is one of many having a hard time dealing a new reality. The reality that on Wednesday, Butte County Cal Fire will begin the temporary closures of some fire stations, which is known as rotating brownouts: <http://www.khsltv.com/content/topstories/story/Butte-County-Cal-Fires-Rotating-Brownouts-A-Huge/VI7KrJ1UjkeXlybByPaD0A.csp>

With the new budget year starting, the Prince George's County (MD) Fire/EMS Department is trying to do more with less. This means removing career staffing from firehouses on a rotating basis and, in at least one case on Wednesday, forcing a firehouse to close. Department spokesman Mark Brady confirms the county does not have the money to staff fire stations as it has done in previous budgets. In recent weeks the department has been redeploying firefighters on a smaller scale, but now is doing this in as many as six fire stations at a time across the county: <http://www.wusa9.com/news/columnist/blogs/2009/07/click-here-and-then-scroll-down-for.html>

The union representing Cincinnati (OH) firefighters has said it will not agree to furloughs to help offset the city's budget shortfall. Last week, the City Council passed \$20 million worth of budget cuts that included six-day furloughs for all city employees, including firefighters and police officers:

<http://www.wlwt.com/money/19917674/detail.html>

The Sacramento (CA) City Council has approved a fire union proposal to freeze firefighter salaries for 30 months. If ratified by union members, the agreement would spare the jobs of up to 68 firefighters scheduled to be laid off Friday. Under the deal, a 5 percent raise due to firefighters on July 14 will be delayed for 30 months. In return, no fire personnel will lose their jobs for one year:

<http://www.sacbee.com/latest/story/1994322.html>

The San Francisco (CA) Board of Supervisors cut a budget deal with Mayor Gavin Newsom on Wednesday evening that would use nearly \$44 million to save health and human services programs without laying off police or firefighters:

<http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/c/a/2009/07/02/BAH818HPEA.DTL>

Yesterday, 25 Escondido (CA) employees became the first casualties of the city's \$6.7 million in budget cuts. It was their last day, after they were given layoff notices June 11, although the City Council did not adopt a budget that included the layoffs until this week. Those eliminated included code enforcement officers, planners and the Fire Department's entire team of 12 emergency medical technicians. No firefighter or police officer was laid off: <http://www3.signonsandiego.com/stories/2009/jul/02/city-cuts-include-12-emts-13-others/?uniontrib>

Defiant off-duty firefighters are disobeying Boston (MA) Fire Department orders and voluntarily staffing three Boston fire companies that were closed today as part of a new "brown out" policy aimed at reducing overtime spending. So, does that show the city that they'll now work for free? Hopefully they don't get injured because since they are not technically on duty, they are probably not covered by Workers Compensation. Also, since volunteering for your own department may violate the Fair Labor Standards Act, they are probably not doing anybody any favors, including themselves: http://www.bostonherald.com/news/regional/view/20090701boston_fire_union_refuses_to_leave_closed_stations/srvc%3Dhome&position%3D4

Fire station 10, Santa Rosa's (CA) outpost for fighting fires and providing medical aid, is shuttered today, the first day of nine-months of rolling station closures expected to save the city over \$1 million. The station on Corporate Center Parkway will reopen at 8 a.m. on Thursday. At the same time, fire station 11 on Lewis Road will close for 48 hours. The fire stations will trade off closures (brownouts) through next spring: <http://www.pressdemocrat.com/article/20090707/ARTICLES/907079956/1350?Title=First-Santa-Rosa-fire-station-shuttered-for-two-days-to-save-money>

Furloughed firefighters. Shuttered fire stations. Fewer rescuers on pump and ladder trucks. And, at the same time, a growing number of fires in abandoned houses and more 911 calls from people too poor to see doctors. It's all adding up to a two-alarm

crisis for the nation's fire services, according to the nation's biggest firefighter union and some prominent government groups:

<http://www.cnn.com/2009/POLITICS/07/06/budget.firefighters/index.html>

The Fire Department budget could be big issue in San Bernardino (CA) City Council race: http://www.contracostatimes.com/california/ci_12763588?nclick_check=1

Police and fire personnel have joined the rest of the city's employees in taking pay cuts to help Arlington (WA) through lean times. By agreeing to trim holiday pay for the rest of the year, police officers and firefighters will save the city more than \$100,000, city spokeswoman Kristin Banfield said:

<http://www.heraldnet.com/article/20090708/NEWS01/707089780&news01ad%3D1>

The popular image of brave firefighters running into burning buildings, saving people trapped in wrecked vehicles and rescuing cats in trees has helped their union win enviable salaries and benefits. But experts and local officials say that image could take a hit this week as Clark County (NV) firefighters are expected to, in effect, reject the county's request for wage concessions amid near-record budget shortfalls. It's a move that some say could work against the long-term aims of firefighters — who will enter talks with the county for a new contract next year — by weakening support from the public, which pays their salaries, and the elected officials who covet their political endorsements: <http://www.lasvegassun.com/news/2009/jul/15/refusing-givebacks-now/>

Unions representing Oceanside Fire Department employees have agreed to concessions in hopes of saving three positions eliminated during recent budget cutbacks. The trade-off, which the City Council will consider Wednesday, would eliminate uniform allowances and reduce holiday time for one year:

<http://www.nctimes.com/articles/2009/07/07/news/coastal/oceanside/zdf15b294fa5b5b3e882575eb0080406e.txt>

The Oceanside (CA) City Council has rejected a firefighters' offer to give up \$400,000 in benefits to save three positions, stoking the flames of a boiling dispute between three council members and public-safety unions:

<http://www3.signonsandiego.com/stories/2009/jul/10/1mi11oside001826-firefighters-offer-save-jobs-no-g/?uniontrib>

State of California firefighting costs have nearly tripled in the past decade but Cal Fire has avoided taking major hits in Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger's proposed budget:

http://www.dailybulletin.com/ci_12821581

Englewood (CO) officials lauded police officers and non-emergency employees for the spirit of cooperation in this time of the city's financial crunch as the two groups agreed to no raises for 2010:

http://coloradocommunitynewspapers.com/articles/2009/07/10/englewood_herald/news/17_tm_city_pay_en.txt

The city of Palm Springs could consider closing one of its fire stations to save money during its fiscal crisis, the city manager said Tuesday. Fire Station No. 5, at 5800

Bolero Road, off Golf Club Drive, could be closed if the city doesn't bring in enough hotel taxes and the state decides to grab money from the city's budget, City Manager David Ready said:

<http://www.mydesert.com/article/20090708/NEWS08/907080319/Strapped+city+may+shutter+fire+station+to+shrink+cash+gap>

A property tax increase to pay for emergency medical services may be important, but it's not going on the ballot in November. The Everett (WA) City Council on Wednesday did an about-face on whether to put it before voters, mainly because a panel of business owners and residents argued that this is the wrong time to ask for a tax increase: <http://www.heraldnet.com/article/20090710/NEWS01/707109867/1010/BIZ01>

Fire station closures in Santa Rosa (CA) create a lonely void for firefighters:

<http://www.pressdemocrat.com/article/20090708/NEWS/907089997?Title=Closures-create-lonely-void>

Two weeks after the South Fire Station in Tewksbury (MA) shut its doors, selectmen last night endorsed \$100,000 in firefighter concessions that will help limit the station's closing to two months:

<http://www.firerescue1.com/fire-products/fire-department-management/articles/508550-Mass-firefighters-sacrifice-benefits-to-limit-station-closure/>

Riverside County (CA) should consider forming its own fire department in the future instead of contracting with the state, which plans to hike administrative fees this year, a new county grand jury report says. Fire officials should also do more to discipline career firefighters who create a hostile work environment for their volunteer colleagues and to address conflict between the two groups, the grand jury said: http://www.pe.com/localnews/rivcounty/stories/PE_News_Local_S_firegrandjury09.3762f90.html

The Burbank (CA) Fire Department on Monday will trim the number of on-duty firefighters by two as part of the cost-cutting measures passed by the City Council in June, officials said. The move is a result of the \$1.27 million budget cut the Fire Department sustained as part of this fiscal year's spending plan, and will allow officials to reinstate Engine 14, which was taken out of operation July 1 for at least six months to save \$563,828, acting Burbank Fire Department Chief Ray Krakowski said: <http://www.burbankleader.com/articles/2009/07/09/publicsafety/doc4a563994a644d246518874.txt>

Orlando (FL) Mayor Buddy Dyer's plan to lay off 46 firefighters to help plug a \$41.5 million deficit has gotten a lot of attention. But another provision of the cost-cutting plan has generated little discussion: the elimination of eight ambulances that transport Orlando's most critical patients:

<http://www.firerescue1.com/legislation-funding/articles/508541-Fla-plan-would-cut-ambulances-in-Orlando/>

The prospect of losing a ladder truck or engine -- and the firefighters to staff it -- has prompted letters and faxes from residents to the Rubidoux (CA) Community Services

District asking officials to find ways to save money other than by cutting fire protection. Cal Fire/Riverside County Fire Chief John Hawkins is set to attend tonight's meeting of the community services district board of directors to talk about a flier the firefighters' union distributed warning that the community was losing "50%" of its fire protection:

www.pe.com/localnews/riverside/stories/PE_News_Local_W_wrubi16.48cc8f0.html

San Francisco (CA)'s skyrocketing pension costs are untenable and both unions and politicians are to blame for abusing the system by negotiating extraordinary pension and retirement benefits without considering the unfair burden on future generations, according to a report issued Thursday. The document specifically targets San Francisco's police officers and firefighters for essentially gaming the system through "spiking" - the practice of artificially inflating retirement benefits by increasing their compensation just before retiring, often through temporary promotions: <http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/c/a/2009/07/16/BA1E18Q0V6.DTL>

The Rialto (CA) Fire Department anticipates between six and 15 pink slips will be handed out some time within the next week. City Administrator Henry Garcia on Wednesday informed the department of the move, initiated in the face of a \$4.8 million budget shortfall. "I think the economic forecast reflects that fire service agencies (across the state) would have to do some belt tightening," Fire Chief Robert Espinosa said: http://www.insidebayarea.com/california/ci_12845652

Police officers and firefighters could be laid off to help eliminate Long Beach (CA) \$43.3 million general fund budget deficit, with or without potentially millions of dollars in state takeaways, Long Beach City Manager Pat West stated on Thursday: http://www.presstelegram.com/news/ci_12855333

The union representing Oakland (CA) firefighters voted 335-64 in favor of a new contract that will freeze wages and increase the hours firefighters work as the city faces an ongoing financial crisis, the union's president said this week. The city relied heavily on concessions from city workers to try to balance its budget this year, and the firefighters became the second major city union this week to agree to a new contract. Chuck Garcia, president of Local 55 of the International Association of Fire Fighters, which represents Oakland firefighters, said the union agreed to the deal to save jobs and protect services. "I think it's important that the citizens know that Local 55 took a leadership position to save the city \$6.4 million so the city could have a balanced budget," he said: http://www.insidebayarea.com/oaklandtribune/localnews/ci_12854892

A year after the expiration of their contract, the Menlo Park (CA) Fire Protection District has reached an impasse in negotiations with the union representing 93 firefighters. There is a wide divide on pay and benefit issues, but details of the negotiations are not public so it is not clear exactly what each side is asking for. A June 2 memo to the union from district negotiator Richard Bolanos said the union is insisting on "substantial" raises in each of the next four years, including an 11 percent raise in the first year, while the fire board is pressing to postpone pay raises until the end of this year: http://www.almanacnews.com/news/show_story.php?id=4405

Financial and power-sharing concerns prompted the Avondale (AZ) City Council to shoot down actions that would shorten fire response times in the northwest area. The 8½-minute response times to northwest Avondale will remain the norm for now, with the automatic-aid fire system driving whether there is a quicker response to a medical or fire situation. Automatic aid is a system in which dispatchers send the closest fire truck to respond to emergencies, regardless of municipal or jurisdictional boundaries: <http://www.azcentral.com/community/swvalley/articles/2009/07/16/20090716swv-avonfire0717.html>

Because Boulder (CO) sales and use tax collections are lower than expected in the face of the national economic downturn, city leaders decided Tuesday to pursue using property-tax revenue to fund certain "critical" programs. The Boulder City Council agreed to have staffers come back at an upcoming meeting with a proposal to use about \$483,000 in newly available property-tax money to pay for an additional city firefighter, safety equipment, fuel and other necessary governmental services necessary to operate: <http://www.coloradodaily.com/news/2009/jul/14/shortfall-boulder-tax-revenue-leaves-gap-critical/>

San Rafael (CA) firefighters this week agreed to defer contractual raises to help the city get back on its feet - leaving about \$400,000 over two years lingering longer in the cash-strapped city coffers. "The city and the fire association struck an outstanding agreement, which will certainly help our budget picture," City Manager Ken Nordhoff said: http://www.pasadenastarnews.com/california/ci_12837840

Cuts to firefighters' overtime and a property tax hike are part of the Tolleson (AZ) final 2009-10 budget of \$83.3 million, which is about \$600,000 lower than last year's approved budget but calls for no further layoffs: <http://www.azcentral.com/community/swvalley/articles/2009/07/16/20090716swv-tolbudget0716-ON.html>

Public Relations Nightmare Stories:

A top Toronto (ONT) fire official is the latest emergency worker to be charged under racing laws after police clocked a department SUV traveling 150 km/h on Hwy. 401. Deputy Fire Chief Daryl Fuglerud was driving with another deputy fire chief to the funeral of a retired firefighter in the Kingston area when his red Toyota Highlander was pulled over Friday morning just outside Port Hope. The Highlander, which belongs to Toronto Fire Services, has been impounded for seven days, and the driver's license has been suspended for a week: <http://cms.firehouse.com/content/article/article.jsp?id=64329§ionId=46>

A Central Fire (Santa Cruz County, CA) crew wrecked a wildland engine while training in an off-road park Wednesday and it's unclear if the firefighting apparatus can be salvaged, officials reported Thursday. Three firefighters with experience battling wildland fires took the vehicle, known as a brush engine, to the Hollister Hills State Vehicle Recreation Area to practice off-road driving when they accidentally rolled the rig

down a steep hillside, according to Central Fire Chief Bruce Clark. One firefighter suffered a minor injury in the crash, which remains under investigation:

http://www.santacruzsentinel.com/ci_12746640?source=most_viewed

Criminal charges against a Pittsburgh (PA) firefighter spurred a union-management showdown yesterday, with Mayor Luke Ravenstahl's administration calling for more disciplinary rights and drug testing, and a labor leader demanding innocent-until-proven-guilty treatment for a seven-year veteran. Sparking the fight was firefighter Vincent Manzella, 31, who was charged Thursday with burglary, theft and calling in false alarms. The fake alarms were a diversion, according to a criminal complaint, so he could burglarize a Lawrenceville firehouse to support a heroin habit. "We have an employee that has been placed in a great deal of trust, and he misused that trust," said Public Safety Director Michael Huss. "We tend to have within the Fire Bureau more of this type of illegal drug use than we do in our other public safety bureaus."

<http://www.post-gazette.com/pg/09181/980774-53.stm>

A retired Portland (OR) firefighter was sentenced Tuesday to 25 years in prison for beating and strangling his 90-year-old mother in her Hazel Dell-area home last year:

http://www.oregonlive.com/news/index.ssf/2009/07/retired_portland_firefighter_g.html

They are usually our heroes, protecting people and property from fire. But now, it's a shocking story of felony arson charges against, of all people, a local fire captain from North Las Vegas (NV) Fire Department:

http://www.kvbc.com/Global/story.asp?S=10634641&nav=menu107_2_6

Clark County (NV) Fire Department employees routinely received extra pay, in the years immediately preceding their retirement, that will substantially increase their retirement pay, the Review-Journal discovered in an analysis of department payroll records. The practice called "spiking" has been reported in other public agencies as well and was the root reason for certain reforms to the Nevada Public Employee Retirement System passed by the 2009 Legislature. Spiking is also thought to be an important reason for the PERS system's unfunded liability, reported at \$7.2 billion:

<http://www.lvrj.com/news/49971932.html>

A North Las Vegas (NV) fire captain has pleaded not guilty to arson and insurance fraud charges. Gary V. Stover was indicted on felony charges of arson, arson with intent to defraud insurer, insurance fraud and two counts of theft:

http://www.rgj.com/article/20090716/NEWS07/90716056&OAS_sitepage%3Dnews.rgj.com/breakingnews

The Columbus (OH) firefighter who killed his family dogs instead of boarding them should be fired, Chief Ned Pettus Jr. recommended today. The city has received more than 2,000 complaints from the public concerning Santuomo, 43, who pleaded guilty in June to two counts of animal cruelty and one count of possessing a criminal tool after an investigation showed he tied two dogs to a pipe in his basement, spread a plastic sheet and shot the dogs 11 times. An assistant county prosecutor said Santuomo then bragged to fellow firefighters about shooting the dogs so he could go on a vacation

cruise without paying for boarding: [http://cms.firehouse.com/web/online/News/Ohio-Chief-Recommend-Firing-Firefighter-Who-Shot-Dogs/46\\$64473](http://cms.firehouse.com/web/online/News/Ohio-Chief-Recommend-Firing-Firefighter-Who-Shot-Dogs/46$64473)

Two women firefighters — one black, one white — discovered racist graffiti scrawled on the door of female quarters at Houston (TX) Intercontinental Airport's Fire Station 54 this morning, adding more heat to an already tense racial atmosphere within the city's fire department. The discovery came just weeks after City Council earmarked \$60,000 for firefighter sensitivity training after a noose-like knot was found in the locker of a veteran departmental captain:

<http://www.chron.com/disp/story.mpl/hotstories/6517328.html>

The city of Colorado Springs (CO) is planning a vigorous defense to the scandalous allegations in a lawsuit claiming gender discrimination and inappropriate sexual comments in the workplace by the first black female battalion chief in the Colorado Springs Fire Department. The city's Civil Action Investigation Committee is recommending the City Attorney's Office defend Fire Chief Steven Cox in the lawsuit filed against him in his official capacity by Pamela Butler, who was demoted to captain in March 2006: <http://www.gazette.com/articles/city-58278-discrimination-planning.html>

The fire chief in Orting (WA) lost his job Thursday amid charges he misappropriated funds, misled the fire district's board of commissioners and had "anger issues."

http://blogs.thenewstribune.com/street/2009/07/09/orting_fire_chief_fired

Several videos shot inside Houston (TX) fire stations appear to show a violation of the department's no-hazing policy: <http://www.click2houston.com/news/20035662/detail.html>

Federal authorities plan to investigate the lack of black and Hispanic police officers and firefighters in the city of Aurora (CO), according to a letter obtained Thursday by *The Aurora Sentinel*. The letter, which a lawyer from the United States Department of Justice sent to city officials earlier this month, said federal investigators believe the percentage of blacks and Hispanics in the police and fire departments is lower than it should be:

<http://www.aurorasentinel.com/articles/2009/07/16/news/doc4a5fb995ee9e4248897581.txt>

The owner of a historic house that burned down on Saturday is blaming firefighters for their slow response time and lack of action. Los Angeles County (CA) Fire Department officials dispute the allegations and said they were at the blaze two minutes after they received the initial call and had flames knocked down within 40 minutes:

http://www.dailybulletin.com/ci_12830802

Two top commanders in the Los Angeles (CA) Fire Department's arson and counterterrorism unit are alleging retaliation for alerting superiors about misconduct, including at least one false arrest and fabrication of evidence, according to court records and interviews with sources. Battalion Chief John Miller and Capt. Michael Rueda say they were transferred out of the department's Arson Counter-Terrorism Section after disclosing "violations of state or federal statutes" by members of the unit, according to a complaint filed in Superior Court:

http://www.latimes.com/news/local/la-me-fire-misconduct10-2009jul10%2C0%2C4360031_story

Four Haverhill (MA) firefighters face suspension after a private investigator hired by the mayor videotaped them carrying furniture, shoveling snow, attending a hockey game, and doing other activities on sick days that suggested they were fit for duty, Mayor James J. Fiorentini said:

http://www.boston.com/news/local/massachusetts/articles/2009/07/15/haverhill_firefighters_taped_on_sick_days_face_suspension/

The Columbus (OH) firefighter who executed his two dogs and lied to investigators has 10 days to appeal after he was fired yesterday by the city safety director. David Santuomo, 43, is the first firefighter to be fired by the city since 2006 and only the 10th during the past two decades. Chief Ned Pettus Jr. recommended termination last week, saying that Santuomo's actions brought "disrepute" to the Fire Division. He found Santuomo guilty of five departmental charges of dishonesty, improper behavior, insubordination and abusive or violent behavior:

http://www.dispatch.com/live/content/local_news/stories/2009/07/17/FireOrNot.ART_ART_07-17-09_A1_MNEGG30.html?sid=101

General Fire Service Related Stories:

Don't think everyone appreciates what we do: The refrigeration mechanic who was rescued by San Jose (CA) firefighters Monday after he fell 20 feet down an air conditioning chute told the Mercury News on Tuesday that he broke his back and has mixed feelings about his rescue and thinks the firefighters could have done a better job by gotten him out quicker than they did and had forgotten about taking spinal precautions: http://www.pasadenastarnews.com/california/ci_12726785

A Cal Fire representative received a lashing from several Atwater City Council members Monday night after presenting a review of Cal Fire's nine months as the city's fire service. The council's litany of criticism included Cal Fire's slow weed abatement work, its less than transparent or fair process for hiring weed cutting contractors and the fact that the contractor chosen happened to be owned by the father of a Cal Fire employee:

http://www.mercedsunstar.com/167/story/949390.html?storylink=omni_popular

Investigative findings into what caused a fatal eight-story fall by two Kilgore (TX) firefighters from the elevated aerial platform of a firetruck Jan. 25 on the Kilgore College campus were released Thursday. Key contributing factors to the incident, identified in the investigation by the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health, were

- Firefighters being unfamiliar with the controls on the newly purchased aerial platform truck
- training in a "high risk" scenario before becoming familiar with new equipment

- failure to use fall restraints
- the design of the platform railing and integrated doors and the location of the lifting eyes underneath the platform which contributed to the platform snagging on the building's parapet wall.

<http://www.tylerpaper.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20090717/NEWS01/907170335>

Upset at not being consulted on cutbacks and questionable data on response times, Washoe County (NV) commissioners on Tuesday demanded an audit before renewing the fire service contract with the Reno Fire Department that covers 80,000 residents:

<http://www.rgj.com/article/20090715/NEWS/907150417>

Dangers to spot during fireground size-up: Many injuries on the fireground can be prevented by a clearer understanding of buildings and building construction. The importance of the key role size-up plays on the fireground has always been emphasized to me, from fire school to lectures several years later. No matter what the discussion, the common theme that threaded them all together was the importance of size-up:

<http://www.firerescue1.com/Columnists/Jason-Poremba/articles/508663-Dangers-to-Spot-During-Size-up/>

Fire officials in west St. Louis County (MO) want to make sure all that's smoking are the fires. In what's thought to be the most aggressive anti-smoking policy among fire departments in the state, firefighters and other employees of the West County Emergency Medical Service (EMS) and Fire Protection District won't be allowed to smoke on the job or in uniform starting in January. Also, all employees hired after January 1 must agree not to smoke or chew tobacco while on- or off-duty:

<http://www.firerescue1.com/fire-department-management/articles/507980-Mo-fire-district-bans-smoking-in-uniform/>

Poison traps don't make a dent in the mouse problem. The basement pipes are rife with asbestos. The ceilings leak. The urinals are broken. And the shower is overrun with mold. But the opossum foraging in the kitchen of the William Street firehouse was the last straw. The size of a house cat, the marsupial was waddling near the water cooler, forcing firefighters to put down their sandwiches and kill it. "It definitely becomes a morale issue when you have to clean up possum blood near the water cooler the next morning," said Patrick Florio, president of the Englewood (NJ) firefighter's union: [http://cms.firehouse.com/web/online/News/New-Jersey-Firefighters-Battle-Mice-and-Mold/46\\$64522](http://cms.firehouse.com/web/online/News/New-Jersey-Firefighters-Battle-Mice-and-Mold/46$64522)

The San Diego (CA) Fire Department is losing more personnel than usual this year, possibly over 100 firefighters due to retirement:

<http://www.kpbs.org/news/2009/jul/15/sdfd-losing-over-100-employees/>

Nearly 30 Boston (MA) firefighters with pending disability claims filed for retirement yesterday, just two days before a new state law ends a controversial benefit that allows them to significantly enhance their pensions if they claim career-ending injuries occurred while filling in for a superior at a higher pay grade:

<http://cms.firehouse.com/content/article/article.jsp?id=64318§ionId=46>

In a decision that could have sweeping impact on employers across the nation, the Supreme Court ruled today that white and Hispanic firefighters in New Haven, Conn., were unfairly denied promotions because of their race, reversing a decision that Supreme Court nominee Sonia Sotomayor endorsed as an appeals court judge. Splitting down ideological lines, the court ruled 5-4 that New Haven violated a landmark civil rights law when the city threw out the results of a promotions exam after it was determined that none of the black firefighters who took the test scored well enough to be promoted:

<http://abcnews.go.com/Politics/SCOTUS/story?id=7782103&page=1>

And in a related story from New Haven (CT): Dealt a setback by the U.S. Supreme Court, the leader of an organization for black firefighters Tuesday vowed, "It doesn't end here." Fire Lt. Gary Tinney, president of the New Haven Firebird Society, a fraternal organization for black firefighters, said despite Monday's ruling, African-Americans would challenge the city if it certifies results from two contested 2003 promotional exams, as the court ruling appears to have compelled it to do:

http://www.nhregister.com/articles/2009/07/01/news/new_haven/a1-firebirdsrespond.txt

The City of Philadelphia (PA) this year quietly paid out \$275,000 to settle claims by five white firefighters that they had been discriminated against in the promotion process. Not only did the city pay five lieutenants between \$30,000 and \$40,000 each in the January settlement of a 2007 federal civil-rights lawsuit, but the Philadelphia Fire Department also agreed to address the officers' complaints that the promotional exams they took in 2005 were skewed against them in favor of the minority candidates:

<http://www.firerescue1.com/labor-issues/articles/506341-Philly-quietly-paid-to-settle-promotion-discrimination-claims/>

Always expect the unexpected, don't think everyone loves us and considers us heroes and will not hurt us, and don't let your guard down – A Tulsa (OK) firefighter was recently attacked by a crowbar-wielding man after dousing a burning couch behind a house:

http://www.tulsaworld.com/news/article.aspx?subjectid=298&articleid=20090630_298_0_Afiref266982

A Portland (OR) deputy city attorney fired off an e-mail Monday morning to the city's human resources manager, attaching a copy of Monday's U.S. Supreme Court ruling -- as did legal counsels for local employers and employees across Oregon. But opinion was mixed on what it means for either public or private employers. Municipal managers said they work to increase diversity in their work forces through recruitment before testing, but some fear the ruling could make it harder to attract minority candidates:

www.oregonlive.com/news/index.ssf/2009/06/oregon_officials_gauge_impact.html

It's not lightweight construction. It's what happens when lightweight construction meets fire. Two recent studies detail the relationship between fire and engineered wood construction assemblies—notably, that they burn quicker and fail faster than their dimensional lumber counterparts. What do the findings mean for the fire

service, builders, consumers, and National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) codes?
<http://www.nfpa.org/publicJournalDetail.asp?categoryID=1857&itemID=43878&src=NFPAJournal&cookie%5Ftest=1>

New Haven (CT) Firefighter Frank Ricci, scheduled to testify about Sonia Sotomayor's ruling against his reverse discrimination lawsuit, was targeted for criticism Monday by powerful liberal groups who support her confirmation to the Supreme Court:
http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/31894862/ns/politics-more_politics/

Republicans on the Senate Judiciary Committee aren't letting go of the issue involving white firefighters from Connecticut who last month won a reverse discrimination case at the Supreme Court: <http://www.newsvine.com/news/2009/07/14/3026175-republicans-keep-citing-sotomayor-firefighter-case>

New Haven, Connecticut, firefighter Frank Ricci — the lead plaintiff in perhaps the most controversial case involving Judge Sonia Sotomayor — said Thursday that Sotomayor's rejection of his reverse discrimination claim had undermined the concept of a merit-based civil service system:
<http://politicalticker.blogs.cnn.com/2009/07/16/new-haven-firefighter-blasts-sotomayor-for-ruling-along-racial-lines/>

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

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

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

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