



## ***FIRE & EMS NEWS***

February 21, 2009

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**W**elcome 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.

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### **FIREFIGHTER FATALITY AFTER ACTION REPORT:**

**N**IOSH has released their 100 plus page report on the tragic **Charleston (SC)** Fire where nine firefighters lost their lives in the line-of-duty on June 18, 2008. This, like every other line-of-duty death report should be mandatory reading for all personnel, especially company officers and chief officers. We should not Monday morning quarterback or second guess what has happened, but we can do our best to do what it takes to learn from history so we don't allow history to repeat itself.

**C**lick on the link below for more information, and be safe out there. Train like your life depends on it, because it does.

<http://cms.firehouse.com/content/article/article.jsp?sectionId=56&id=62714>

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### **FIREFIGHTER PREPARATION WORKSHOP:**

- **ENTRY LEVEL FIREFIGHTER WORKSHOP!!!**

**Las Positas College "Multimedia Theater" - Building 2400  
March 29, 2009 - 8AM – 5PM**

**Keynote Speaker: Battalion Chief Paul Lepore, Long Beach Fire Department**

**\$10 (Lunch & Certificate included)**

## TOPICS WILL INCLUDE:

- Being the ideal candidate
- Chief's interviews
- Code and honor
- Interviews
- Applications and resumes
- Education
- Paramedic school
- Physical fitness
- Preparation for the job
- Reserve and volunteer programs
- Rookie expectations

**\* Reservations are Required \***  
**\*By March 23, 2009\***

Contact: [robertpatlas@comcast.net](mailto:robertpatlas@comcast.net)  
[rjohansen@laspositascollege.edu](mailto:rjohansen@laspositascollege.edu)

*Selected participants will receive a practice interview given by  
Certified Oral Board Raters*

*Bring your resume!*

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

### **U.S. Fire Administration Announces Board of Visitor Appointments**

Emmitsburg, MD - In close cooperation with the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), the United States Fire Administration (USFA) announces today the appointment of two new members to serve on the [Board of Visitors \(BOV\)](#) for the National Fire Academy (NFA). Effective January 14, 2009, Randy Novak and Adam Thiel have joined the current BOV members: Ms. Helen Johnson, Dr. Sandy Bogucki, Fire Chief Kelvin Cochran, Mr. Robert Cumberland, Mr. Chris Neal and Columbus Fire Captain Jack Reall.

"I am pleased to welcome Director Novak and Chief Thiel to the Academy's BOV. Both of these individuals bring a wealth of experience in training and education, along with remarkable accomplishments in the fire and emergency services," said Dr. Denis Onieal, NFA Superintendent and Acting U.S. Fire Administrator.

Director Novak is the long-time director of the Iowa State Fire Training Academy and an officer in the North American Fire Training Directors Association. Chief Thiel is the Chief of the Fire Department in Alexandria, Virginia, the former Deputy Chief of Goodyear, Arizona and the former State Fire Training Director in Virginia. Director Novak and Chief Thiel replace outgoing BOV members, Dr. Robert Fleming and Fire Chief Don Oliver.

“Both Dr. Fleming and Chief Oliver were passionate, articulate and influential members of the BOV; no task was too difficult, no challenge too daunting, no effort too complex,” continued Oneal. “Their legacy will always be the visionary course of action that they set for the Academy. Saying good-bye to both of them has been one of the more difficult things I’ve had to do, but fortunately for all of us, they both offered to continue to assist the NFA in any way they can.”

The Board of Visitors plays an important role in enhancing the academic stature of NFA. Authority for the Board comes from Public Law 93-498, the Federal Fire Prevention and Control Act of 1974. Functions of the Board are to examine National Fire Academy programs; monitor the adequacy of the Academy facilities; and examine the funding levels for the Academy programs. Members of the Board of Visitors are selected from professionals in the fields of fire safety, fire prevention, education and training, fire control, research and development in fire protection, treatment and rehabilitation of fire victims, or local government services management, and from such professional organizations as will ensure a balanced representation of fire and emergency services interests.

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## **FIRE SAFETY INFORMATION FROM THE U.S. FIRE ADMINISTRATION:**

### **Cooking Fires**

Fires resulting from cooking continue to be the most common type of fire experienced in U.S. households. Cooking fires are also the leading cause of civilian fire injuries in residences. These fires are preventable by simply being more attentive to the use of cooking materials and equipment.

Here are some simple tips to ensure fire safe cooking:

- Never leave boiling, frying, or broiling food unattended;
- Wear short, tight-fitting sleeves when cooking;
- Keep anything that can catch fire away from the stovetop.

Don't become a cooking fire casualty. [Learn the facts about cooking fire safety today!](#)

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## **FIRE SERVICE TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES IN THE MONTEREY (CA) AREA:**

### **2009-2010 SCHEDULE OF COURSES**

## CALIFORNIA FIRE ACADEMY AT MONTEREY BAY

2642 Colonel Durham St.

Seaside CA 93955

(831) 646-4240 [nrodda@mpc.edu](mailto:nrodda@mpc.edu)

### August 2009

10 to 14 Fire Prevention 1A  
17 to 21 Fire Command 2A  
17 to 21 Fire Prevention 1C  
24 to 28 Fire Prevention 2A  
31 to 9/4 Fire Instructor 2A

### September 2009

14 to 18 Fire Command 1A  
21 to 25 EMT Instructor Orientation  
28 to 10/2 Fire Management 2A

### October 2009

12 to 16 Fire Management 2E  
19 to 23 Fire Command 2C  
26 to 30 Fire Investigation 2A

### November 2009

2 to 6 Fire Instructor 2B  
16 to 20 Fire Prevention 2B  
30 to 12/4 Fire Investigation 1A

### December 2009

7 to 11 Fire Prevention 3A

### January 2010

11 to 15 Fire Prevention 1B  
25 to 29 ICS 300/400

### February 2010

1 to 5 Fire Instructor 1A  
1 to 5 Fire Management 2D  
22 to 26 Fire Command 2B  
22 to 26 Fire Command 1C

### March 2010

1 to 5 Fire Command 2E  
8 to 12 Fire Instructor 1B  
15 to 19 Fire Management 2C  
15 to 19 Fire Command 1B  
22 to 26 Fire Instructor 2C

### April 2010

12 to 16 Fire Command 2D  
19 to 23 Fire Management 2B  
19 to 23 Fire Prevention 3B  
26 to 30 Fire Instructor 1C

### May 2010

3 to 7 Fire Command 1C  
10 to 14 Fire Prevention 2C  
17 to 21 Fire Investigation 1B

### June 2010

7 to 11 Fire Investigation 2B  
14 to 18 Fire Management 1  
21 to 25 Fire Instructor 3

Please call to register as early as possible to facilitate planning.

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## **PROMOTIONAL PREPARATION COURSES:**

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

- Thursday **May 7** and Friday **May 8**, 2009 – **Union City, CA**
- Monday **July 27** and Tuesday **July 28**, 2009 – **Petaluma, CA**

***Class sizes are 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!

Union City, CA		Petaluma, CA	
<b>Dates:</b>	Thursday May 7 <u>and</u> Friday May 8, 2009	<b>Dates:</b>	Monday July 27 <u>and</u> Tuesday July 28, 2009
<b>Location:</b>	<b>Union City Fire Department Training Center Classroom</b> 33555 Central Ave. (behind Station 1) Union City, CA 94587	<b>Location:</b>	<b>Petaluma Community Center</b> 320 North McDowell Blvd. Petaluma, CA 94954
<b>Cost:</b>	\$220.00 for the two-day session	<b>Cost:</b>	\$220.00 for the two-day session

## Topics Covered Include (but are not limited to):

- So you want to promote in the fire service?
  - An overview of what to expect and 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.

**Register:** Go to [www.code3firetraining.com](http://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](mailto:sprziborowski@aol.com) for more information.

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

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## **FIRE SERVICE TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES:**

**H**ere are a number of fire service seminars being offered by FireNuggets.com in 2009 – sign up now as they will surely sell out and be very popular! For more information, go to their website at [www.firenuggets.com](http://www.firenuggets.com)

### **Seminar #1:**

**Thursday, March 19, 2009 — "Strategy, Tactics and Survival in the Wildland/Urban Interface": Presented by Battalion Chief John P.Harris (ret.), Los Angeles County Fire Department**

Wildland/urban interface firefighting and structure protection can be a very dangerous assignment and is probably the most misunderstood tactically. Attendees will be exposed to tactics that are not in wildland firefighting study materials and exposed to unique concepts utilizing LCES as a baseline decision making process to commit or not to commit to structure protection. Attendees will also be exposed to survival techniques that are not being taught anywhere in the fire service. Basic wildland fire fighting will cover hose lays, structure protection, air operations, basic line construction, dozer operations, assignment of resources for the first captain and battalion chief, up to 40-50 units. Unified Command will be presented/demonstrated utilizing local, state and federal wildland resources. ICS may be discussed but this is NOT an ICS class. The objective of this presentation is ALL who attend will be able to perform safely and effectively on a wind driven wildland/urban interface fire the following day.

**For details on this seminar, go to: [www.firenuggets.com/seminarbaypro09harris.pdf](http://www.firenuggets.com/seminarbaypro09harris.pdf)**

### **Seminar #2:**

**Thursday, October 8, 2009 — "Duty - Pride - Tradition": Presented by Chief J.P. "Mac" McCastland (ret.), Oak Lawn Fire Department, and Deputy District Chief Edmund J. Enright (ret.), Chicago Fire Department**

This seminar will center on the concept of similarities that are found both on the Fireground and the Battleground. In both arenas strong leadership is the key to a successful operation; this leadership

can be at any level of the company. Using a series of photos and personal beliefs, the presenters will instill DUTY – PRIDE and TRADITION as words to be included in the personal ethos of the audience.

For details on this seminar, go to: [www.firenuggets.com/seminarbaypro09enright.pdf](http://www.firenuggets.com/seminarbaypro09enright.pdf)

**Seminar #3:**

**Thursday, December 3, 2009 — "Truck Company Operations: Keeping Badges Off the Wall": Presented by Deputy District Chief Steve Chikerotis, Chicago Fire Department**

Chief Steve Chikerotis will deliver a colorful PowerPoint presentation loaded with fire case studies and lessons learned from his personal experiences in 30 years of crawling hallways with the Chicago Fire Department. Each incident is brought to life through exciting pictures, video, and audio. Each story reinforces powerful lessons learned. Topics covered includes Truck Operations, Coordinated Tactics, Risk Management, Reading Smoke, Building Construction & Collapse, Fireground Tactics, Rescue Triage, Search & Rescue Principles, Vent-Enter-Search, Ladder Rescue, Thermal Image Camera Search, Flashover/Backdraft, Communications and Accountability, Commanding the May Day, and RIT Rescue. This class will be enjoyed by the seasoned veteran as well as the new recruit. The goal of the class is to prevent firefighter deaths through safer and more effective fireground tactics.

For details on this seminar, go to:

[www.firenuggets.com/seminarbaypro09chikerotis.pdf](http://www.firenuggets.com/seminarbaypro09chikerotis.pdf)

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

**Carr Convention Center**  
4400 Rosewood Drive  
Pleasanton, CA 94588

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## **FIRE SERVICE TRAINING & SAFETY INFO FROM THE IAFF AND IAFC:**

- **From the International Association of Fire Fighters:**

**Start Planning Now for 2009 Safety, Health and Survival Week**

"Protect Yourself: Your Safety, Health and Survival Are Your Responsibility"

The International Association of Fire Fighters and the International Association of Fire Chiefs encourages all IAFF affiliates and their fire departments to participate in the 2009 Safety, Health and Survival Week, scheduled for June 14-20, 2009.

Using the the theme, "Protect Yourself: Your Safety, Health and Survival Are Your Responsibility," this week is an opportunity for fire and EMS departments to review safety

policies, evaluate the progress of existing initiatives and discuss health and wellness practices, and to use the week to correct safety deficiencies and to provide training as needed.

An entire week is set aside to ensure that every crew/shift can spend one day focusing on fire fighter safety, health and survival.

This program is designed to help fire and EMS personnel manage risk and improve health and safety.

"The Safety, Health and Survival Week is a unique opportunity for labor and management to work together to take defensive action against dangers that can be controlled or prevented, and make a long-term commitment to staying safe and healthy," says IAFF General President Harold Schaitberger.

**Recommended areas of focus include:**

- [Emergency Vehicle Safety](#)
- [Stop, Drop and Control High Blood Pressure Campaign](#)
- [National Fire Fighter Near-Miss Reporting System](#)

**Other resources:**

[Working to Death: Leading Causes of Death Among First Responders](#)

"Working to Death" is a series of articles in the *International Fire Fighter* that examine the health risks fire fighters face. More importantly, the series looks at what can be done to prevent fire fighter deaths and illustrates how some are improving the health and safety of fire fighters.

[Fit to Survive](#)

A Fire Fighter's Online Guide to Health and Nutrition

[IAFF/IAFC Wellness-Fitness Initiative](#)

[IAFF Division of Occupational Health, Safety and Medicine](#)

For more information, [click here](#) or contact the IAFF Department of Occupational Health, Safety and Medicine at (202) 824-1594.

- ***From the International Association of Fire Chiefs:***

**IAFC MEMBER ALERT: FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Contact: IAFC Communications Department  
703-293-0911 • [www.iafc.org](http://www.iafc.org)

**2009 SAFETY, HEALTH AND SURVIVAL WEEK THEME  
ANNOUNCED:**



## *Protect Yourself: Your Safety, Health and Survival Are Your Responsibility*

**Fairfax, Va., Feb. 3, 2009...** The International Association of Fire Chiefs ([IAFC](#)) and the International Association of Fire Fighters ([IAFF](#)) are pleased to announce the theme **Protect Yourself: Your Safety, Health and Survival Are Your Responsibility** for the [2009 Safety, Health and Survival Week](#), scheduled for June 14-20.

We encourage all fire/EMS departments to devote this week to reviewing safety policies, evaluating the progress of existing initiatives and discussing health and fitness. Fire/EMS departments should make a concerted effort during the week to correct safety deficiencies and to provide training as needed. An entire week is provided to ensure that each shift and volunteer duty crew can spend one day focusing on fire fighter safety, health and survival.

**Protect Yourself: Your Safety, Health and Survival Are Your Responsibility** encourages chiefs and fire/EMS personnel to focus on what they personally can do to manage risk and enhance their health and safety. This year's theme reflects the need for personal responsibility and accountability within a strong safety culture.

"Fire fighter safety is a full-time job for all of us, all of the time. We can't rely on someone else to do it for us. It takes personal commitment," said IAFC President Chief Larry Grorud, CFO, MIFireE.

"The Safety, Health and Survival Week is an opportunity for IAFF members and their fire chiefs to take defensive action against dangers that can be controlled or prevented and make a long-term commitment to staying safe and healthy," said IAFF General President Harold Schaitberger.

Deputy Chief Billy Goldfeder, chair of the IAFC's Safety, Health and Survival (SHS) Section said, "While some fire fighter injury and death cannot be avoided, so much of it can be, and it so often falls to each of us taking responsibility for ourselves and each other. A very critical factor in success is the role of fire officers and chiefs developing policy, providing training and enforcing the policy based on training to each and every member. The IAFC SHS Section proactively leads and supports any department, anywhere, in accomplishing these goals."

Recommended activities and materials will incorporate four key areas where standard operating procedures, policies and initiatives—along with the training and enforcement that support them—can limit fire/EMS personnel's risk of injury or death:

### **Safety – Emergency Driving (*Enough is Enough—End Senseless Death*)**

1. Lower speeds—stop racing to the scene. Drive safely and arrive alive to help others.
2. Utilize seat belts—never drive or ride without them.
3. Stop at every intersection—look in all directions and then proceed in a safe manner.

### **Health – Fire Fighter Heart Disease and Cancer Education and Prevention**

1. Don't smoke or use tobacco products.

2. Get active.
3. Eat a heart-healthy diet.
4. Maintain a healthy weight.
5. Get regular health screenings.

**Survival – Structural Size-Up and Situational Awareness**

1. Keep apprised of different types of building materials and construction used in your community.
2. Develop a comprehensive size-up checklist.
3. Always complete a 360° walk of the structure to collect valuable, operational decision-making information.
4. Learn the practice of reading smoke.
5. Be familiar with the accepted rules of engagement.
6. Learn your accountability system and use it.
7. Master your tools and equipment.
8. Remain calm and concentrate.

**Chiefs – Be the Leader in Safety**

1. Become personally engaged in safety and make it part of your strategic vision for the department.
2. Be willing to make the tough decisions regarding safety policies and practices and their implementation.
3. Hold members of the organization accountable for their safety and the safety of those with whom they work.
4. Ensure that resources are available to accomplish activities safely and effectively.

Keep watching [www.iafc.org/safetyweek](http://www.iafc.org/safetyweek) for more information on this year's program and planning resources developed by the IAFC Safety, Health and Survival Section.

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**FIRE SERVICE TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES IN THE SACRAMENTO (CA) AREA:**

**Sacramento Regional Fire Training schedule**

<b>COURSE</b>	<b>LOCATION</b>	<b>DATES</b>
<i>FIRE COMMAND 1C</i>	<i>N. CA. PUBLIC SAFETY (916) 640-1420</i>	<i>MARCH 2-6, 2009</i>
<i>ROSS ADMINISTRATOR</i>	<i>OES HEADQUARTERS (916) 640-1420</i>	<i>MARCH 3-5,2009</i>
<i>FIRE COMMAND 2C</i>	<i>N. CA. PUBLIC SAFETY (916) 640-1420</i>	<i>MARCH 9-12,2009</i>
<i>Fire Service Leadership Summit</i>	<i>Oroville, Ca (530) 752-6399</i>	<i>MARCH 23-26, 2009</i>

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<b>COURSE</b>	<b>LOCATION</b>	<b>DATES</b>
FIRE COMMAND 2A	UC Davis FD (530)752-1236	MARCH 30-APRIL 3, 2009
MASTERING THE FIRE SERVICE ASSESSMENT CENTER	EL DORADO HILLS FD <a href="http://www.TrainFirefighters.com">www.TrainFirefighters.com</a>	MARCH 31-APRIL 3, 2009
FIRE COMMAND 2E	N. CA. PUBLIC SAFETY (916) 640-1420	APRIL 6-9, 2009
ROSS DISPATCHER	OES HEADQUARTERSY (916) 640-1420	APRIL 20-24, 2009
Driver Operator 1A	N. CA. PUBLIC SAFETY (916) 640-1420	APRIL 27-MAY 1, 2009
S-290, Wildland Fire Behavior	WOODLAND FD (530) 661-5860	APRIL 27-MAY 1, 2009
FIRE COMMAND 2D	N. CA. PUBLIC SAFETY (916) 640-1420	MAY 4-7, 2009
S-390, Wildland Fire Behavior	N. CA. PUBLIC SAFETY (916) 640-1420	MAY 5-8, 2009
Driver Operator 1B	N. CA. PUBLIC SAFETY (916) 640-1420	MAY 18-22, 2009

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## **FIREFIGHTER PREPARATION WORKSHOP:**

**ANNOUNCING THE MARCH 21, 2009**

### **Firefighter's ABC's Entry Level Workshop**

**DOLCE HAYES MANSION**

200 Edenvale Avenue, San Jose, CA 95136 (408) 226-3200

**Registration: 7AM - 7:45AM • Entry Level Workshop: 8AM - 5PM**

***SEATING IS LIMITED TO THE FIRST 100 REGISTRANTS!***

Application & \$30 fee must be submitted no later than Friday, March 6, 2009.

***Sponsored By:***

- **FIREFIGHTER DIVERSITY RECRUITMENT COUNCIL**
- **NATIONAL RECRUIT DATABASE**
- **ENTRY LEVEL WORKSHOPS**

***Open to all Aspiring Firefighters & High School Students***

This **Entry Level Workshop** is of immense value to future firefighters. It has been conducted

for a number of years throughout the nation and has contributed to the successful recruitment of many fire service candidates. In-depth coverage of critically important topics includes:

- The Fire Service as “The Career of Choice”
- Written & Physical Ability Testing
- Oral Interviewing Techniques
- The Personal History Questionnaire and Background Process
- Building a Compelling Resume
- Resources to Help Increase Your Success
- Presenting Yourself in the Best Light as a Viable Candidate

***This Entry Level Workshop is being held in conjunction with the 2nd Annual Conference of the Firefighter Diversity Recruitment Council.***

**Also, Learn About The Newly Introduced  
NATIONAL RECRUIT DATABASE**

**For just a few dollars a year, your subscription provides:**

- Automatic email alerts of application and testing events from fire departments throughout the nation.
- Regular emails with helpful tips and resources to better prepare yourself in becoming a successful recruit.
- An interactive profile form that you fill out to measure your desirability as a candidate while highlighting areas that you can pursue to increase your success in becoming a firefighter.

**Print All Information - Bring ID & Copy of Application to the Workshop for Entry.**

1. Name : Last: \_\_\_\_\_ First: \_\_\_\_\_ M.I.: \_\_\_\_\_
2. D.O.B. Month: \_\_\_\_\_ Day: \_\_\_\_\_ Year: \_\_\_\_\_
3. Address number: \_\_\_\_\_ Street name: \_\_\_\_\_ Unit: \_\_\_\_\_
4. City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_
5. Home Telephone: ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) - \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_
6. Cell Telephone: ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) - \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_
7. Email (Required to receive your confirmation):  
\_\_\_\_\_
8. EMT Certification: \_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_ No
9. U.S. Citizen: \_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_ No
10. Valid Drivers License: \_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_ No Classification: \_\_\_\_\_
11. Speak a foreign language fluently: \_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_ No  
Language: \_\_\_\_\_
12. Gender: \_\_\_ Female \_\_\_ Male Decline to state: \_\_\_\_\_
13. Education & Employment:
  - FF-I \_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_ No
  - GED \_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_ No
  - AA/AS \_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_ No
  - Masters \_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_ No
  - In EMT school \_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_ No
  - In Paramedic school \_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_ No
  - F/F Volunteer \_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_ No
  - FF-II \_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_ No
  - HS Grad \_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_ No
  - BA/BS \_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_ No
  - Other \_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_ No
  - EMT Cert \_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_ No
  - Medic \_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_ No
  - F/F \_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_ No

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14. Ethnic group: \_\_\_Amer. Indian/Alaskan Native \_\_\_Asian/Pacific Islander  
\_\_\_ Black \_\_\_Filipino \_\_\_Hispanic \_\_\_White \_\_\_Other \_\_\_Decline to state

**Mail application and \$30 entry fee to:**

Firefighter's ABC's  
9315 Braquet Lane  
Gilroy, CA 95020  
Phone: (408) 842-8326

***SEATING IS LIMITED TO FIRST 100 REGISTRANTS!***

**Application & \$30 fee must be submitted no later than Friday, March 6, 2009.**

(Do not mail cash or personal checks. No Refunds.)

**Email:** [FirefightersABCs@FirefightersABCs.com](mailto:FirefightersABCs@FirefightersABCs.com)

**Web Site:** [www.FirefightersABCs.com](http://www.FirefightersABCs.com)

**Learn All That You Need to Know About Joining the Fire Service**

- "The Career of Choice"
- Written & Physical Ability Testing
- Oral Interviewing Techniques
- The Personal History Questionnaire and Background Process
- Building a Compelling Resume
- Resources to Help Increase Your Success
- Presenting Yourself in the Best Light as a Viable Candidate

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**FIRE SERVICE EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES:**

***REGISTER FOR ENTRY-LEVEL FIREFIGHTER TESTING!!***

**Take One Test for a Spot on the National List!**

Fire & Police Selection, Inc. (FPSI), a consulting firm specializing in the development and administration of national entry-level firefighter pre-employment tests used by hundreds of large metropolitan fire departments across the U.S. and Canada, is pleased to announce our new *National Fire Select Test*<sup>™</sup> for firefighter applicants.

National Fire Select is a division of FPSI that focuses exclusively on testing applicants interested in obtaining entry-level firefighter positions with fire departments across the U.S. and Canada. Applicants who use our services will take **one written** test and have their test scores considered by multiple fire departments without having to travel around testing with dozens of fire departments in hopes of obtaining a job. An applicant living in California – for instance – can take a written test in San Jose and may be considered for job openings in Alaska, Colorado, Missouri or Texas without ever leaving his/her home state.

The idea of taking ONE STANDARDIZED TEST, and having that score recognized by multiple fire departments, is about to become reality! On **March 22 2009**, FPSI will administer the first national "National Fire Select" written test for entry-level firefighter positions in San Jose, California. To learn more about this innovative opportunity, view a list of participating fire departments or to register today, please visit their website at [www.nationalfireselect.com](http://www.nationalfireselect.com)

Take advantage of testing at one site, with one test, and have your test score considered by multiple fire departments with entry-level firefighter job openings. Visit their website today!

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## **FIRE SERVICE TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES:**

### **Public Safety Training Group**

#### **2009 COURSE SCHEDULE**

- Level 1 State Fire Officers Courses - \$325 Per Class

<b>COURSE</b>	<b>LOCATION</b>	<b>DATES</b>
Investigation 1A	PSTG Facility	February 23 - 27
Command 1A	PSTG Facility	March 9 -13
Command 1B	PSTG Facility	April 13 - 17
Command 1C	PSTG Facility	May 4 - 8
Instructor 1A	PSTG Facility	April 20 - 24
Instructor 1B	PSTG Facility	May 11-15
Prevention 1A	PSTG Facility	June 22 - 26
Prevention 1B	PSTG Facility	July 6 –10
Management 1	PSTG Facility	Aug. 31 - Sept.4
ICS 300	PSTG Facility	October 5 - 9
Hazmat First Responder	PSTG Facility	August 3 - 7
CPR	PSTG Facility	See Website for Details
Self Defense for EMS	PSTG Facility	March 21
First Responder	PSTG Facility	June 2–July 2
Emergency Medical Tech	PSTG Facility	July 18–Sept. 24

- For more information, including how to register, go to [www.pstgonline.com](http://www.pstgonline.com)

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## **FIRE SERVICE GRANT INFORMATION FROM THE U.S. FIRE ADMINISTRATION:**

### **FY2009 AFG Workshop Schedule Posted**

The Assistance to Firefighters Grants Program Office has posted the schedule for the conduct of applicant workshops for the FY2009 Assistance to Firefighters Grants (AFG). The schedule is available at <http://www.firegrantsupport.com>

The schedule will be updated *daily* with any new/updated information about the scheduled workshops. As such, users are encouraged to revisit the site to update themselves on locations, times and any other AFG information.

Applicant workshops are conducted by AFG regional staff and are free to all attendees. Each workshop is about 2 hours long. All workshops provide the same informational material and is reflected in a PowerPoint presentation. The material is also posted at the AFG website: <http://www.firegrantsupport.com>

While the application period has not been established, you will be able to find the latest information on the grant opportunity on the AFG website as it becomes available including the application period, the online applicant tutorial, frequently asked questions, and the FY2009 AFG Program Guidance.

The AFG Program is administered by the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) Grants Program Directorate in coordination with the U.S. Fire Administration.

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## **FIRE SERVICE GRANT INFORMATION FROM THE U.S. FIRE ADMINISTRATION:**

- **Application Period to Open:  
FY 2008 Fire Prevention and Safety Grants**

The Department of Homeland Security has posted the FY2008 Fire Prevention and Safety (FP&S) Grants Program Guidance on the Assistance to Firefighters Grants (AFG) Program Website. The application period is scheduled to begin on February 2, 2009 at 8:00 a.m. Eastern Standard Time (EST). Applications for these grants must be received by March 6, 2009, at 5:00 p.m. Eastern Standard Time (EST).

FP&S grants support projects that enhance the safety of the public and firefighters from fire and related hazards. The grants are competitive, and their primary goal is to target high-risk populations. Grant awards are made in order to mitigate high incidences of death and injury and to carry out research for improving firefighter safety. Examples of the types of fire prevention projects that are supported by FP&S include smoke alarm installation, fire prevention and public safety education campaigns, juvenile fire setter interventions, media campaigns, and arson prevention and awareness programs. Organizations that are eligible to apply under the research activity should consult the Program Guidance for detailed information on priorities and areas of emphasis.

An applicant tutorial for the fire prevention activity will be available through the [www.firegrantsupport.com](http://www.firegrantsupport.com) Website. The tutorial will provide you with valuable grant information and will walk you through the preparation and submittal of competitive

applications. In addition, the applicant tutorial will provide an overview of the fire prevention funding priorities and evaluation criteria. Applicants who have questions regarding the Fire Prevention and Safety Grants opportunity should contact the help desk as soon as possible at 1-866-274-0960 or at [firegrants@dhs.gov](mailto:firegrants@dhs.gov). During the application period, the help desk will operate Monday to Friday, from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. (EST), but is prepared to revise hours of operation based on volume, demand, holidays and urgency to complete the FP&S Grants application period and processing for FY08.

The AFG Program is administered by the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) Grant Programs Directorate in coordination with the U.S. Fire Administration.

FY08 Fire Prevention and Safety Grants Program Guidance - visit [www.firegrantsupport.com/fps/guidance/](http://www.firegrantsupport.com/fps/guidance/).

FY08 Fire Prevention and Safety Grants FAQs - visit [www.firegrantsupport.com/fps/faq/08/](http://www.firegrantsupport.com/fps/faq/08/).

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## **FIRE SERVICE TRAINING OPPORTUNITY:**

The Columbia College (Sonora, CA) Fire Technology Program is pleased to offer:

### **S-212 (Power Saw Safety)**

**NEW DATES:** Feb.28 & March 1 **OR**  
March 7 & 8 2009, 08-1700 hrs  
11600 Columbia College Dr. Sonora, CA.

- College fees estimated at \$23. (.5 - 1 units) payable to Columbia College Business Office.
- On line registration (Fire 270DL) available at <http://www.gocolumbia.edu> Connect Columbia or touch tone phone registration at 209-536-5400
- College enrollment (Free) required.
- You will be added to the new class. Sect. 1783
- Instructor – Capt. Jim Toy CAL-Fire
- Further information e-mail: [dohertyj@yosemite.edu](mailto:dohertyj@yosemite.edu)

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## **CANDIDATE PHYSICAL ABILITY TEST (CPAT) INFORMATION:**



**T**he 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.

**S**uccessfully 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**  
6723 Sierra Court, Suite G  
Dublin, CA 94568

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

**T**o see the **available dates** to take the CPAT at any of the above three locations, visit their website at [www.cpatonline.org](http://www.cpatonline.org)

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**FIRE SERVICE TRAINING OPPORTUNITY:**

**Resource Unit Leader (S-348)  
Demobilization Unit Leader (S-347)  
Hosted by Solano Training Officers Association**



**Dates:** April 20-23, 2009  
**Time:** 0900-1700 hrs first day; 0800-1700 other days  
**Cost:** \$125.00 per class (payable to STOA)  
c/o Cordelia Fire District  
2155 Cordelia Road  
Fairfield, CA 94534

- **Class size limited to 25 students**
- **Registration deadline is March 27, 2009**
- **Precourse material will be sent prior to class start date**

**PREREQUISITE: “Check in Status Recorder” class or bring task book to class**  
**I-300 Intermediate ICS recommended**

**Location:** Vacaville Fire Protection District, 420 Vine Street, Vacaville 95688

**Instructors:**

- **Jon Lovie, Captain, Cal Fire, Incident Command Team 4**
- **Linda Green, Battalion Chief, Cal Fire, Incident Command Team 1**
- **John Griffen, Retired Division Chief, Cal Fire**

**Contact Patty, Cordelia Fire 707-864-0468 or [cordeliafire@sbcglobal.net](mailto:cordeliafire@sbcglobal.net) to register for classes**

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## **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](http://www.firecareers.com)
- [www.firerecruit.com](http://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.

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## **FEBRUARY 2009 STATE FIRE MARSHAL'S OFFICE REPORT:**

- Download your monthly report from the California State Fire Marshal at

<http://calchiefs.org/items/SFMReportFebruary2009.pdf>

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## **FIREFIGHTER FATALITY INFORMATION:**

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

Name:	Richard Lynn Rhea
Rank:	Captain
Age:	60
Gender:	Male
Status:	Volunteer
Years of Service:	32
Date of Incident:	01/24/2009
Time of Incident:	0230hrs
Date of Death:	01/24/2009
Fire Department:	Crawfordville Volunteer Fire Department
Address:	PO Box 490, 88 Cedar Ave., Crawfordville, FL 32326
Fire Department Chief:	D'Arcy Brazier

**Incident Description:** At the scene of a motor vehicle accident, Captain Rhea reportedly slipped on wet grass located on the roadway shoulder and fell causing him to come into contact with a live downed power line. Rhea passed away from his injuries.

**Incident Location:** 1105 Lower Bridge Road/Millers Way (USNG: 16R GU 5783 4070)

**Map View:**

<http://floridadisaster.org/gis/kml/viewer.htm?zoom=16&usng=16RGU57834070&disp=h>

**Visitation:** 01/26/2009, 1600-2000hrs; 01/27/2009, 1100-1400hrs and 1500-1900hrs at the Harvey Young Funeral Home, 3106 Crawfordville Hwy., Crawfordville, FL (USNG: 16RGU52774104)

**Funeral Services:** 01/28/2009 at 1500hrs, Crawfordville United Methodist Church, 176 Ochlockonee St., Crawfordville, FL (USNG: 16R GU 5267 4133).

**Memorial Fund Contact and Address:** In honor of Fire Captain Richard Lynn Rhea, c/o Crawfordville Volunteer Fire Department, PO Box 490, Crawfordville, FL 32326

**Chabot College Fire & EMS News**

**Tribute** is being paid to Fire Captain Richard Lynn Rhea at <http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/fireservice/fatalities/>

To date, 4 firefighter fatalities have been reported to USFA in 2009 as a result of incidents that occurred in 2009.

**AND:**

Name: Kyle Perkins  
Rank: Firefighter  
Age: 45  
Gender: Male  
Status: Career  
Years of Service: 15  
Date of Incident: 01/25/2009  
Time of Incident: 1402hrs  
Date of Death: 01/25/2009

Name: Cory Galloway  
Rank: Firefighter  
Age: 28  
Gender: Male  
Status: Career  
Years of Service: 1  
Date of Incident: 01/25/2009  
Time of Incident: 1402hrs  
Date of Death: 01/25/2009  
Fire Department: Kilgore Fire Department  
Address: 909 N Kilgore St., Kilgore, TX 75662  
Fire Department Chief: Dennis Gage

**Incident Description:** While participating in a training exercise at the Kilgore College Fire Academy, Firefighters Perkins and Galloway were in the bucket of a 95' E One rear mount platform truck when, for a cause still under investigation, they fell approximately 8 stories. Firefighters Perkins and Galloway succumbed to injuries they received from the accident.

**Incident Location:** Stark Hall - 607 Elder (USNG: 15S UR 2365 8392)

**Funeral Arrangements:** Pending

**Memorial Fund Contact and Address:** Firefighters Perkins & Galloway Memorial Fund, Citizens National Bank, 301 E Main St., Kilgore, TX 75662 - Tele: 903-984-8671

**Tribute** is being paid to Firefighters Kyle Perkins and Cory Galloway at <http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/fireservice/fatalities/>

To date, 6 firefighter fatalities have been reported to USFA in 2009 as a result of incidents that occurred in 2009.

**AND:**

Name: Mark Bradley Davis  
Rank: Firefighter-EMT  
Age: 25  
Gender: Male  
Status: Volunteer  
Years of Service: 2  
Date of Incident: 01/30/2009  
Time of Incident: 2358hrs  
Date of Death: 01/31/2009  
Fire Department: Cape Vincent Volunteer Fire Department  
Address: PO Box 609, 241 E Broadway, Cape Vincent, NY 13618  
Fire Department Chief: Joseph Gould

**Incident Description:** Firefighter-EMT Davis and three other emergency services personnel were at a residence treating an individual when the patient became agitated and retrieved a high powered rifle from a bedroom. As the emergency personnel were retreating from the residence, the patient allegedly fired two rounds, one striking and killing Firefighter-EMT Davis.

**Incident Location:** 114 South Esseltyne St., Cape Vincent, NY 13618

**Funeral Arrangements:** Viewing will be 02/06/2009 from 1200-2100hrs at the Cape Vincent United Methodist Church, 260 E. Broadway St., Cape Vincent, NY 13618. The Funeral Service will take place on 02/07/2009 at the Thousand Islands Central School at 8481 County Route 9, Cape Vincent, NY, 13618. The service will begin at 1300hrs.

**Memorial Fund Contact and Address:** Mark Davis Memorial Fund, c/o Citizens Bank of Cape Vincent, PO Box 277, Cape Vincent, NY 13618 - [www.citizensbankofcapevincent.com](http://www.citizensbankofcapevincent.com)

**Tribute** is being paid to Firefighter-EMT Mark Bradley Davis at [www.usfa.dhs.gov/fireservice/fatalities/](http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/fireservice/fatalities/)

To date, 7 firefighter fatalities have been reported to USFA in 2009 as a result of incidents that occurred in 2009. USFA

**AND:**

Name: William Gray Parsons  
Rank: Engineer  
Age: 58  
Gender: Male  
Status: Volunteer  
Years of Service: 20  
Date of Incident: 01/31/2009  
Time of Incident: 2330hrs  
Date of Death: 02/01/2009  
February 21, 2009

**Chabot College Fire & EMS News**

Fire Department: Millers Creek Fire Department  
Address: PO Box 829, 5200 Boone TRL, Millers Creek, NC 28651  
Fire Department Chief: Jason Smithey  
Fire Department Website: [www.millerscreekfire.com](http://www.millerscreekfire.com)

**Incident Description:** Upon arrival to the scene of a residential structure fire, Engineer Parsons, the apparatus operator, complained to a fellow firefighter that he was not feeling well and was experiencing serious discomfort in his chest. Engineer Parsons then reportedly slumped over the steering wheel of the apparatus. He was treated by paramedics on the scene then transported to Wilkes Regional Medical Center. He was then taken to the Wake Forest University Baptist Medical Center via Air Care where he passed away from an apparent heart attack.

**Incident Location:** Amelia Drive (USNG: 17S MA 7952 0019)

**Map View:**

<http://www.fidnet.com/~jlmoore/usng/?zoom=15&usng=17SMA79520019&disp=h>

**Funeral Arrangements:** Visitation will be at Reins-Sturdivant Funeral Home, 270 Armory Road, North Wilkesboro, NC, on 02/05/2009 from 1800-2000hrs. Funeral will be held at Millers Creek Baptist Church ([www.millerscreekbaptist.org](http://www.millerscreekbaptist.org)), 5100 Boone TRL, Millers Creek, NC, on 02/06/2009 at 1130hrs with graveside service to follow at Stony Hill Baptist Church in Parsonsville, NC.

**Memorial Fund Contact and Address:** Memorials to the Gray Parsons Memorial Fund can be made through any North Carolina State Employees Credit Union ([www.ncsecu.org](http://www.ncsecu.org)).

**Tribute** is being paid to Engineer William Gray Parsons at <http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/fireservice/fatalities/>

To date, 8 firefighter fatalities have been reported to USFA in 2009 as a result of incidents that occurred in 2009.

**AND:**

Name: Jeffrey Isbell  
Rank: Firefighter  
Age: 33  
Gender: Male  
Status: Career  
Years of Service: 2  
Date of Incident: 02/10/2009  
Time of Incident: Unk  
Date of Death: 02/10/2009  
Fire Department: Enterprise Fire Department  
Address: PO Box 311000, 501 S. Main St., Enterprise, AL 36330-1000  
Fire Department Chief: Byron Herring

**Chabot College Fire & EMS News**

Fire Department Website:

<http://www.enterpriselibrary.org/Default.asp?ID=17&pg=Fire+Department>

**Incident Description:** Firefighter Isbell passed away in his hotel room while attending fire department assigned training at the Alabama Fire College in Tuscaloosa. The cause of Firefighter Isbell's death is pending further investigation.

**Funeral Arrangements:** Pending

**Memorial Fund Contact and Address:** Pending

**Tribute** is being paid to Firefighter Jeffrey Isbell at

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

To date, 9 firefighter fatalities have been reported to USFA in 2009 as a result of incidents that occurred in 2009.

**AND:**

Name:	Dean Walter Mathison
Rank:	Chief
Age:	63
Gender:	Male
Status:	Volunteer
Years of Service:	42
Date of Incident:	02/09/2009
Time of Incident:	1900hrs
Date of Death:	02/10/2009
Fire Department:	Clayton-Winchester Fire Department
Address:	PO Box 26, Larsen, WI 54947-0026
Fire Department Chief:	Assistant Chief Glen D. Mathison

**Incident Description:** Fire Chief Mathison responded to a vehicle fire incident then returned to the station to assist with clean-up and returning the equipment to service. The following day while Mathison was attending a quarterly fire department safety league (regional), he was discovered unresponsive in the restroom. Care was initiated and Chief Mathison was transported to the hospital but could not be revived.

**Funeral Arrangements:** Pending

**Memorial Fund Contact and Address:** Pending

**Tribute** is being paid to Fire Chief Dean Walter Mathison at

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

To date, 10 firefighter fatalities have been reported to USFA in 2009 as a result of incidents that occurred in 2009.

Chabot College Fire & EMS News

**AND:**

Name: Albert G. Eberle Jr.  
Rank: Fire Police Captain  
Age: 74  
Gender: Male  
Status: Volunteer  
Years of Service: 50  
Date of Incident: 02/15/2009  
Time of Incident: 2303hrs  
Date of Death: 02/16/2009  
Fire Department: Roslyn Fire Company  
Address: PO Box 1081, 1128 Bradfield Road, Roslyn, PA 19001  
Fire Department Chief: Dale Jonas

**Incident Description:** Fire Police Captain Eberle passed away shortly after he suffered a cardiac arrest while working traffic control at the scene of a motor vehicle accident.

**Incident Location:** 1867 Old York Rd. Abington, PA (USNG: 18T VK 9031 4296)

**Map View:**

<http://www.fidnet.com/~jlmoore/usng/?zoom=18&usng=18TVK90314296&disp=h>

**Funeral Arrangements:** 02/21/2009 at Roslyn Fire Company, 1128 Bradfield Road, Roslyn, PA 19001. **Viewing will be held from 0800-1200hrs**, Service to follow @ 1200hrs followed by refreshments.

**Memorial Fund Contact and Address:** The Eberle family has asked that in lieu of flowers donations be made in memory of Captain Eberle to the Roslyn Fire Company, PO Box 1081, 1128 Bradfield Road, Roslyn, PA 19001.

**Tribute** is being paid to Fire Police Captain Albert G. Eberle Jr. at

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

To date, 11 firefighter fatalities have been reported to USFA in 2009 as a result of incidents that occurred in 2009.

**AND:**

Name: Johnnie Hammons  
Rank: Lieutenant  
Age: 49  
Gender: Male  
Status: Volunteer  
Years of Service: 11  
Name: Timothy Nicholas  
Rank: Firefighter  
Age: 26  
Gender: Male



**Chabot College Fire & EMS News**

Status: Volunteer  
Years of Service: 1  
Date of Incident: 02/19/2009  
Time of Incident: 2157hrs  
Date of Death: 02/19/2009  
Fire Department: Craigsville-Beaver-Cottle (C-B-C) Fire Department  
Address: PO Box 445, RT 20 N, Craigsville, WV 26205  
Fire Department Chief: Tim Blake

**Incident Description:** Lieutenant Hammons and Firefighter Nicholas passed away from injuries sustained while operating at a mobile home fire. Investigation continues into the cause of the fire, believed to have started in a camping trailer situated adjacent to the mobile home, and circumstances related to the loss of Hammons and Nicholas.

**Incident Location:** Cottle, WV

**Map View:**

<http://www.fidnet.com/~jlmoore/usng/?zoom=14&usng=17SNC3265944268&disp=h>

**Funeral Arrangements:** Pending

**Memorial Fund Contact and Address:** Pending

**Tribute** is being paid to Lieutenant Johnnie Hammons and Firefighter Timothy Nicholas at <http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/fireservice/fatalities/>

To date, 13 firefighter fatalities have been reported to USFA in 2009 as a result of incidents that occurred in 2009. Year-to-date monthly and annual USFA firefighter fatality reports are posted online [http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/fireservice/fatalities/statistics/ff\\_stats.shtm](http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/fireservice/fatalities/statistics/ff_stats.shtm)

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 [http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/fireservice/fatalities/statistics/ff\\_stats.shtm](http://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 listserv 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](#) 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.

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

## **DEPUTY CHIEF BILLY GOLDFEDER & GORDON GRAHAM, HOSTS OF [www.firefighterclosecalls.com](http://www.firefighterclosecalls.com)**

### **2 TEXAS FIREFIGHTERS KILLED IN THE LINE OF DUTY**

It is with deep regret that we advise you that **2 Firefighters from Kilgore (Texas)** were killed in the Line of Duty today after they were ejected or fell from the bucket of an aerial tower during training. Additionally, it is reported that 1 or more other Firefighters have also been injured. There are mixed reports of exactly what happened but it is clear that something went wrong causing the Firefighters deaths. Additional details will follow. As always our most sincere condolences on this tragic loss.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 1-25-09 2000 Hours

### **AND:**

Hey...

A fire tanker overturned injuring 2 Firefighters on Saturday in Missouri. The apparatus, driven by FF Bobby G. Phillips, 32, of Oran was turning northbound at the intersection of U.S. 61 and Highway 77, just north of **Morley (MO)** at 1247 hours when the vehicle ran off the right side of the roadway. According to Missouri State Highway Patrol's report, the vehicle then overturned. FF Phillips received serious injuries and was flown out. A passenger in the vehicle, FF Jacob R. Carter, 18, of Oran, had moderate injuries. Additional details to follow.

In **Cuba (NY)** this afternoon, we have initial reports that a 36 year old Firefighter was flown to the Erie County Medical Center. Reports are that the Cuba FF suffered smoke inhalation at a structure fire while attempting a rescue. Additional details will follow. If Cuba sounds **familiar**, you may recall that on Sunday, Dec. 21, 2008, 4 Firefighters were injured operating at a commercial fire in the same area. Thomas Torpey, from the Friendship FD and Bryant Hughes, Aaron Appleby and Nick Sweet, all FF's with the Cuba FD were hurt. At this time, all 4 FF's are all recovering. Here is more: [www.cfdsмоokeaters.com](http://www.cfdsмоokeaters.com)

### **Quick Comment:**

We received a number of e-mails asking if the late Lt. Kevin Kelley from Boston, who was killed in the Line of Duty a few weeks ago in that apparatus crash, had his seatbelt on that day. **We don't know.** The facts of the tragic incident are not all out yet. When we know-you will know. Nope-we aren't hiding anything! We do our best to find the facts and comment on facts...as we have for 11+ years of doing the site. But, until the facts are out, our focus will be on our own folks being belted in and let the facts of Lt Kelley's Line of Duty horrific death come out through their investigation. Either way, Lt Kelley's loss was tragic...a beloved Father, Husband and Firefighting Officer is lost and **apparatus maintenance** is a clear and acknowledged issue...something to focus on at any FD. No matter what other facts comes into play, the best we can do to honor his life is to learn from the facts. Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 1-26-09 / 2222 hours

**AND:**

**FUNERAL DETAILS FOR THE 2 KILGORE (TEXAS) FIREFIGHTER LODD's: KILLED DURING TRAINING**

**FF Cory James Galloway**, 23, of Tyler joined the Kilgore FD in January 2008. He attended the Kilgore College Fire Academy and graduated from Tyler Junior College with EMT training certification. One of the greatest accomplishments of his life was being a Firefighter. **Visitation for Kilgore FF Galloway** is scheduled for 5-7 p.m. on Thursday, 1/29 in Van at the Hillard Funeral Home. Funeral services for FF Galloway are scheduled at the First Baptist Church of Van at 1 p.m. Friday. His burial will be at the Fairway Garden of Memories Cemetery.

**FF Kyle W. Perkins**, 45, of Kilgore graduated from the Kilgore College Fire Academy in 2003, and he joined the department in July 2004. FF Perkins had volunteered with the Kilgore Rescue Unit for 10 years before joining the KFD, and he continued to be a member. Perkins had recently been passed the test to be promoted at the KFD as a driver. He is survived by his wife, Linda Perkins, and two college-age children. **Visitation for FF Kyle Perkins** is scheduled for 6-8p.m. on Wed, 1/28 in Kilgore at the Chandler St. Church of Christ. Funeral services for FF Kyle Perkins are scheduled at Kilgore College's Dodson Auditorium at 4 p.m. Thursday. His burial will be in Danville Cemetery.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 1-27-09 / 1310 hours

**AND:**

Hey....

A three-year-old girl was tragically killed this evening (Friday evening) after an crash involving fire apparatus in Trenton, New Jersey. Conflicting reports indicate the apparatus reportedly struck a pickup truck which then hit a light pole that fell on and killed the child. Another report states that the apparatus apparently "t-boned" the pickup truck at the intersection, and the pickup truck then careened onto the center median, striking the child. The fire apparatus then hit a light pole, knocking it down and injuring several other pedestrians. All reports however, confirm the tragic loss of the child. Several firefighters and others were injured but all are non life threatening. Additional details will follow. Here is a link to local media video:

<http://www.nbcphiladelphia.com/news/local/Fire-Truck-Strikes-Pole-Kills-3-Year-Old.html>

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 1-31-09 / 0710 Hours

**AND:**

A Firefighter/EMT with the Cape Vincent Volunteer Fire Department (and also with Thousand Island Emergency Rescue Squad - TIERS) in New York was shot and killed in the Line of Duty late last night. The incident occurred during an unknown type EMS call. Initial reports are that around 2330 hours on 01/30/09 (Friday night), the 25 year old male FF/EMT was shot and killed after responding to and arriving at that medical call ....but a 25 year old male suspect is also reported to be in custody. The Thouand Islands Rescue Squad was

February 21, 2009

[www.chabotfire.com](http://www.chabotfire.com)

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responding to an unidentified call on the corner of Broadway and Esselstyne streets in their village....the call was for a run at an apartment....and the first report that shots were fired came just before midnight Saturday (this morning). The alleged gunman was taken into custody right after the shooting. We will have more details later here as well as on our home pages.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 1-31-09 / 0945 hours

**AND:**

**UPDATE: NY FF/EMT SHOT AND KILLED IN THE LINE OF DUTY**

More details are coming out related to the Line of Duty Death/murder of FF/EMT Mark Davis with the Cape Vincent VFD. Last night, he and 2 other members responded for "reported chest pains" to the shooters home in Cape Vincent. The patient, Christopher Burke, 25, was charged with second-degree murder and fourth-degree criminal possession of a weapon yesterday morning.

Reports are that Burke became "agitated" as the 3 EMTs treated him at about 2358 hours Friday, and Burke retrieved a high-powered rifle from the bedroom of the residence. As the EMTs were retreating from the residence, Burke fired two rounds-one of them striking and killing FF/EMT Davis. Burke ran from the residence, and another EMT tackled Burke and held him down. EMTs at the scene of the shooting attempted life-saving measures on FF/EMT Davis, and they continued these efforts during the ambulance transport where Davis was pronounced dead.

FF/EMT Davis was employed part-time by Guilfoyle Ambulance and was very active with the Cape Vincent Fire, EMS and Thousand Islands Emergency Rescue. He was in his first year of training to become a paramedic at Jefferson Community College, in Watertown. Our sincere condolences to all affected by this senseless LODD.

**More info here:** <http://www.ti-rescue.org/>

**NOTE:** In a similar incident, but with a much better outcome, a Seattle Firefighter was assaulted Friday afternoon while he tried to treat a patient. Firefighters were treating a patient when one of his friends, who was drunk, stepped in and punched one of the firefighters in the eye. Cops were called and they arrested the assailant, booking him jail.

**NJ UPDATE: 3 YEAR OLD CHILD KILLED, 3 YEAR OLD BOY SERIOUSLY INJURED IN APPARATUS RELATED CRASH.....REPORTS NOW INDICATE THE FIREFIGHTERS COULD NOT HAVE AVOIDED THIS TRAGEDY AND WERE NOT AT FAULT**

**...once again a CAREER CRIMINAL tragically impacts the FIRE SERVICE.**

As posted earlier, a 3-year-old girl was killed in Trenton (New Jersey) during Friday nights accident and a 3-year-old boy suffered fractures in both of his legs. The crash occurred between the Trenton fire apparatus and a Ford Pickup. The driver of the apparatus was identified as Firefighter Ronald D. Hubscher, Jr., 46, and the driver of the pickup truck was

identified as William N. Parks, 67. FF Hubscher suffered a sprained wrist and Parks suffered a knee injury.

TFD Engine #6 was southbound on Route #129 responding to a crash that occurred on Route #1 north and 129 North. The fire apparatus was responding with lights and siren, and upon attempting to make a U-turn in order to proceed north on Route 129, a pickup truck, also traveling southbound, **crashed into the fire apparatus while attempting to pass the fire truck in the left lane.** The driver of the pick up truck lost control of his vehicle and struck the metal light post severing it at the base. During this time the pick up truck struck the 3-year-old girl with the front end of the truck.

**It should be noted that Criminal Parks was driving with a suspended driver's license.** Parks was charged with driving with a suspended license, one count of causing injury, one count of causing death and failure to yield to an authorized emergency vehicle....and will be facing additional charges.

### **KENTUCKY FIRE CHIEF TRANSPORTED FROM WORKING HOUSE FIRE**

The Fire Chief of the West Van Lear FD was making his way into a house fire to do a search when he was overcome yesterday. Reports are that Chief Bill Robinson proceeded to go into the right side of the house with a crew and made entry into the doorway, the fire reportedly flashed on them. Chief Robinson is being treated for smoke inhalation and some chest irritation, but is doing well. It should be noted that nearly all of Kentucky has been under a state of emergency due to the winter storms.

### **FDNY BUDGET-16 FIRE COMPANY CLOSINGS, JOB CUTS, LAYOFFS:**

**Here is what has been issued by FDNY's top brass related to budget cuts by the Mayor:**

- + 4 fire company night closings will become full time closings effective 7-1-09.
- + 7 additional fire companies will be **disbanded effective 7-1-09.**
- + 5 additional fire companies will be **disbanded effective 1-1-10.**
- + 30 BLS ambulance tours and 9 supervisory lines in conditions cars will be **eliminated effective 7-1-09.**
- + 27 Fire Marshal lines and 5 Supervising Fire Marshal lines **will be eliminated** based on attrition.
- + 32 EMS administrative lines in units through out the Department **will be eliminated**, which will require those members on full duty in the designated units to return to ambulance duty and those members with Reasonable Accommodations to seek other accommodations if available, otherwise they will need to retire.
- + All civilian vacancies that have not been approved by OMB **have now been eliminated.**
- + **There is a complete freeze on all new civilian attrition that occurs until June 30, 2010.** This does not include Fire Prevention, Dispatchers, Grant funded positions, Deutsche Bank Task Force positions or ECTP related lines. The Bureau of Personnel Resources will be issuing new civilian guidelines to address critical vacancies.
- + Security Services for Randall's Island, Fort Totten and Maspeth will be discontinued by March 1, 2009.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 2-1-09 / 0800 hours

**AND:**

A Firefighter from the **Miller's Creek Fire Department, 58-year-old William Gray Parsons, died in the Line of Duty** Sunday morning after responding on a run as the apparatus operator. FF Parsons reportedly had a medical emergency after arriving on the scene, was treated and transported but tragically died several hours later at a nearby medical facility. Details to follow. As always, our sincere condolences to all affected.

**OKLAHOMA FIREFIGHTERS BURNED:**

2 Deer Creek Firefighters were burned Sunday while operating at a 2000 acre grass fire. One Firefighter was released from the hospital early last night and a second was scheduled to be released later.

**CUTS: ATLANTA FF STAFFING, CALLING IN SICK or EXHAUSTED :**

Declaring the Atlanta FD in "an extremely vulnerable situation" because of a wave of firefighter absenteeism, **Chief Kelvin J. Cochran on Sunday ordered five stations temporarily closed. Chief Cochran said 27 firefighters called in sick on Sunday, more than double that of a usual day.** He said he did not know if the increase was sort of a "blue flu" or "political statement" but added that Firefighters call in sick more often on a payday weekend with a holiday or a big event like the Super Bowl.

**Lt. Jim Daws, President of IAFF Local 134 (AFD) said there is no blue flu or Super Bowl-related goofing off.** "This is just a normal consequence of the budget cuts," Daws said. "The conditions the city is asking firefighters to work under plus an 18 percent pay cut is adding to absenteeism. I'm not surprised absenteeism is up." He said the 18 percent is a combination of furloughs and overtime being cut.

"There is no buffer in the staffing scene," he said. "We can expect more of this....what you're seeing today is a total unraveling of the fire protection and disaster response scheme in the City of Atlanta. Fires and other emergencies are no respecters of budget shortfalls. They will come when they will, and if Fire Rescue is unprepared to respond, lives and property will be lost. These cuts to Fire Rescue are nothing less than governmental malpractice on the part of Atlanta's elected officials, and the citizens should not stand for it." **Sunday's absenteeism caused the department to shut down seven pieces of equipment and close five stations as it rearranged staffing to high-call and high-risk areas, Chief Cochran said. Here is an article:**

<http://www.ajc.com/services/content/printedition/2009/02/02/brownout0202.html>

**CONTINUED APPARATUS ISSUES IN BOSTON: Pick-up Truck 1st Due....**

One of Boston's most populous neighborhoods is being protected by a Ford pickup and a ladder truck, neither with water-because mechanical issues have exhausted the BFD's reserve fleet. "You might as well put a milk truck in there," Boston Firefighters Local 718 Vice President Richard Paris said yesterday of the F-550 pickup parked in ailing Engine 24's bay. Here is the article about the current state of Boston apparatus:

<http://bostonherald.com/news/regional/view.bg?articleid=1149350>

**WASHINGTON D.C. FIRE BOAT STRUCK-DAMAGED-OUT OF SERVICE:**

The DC Fire Boat, The John Glenn, was docked as it was hit by a multi-ton cruise vessel, the Spirit of Washington this weekend. A gust of wind pushed the spirit into the much smaller John Glenn and even damaged the pier. Luckily, no one was outside of either of the boats and the cruise vessel did not have any passengers on board. **Still, once the two boats were separated the damage was clear. Check out Dave Statter911's coverage:**

<http://www.wusa9.com/news/columnist/blogs/2009/01/dc-fire-boat-john-glenn-seriously.html>

Take Care-BE CAREFUL,

BillyG

The Secret List 2-2-09 / 0811 hours

**AND:**

**NY FF/EMT MARK DAVIS FUNERAL AND MEMORIAL DETAILS:**

The viewing hours will be held for FF/EMT Mark Davis who was shot and killed in the Line of Duty will be held this coming Friday from Noon to 9:00 PM, at the Cape Vincent United Methodist Church, 260 E. Broadway St., Cape Vincent, NY 13618. The Funeral Service will take place on Saturday at the Thousand Islands Central School at 8481 County Route 9, Cape Vincent, NY, 13618. The service will begin at 1PM. **IF YOU OR YOUR AGENCY IS ATTENDING....**please go to <http://www.ti-rescue.org/> for details on staging and the apparatus processional.

**TEXAS FIREFIGHTERS SHOCKED:**

Six Houston firefighters received an electrical shock today while operating at a working house fire this afternoon. None of the injuries was severe enough to require hospitalization, but all were evaluated.

**TRAINING OPPORTUNTIES:**

There are 2 excellent opportunities coming up worth checking out:

**=FDIC ON-LINE: It is FREE and it is THIS WEEK!**

HERE ARE THE SPEAKERS:

<http://www.fdiconlineevent.com/index/conference-information.html>

HERE IS THE HOME PAGE: <http://www.fdiconlineevent.com/index.html>

The program is FREE and offers you and your Firefighters a chance to train without ever getting out of your PJ's....so check it out and register NOW!

**=FIREHOUSE WORLD in SAN DIEGO:**

It is still not too late to register to attend FIREHOUSE WORLD in San Diego (Feb 15-19)...this OUTSTANDING program is the only large fire trade conference with so many offerings on the West Coast. From Hands-On training to Classroom programs, check it out ...we'll seeya there! [www.firehouseworld.com](http://www.firehouseworld.com)

**FREE HARLEY DAVIDSON FIREFIGHTER BIKE:**

"If it's FREE it's for ME" ...and odd's are, SOME of you will be interested in this amazing bike. As a part of the "NFFF Full Throttle Support" campaign, Harley-Davidson and Pierce

**Chabot College Fire & EMS News**

Mfg are partnering to support a sweepstakes where you can enter to win a custom, one-of-a-kind Harley-Davidson Fat Boy Firefighter Special Edition motorcycle. Why? To directly support the Families of Firefighters killed in the line of duty thru the **National Fallen Firefighters Foundation**. Check it out: <http://nfff.fullthrottlesupport.com/>

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 2-2-09 / 1832 hours

**AND**

Hey...

Looking back in firefighting history, today is the 21st anniversary of the Line of Duty Death of Firefighter-Medic, David J. Edwards, killed in the line of duty, February 3, 1988. Dave was the EMS Director for the Lawrence Township FD in Indianapolis, IN, and responded to a dwelling fire. **Edwards and Firefighter Dennis Blake had made a first floor search looking for the basement stairs, re-entered the structure and the first floor collapsed into the basement, killing David.**

While we are unable to "remember" every Line of Duty Death on The Secret List-as important **as they all are**, this one serves as a reminder related to our operational history-and operations today, that building construction, the fire location, size up and getting water on the fire continue to be amongst our great structural fire related challenges and dangers...along with the calculable required staffing on the FIRST alarm.

Firefighters "falling thru the floor above" into the fire area has taken the life of many additional Firefighters, since the loss of Dave Edwards...in just the last few years in Indiana, nearby Ohio and so many other states as well. **Here is a link to recent structural fires that have taken the life of Firefighters:**

<http://www2a.cdc.gov/NIOSH-fire-fighter-face/state.asp?state=ALL&Incident Year=ALL&Medical Related=ALL&Trauma Related=0011&Submit=Submit>

**SERIOUS CRASH IN INDIANA-APPARATUS STRUCK:**

As of us sending this to you, a Fishers (IN) fire apparatus was struck several times this morning at a crash where at least 2 civilians are dead from a multi-vehicle pileup on Interstate 69. Fishers FD PIO Ron Lipps said that over 20 passenger cars, five semi-trucks and one Fishers engine was involved in the crash. Details will be posted on our home page.

**UPDATE: DOUBLE FIREFIGHTER LINE OF DUTY DEATH-KILGORE, TEXAS**

The investigation to determine how and why 2 Kilgore Firefighters were killed after falling from the bucket of their tower ladder has started. According to local media, the ladder truck used Jan. 25 when two firefighters fell eight stories to their deaths remains at a Kilgore fire station. According to KFD Operations Chief Gage, the Texas Municipal League, the city of Kilgore's insurer, was to inspect the truck Monday afternoon. NIOSH reps are scheduled to study the truck and the incident to determine causes of the incident to provide prevention measures to other firefighters. The ladder truck used Jan. 25 in the training exercise at a Kilgore College dormitory remained parked on campus through most of the past week. The Chief said it could take at least eight weeks to determine the cause of the incident that killed 45-year-old FF Kyle Perkins and 23-year-old FF Cory Galloway. 2 other firefighters, also in



the ladder truck's bucket, were bruised but did not fall...the bucket is designed to carry four people or up to 750 pounds, he said.

**"Safety harnesses could have helped the firefighters that day"...**Chief Gage said, but **were not included in the purchase deal between the city and E-One, the vehicle manufacturer. The dealer recommended that Kilgore purchase harnesses, Chief Gage added.** However, city administrators claim they knew of no such recommendation about the harnesses. Chief Gage said he was unaware of any hydraulic leaks or other possible malfunctions concerning the ladder truck. While various versions of what happened to the Firefighters and how it happened are out there, until the facts come out, this again serves as a firm reminder of the importance of being secured when possible. This is not the first time Firefighters have died in the Line of Duty from preventable falls off aerial apparatus.

#### **WASHINGTON DC FIRE BOAT STRUCK:**

Here is a raw video clip that Dave Statter911 has provided:

<http://www.wusa9.com/news/columnist/blogs/2009/02/exclusive-first-look-video-of-dinner.html>

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 2-3-09 / 1550 HOURS

#### **AND**

Hey....

A single vehicle accident involving a BLS EMS unit from **Silver Spring Township EMS** (Cumberland County, PA) occurred on Interstate 81 this morning at 0230 hours. Initial reports are that the crash did result in a **Line of Duty Death** to one of their crew members. They were initially dispatched to finish a transport for another ambulance that was doing an emergency transport but was involved in a non-injury crash but couldn't continue the transport because their windshield was damaged. Additional details will follow.

#### **UPDATE: KILGORE (TEXAS) Double LODD:**

Not surprisingly, this tragic incident has lots of Firefighters discussing what could have been done to stop it. East Texas media has been speaking with the KFD Ops Chief, Dennis Gage. "This safety belt thing has come up ever since the accident happened, that's all I've heard. Well, if the fire fighters would have had safety belts this wouldn't have happened, well would it had of happened or not? Who knows. I'm not going to say that safety belts would have kept this from happening, but I will say it would have helped in this situation," says Kilgore Operations Fire Chief Dennis Gage.

Chief Gage says when Kyle Perkins and Cory Galloway fell from the E-1 platform, they were not wearing safety belts because it wasn't a requirement. "The safety belts weren't in there, it's my fault that they weren't on the truck but it wasn't recommended. They should have been on there because that provides the highest safety. I take full responsibility for them not being on the truck."

For now, Chief Gage says the Texas Municipal League, NIOSH, and Kilgore police are investigating. "Most of those people that are starting the rumors weren't there at the accident. They don't know what happened. I know people want to know what happened and we will let

them know what happened as soon as we know ourselves." Chief Gage says he expects the investigation to take six to eight weeks. He also says he wants to push a state law requiring safety belts on all ladder trucks.

**TOWNS FINED IN LINE OF DUTY DEATHS OF FIREFIGHTERS:**

Two Quebec (Canada) towns face fines of between \$5,000 and \$20,000 for **not providing proper training** to their volunteer firefighters. An investigation by the CSST (Commission) into the LODD's of 2 FF's last year shows the municipalities of Varennes and Val des Monts were negligent and compromised the safety of their Firefighters by failing to train them properly on how to use their equipment. FF Mathieu Émond, 26, died in a dwelling fire in Varennes on March 4. Five days later, FF André Manseau, 18, died in a garage fire in Val des Monts. In FF Émond's case, **a valve on his SCBA was shut off accidentally**. According to an Inspector, FF Émond wasn't trained to know how to react in smoke/fire conditions. **There weren't enough two-way radios** for firefighters in Varennes to communicate. In Manseau's case, they found that **the 18-year-old FF wasn't properly supervised, didn't understand commands and was told not to wear his SCBA ...to conserve air**. In both cases, the Firefighters did not receive proper training, specifically on how to use their SCBA's. 6 Quebec Volunteer Firefighters have died in the Line of Duty under similar circumstances in the past five years. All Firefighters receive basic training, but safety standards vary in each town. The CSST will set the final amount of the fines after re-inspecting the two FD's to determine what improvements have been made since the Line of Duty deaths.

**PROTECTIVE CLOTHING REMINDER:**

The First Annual Fire Service PPE Symposium will be held March 9-11 in Charlotte, NC. You can save \$100 per person by registering by February 15th. Many fire service organizations are involved or sponsoring this event such as the IAFF, NVFC, FDSOA as well as IAFC's Safety, Health and Survival Section. With the economy the way it is, there will be many unknowing city hall dwellers suggesting the purchase the cheapest PPE, the purchasing less features than "they" think you need ...or keeping already old PPE even longer...find out the FACTS so that "penny wise pound foolishness" doesn't come into play on the one item that directly and personally protects you while operating. For details, go to: [www.fireppesymposium.com](http://www.fireppesymposium.com)

**2009 FIRE DEPARTMENT PIPES, DRUMS AND HONOR GUARD SYMPOSIUM**

The **2009 Keeping Tradition Alive Pipes, Drums and Honor Guard Symposium** is all set for May 14-15, 2009 in Lewisville, Texas. Take a look at this sample video of this EXCELLENT program: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9myzeMTH-KU>

Many of you are involved with your FD's honor guards and/or are pipers and drummers. As a drummer myself since age 10, the honoring of firefighters by "guard" members along with pipers and drummers - be it during sad tragic times, or fun times, is a long standing positive fire service tradition and we strongly encourage you to check this out. It is very low cost with a very high value worth strongly considering your participation

REGISTRATION: <http://lfdpipesanddrums.com/KTA2009.html>

HOME PAGE: <http://lfdpipesanddrums.com/>

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 2-4-09 / 0745 hours

**AND**

Hey....

**A Riverside County (Calif) FD apparatus** and a pickup truck crashed this morning in Mira Loma, killing the woman driving the pickup. The crash was reported shortly after 0500 hours. The fire apparatus was responding on a run when the crash happened. Engine 17, was responding to a radio call of a traffic crash and was traveling south when it crashed with the pickup, which was traveling west in a cross street. The driver of the pickup truck was pronounced dead at the scene. A fire captain and a firefighter suffered moderate injuries and were taken to a hospital for observation. Details will follow.

**PA EMS LODD UPDATE:**

This morning about 0145 hours an ambulance with a patient, driver and 2 nurses was traveling North on I-81 at mile marker 59 (Hampden Twp) hit black ice and crashed. As a result of this accident, several ambulances were dispatched to the scene to transport those patients to the hospital. **Silver Spring Ambulance** was called as one of those transport ambulances. They arrived and they picked up a patient and while transporting the driver (Barry Naugle) suffered a heart attack, went into cardiac arrest and the ambulance went out of control and crashed into a ditch injuring EMT George Weimer. EMT Weimer was taken to Hershey Medical Center for treatment and may be held for 4 days. All efforts were made to save EMT Naugle but was not successful and he died in the Line of Duty....the Silver Spring ambulance was totaled. Our condolences to all affected.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 2-4-09 / 1345 hours

**AND:**

Hey...

Some scary moments yesterday when 2 Firefighters were injured while operating at a row fire in Hamburg, Berks County (PA) yesterday evening. The Firefighters were injured when a ceiling collapsed on them while they were operating at the fire. Both have been treated and released-they had some minor trauma one had steam burns to the neck.

**DON'T THROW THE BABY OUT WITH THE BATH WATER:**

In Illinois, Berwyn FF Stephen Petergal is on the mend after having surgery for a hernia he suffered while working out at the firehouse but, months later, he and other BFD FF's (61 members force) are now restricted from working out. Right after FF Petergal, 51, was injured (while walking on a treadmill in late November)... **Berwyn Mayor Michael O'Connor, who is "fed up" with a spike in city-wide workers comp claims, prohibited the use of firehouse exercise equipment to prevent other firefighters from getting hurt on the taxpayers' dime.**

"At some point, you have to say 'enough is enough,' " said the Mayor. "It's not about Stephen getting hurt. It's not about the firefighters. We've been paying \$6 million in workman's comp claims for all city departments since June of 2004...you know, people need to take responsibly and stop blaming the city for their injuries. People need to sacrifice a little during

these tough times." **But...FF Petergal is the first firefighter injured on city exercise equipment...and working out on duty is supported by every major fire service organization-AND the Federal Government.....**

Mayor O'Connor said firefighters should exercise at home or use the equipment at the police station during off hours. "I do think firefighters should be in good shape," said O'Connor. "But other city employees aren't allowed to exercise during work hours. The police can't exercise on city time. Why should the firefighters be any different?"

That's one of the most common questions by city hall dwellers who don't take time to understand-or may not want to understand, how the job works. There are differences. Fire and police share the same kinds of sirens and warning lights, and help people when they have a problem...but that's about it as far as common denominators. While we agree that working out is definitely more than just an on-duty responsibility, and you can't go home after working out at the firehouse and enjoy a case of deep fried twinkies with a side of tasty-cakes and expect results...working out at the firehouse shouldn't be eliminated because one FF suffered an injury. **Even the Federal Government supports Firefighters working out in the firehouse-how many Fire Act Grants have been awarded to provide equipment to be used in firehouses?**

Take time to CHECK THIS OUT and share with those who need to better understand that Firefighter fitness "around the clock" has nothing to do with "enough is enough"....  
**IAFC/IAFF Fire Service Joint Labor Management Wellness-Fitness Initiative:**  
<http://www.iaff.org/HS/Well/wellness.html>  
<http://www.iafc.org/displaycommon.cfm?an=1&subarticlenbr=382>

### **9/11 LUNG ISSUE ...more PROOF:**

We hope that former EPA chief Christie Whitman is paying attention to the below study...remember her, and her assurances that it was "safe" for Firefighters, Cops, EMT's and other responders to breathe the air around the fallen World Trade Center? It made sense to her, pretty much alone, while the rest of the world was like, WHAT did she say? A real WTF?! moment...a moment that now threatens the lives of **many not breathing very well** FDNY and NYPD members ...as well as those members who have died "in the Line of Duty" since then, due to 9/11 lung disease.

Well, researchers tracking 9/11 responders who became sick after working at the World Trade Center site have now found more proof that many had lung problems years following 9/11...in a study the authors said **proves persistent illness in people exposed to the toxic dust caused by the twin towers' collapse.** Slightly more than 24 percent of the patients studied had abnormal lung function, the study found. In the earlier examinations, about 28 percent of the patients had similar results.

"We know people we are following are still sick. It's confirming what we've been seeing clinically," said Dr. Jacqueline M. Moline, who treats ailing Firefighters and other responders and co-authored the study.

Mount Sinai's program has treated more than 26,000 people who were at the site or worked there in the days after Sept. 11. The study's authors noted that participants asked to be

**Chabot College Fire & EMS News**

enrolled in the program and may have more health problems than others who were exposed but didn't enroll. But Norman H. Edelman, chief medical officer of the American Lung Association, said the study is "probably an important finding" of long-term post-Sept. 11 illness. The researchers tracked 3,160 people who took followup exams between September 2004 and December 2007; all had previous exams at least 18 months earlier. **The study appears in today's editions of CHEST, a journal published by the American College of Chest Physicians:** <http://www.chestjournal.org>

**SOME OUTSTANDING FIRE VIDEOS:**

While we have a video page on FireFighterCloseCalls.com loaded with excellent clips sent in by Firefighters, we also rely on some partnering websites for some of the best videos out there-videos we can all learn from. **Check them out:**

<http://bestfirefightervideo.com/index.php/Close-Call-Videos/>

<http://community.firevideo.net/>

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 2-5-09 / 0749 hours

**AND:**

Hey...

A San Francisco Firefighter is in critical/life threatening condition, and 5 others were hospitalized with injuries received at a 3 alarm fire early this morning. The most seriously injured Firefighter suffered smoke inhalation and is in critical condition with life threatening injuries, while 5 other Firefighters who were also hospitalized in stable condition suffering from minor burns, smoke inhalation and an injured knee. The injuries were sustained in a fast moving fire reported at 1230 hours ...at what turned out to be a vacant two-story dwelling...conditions forced the members to pull out and caused a large portion of the structure's roof to collapse, injuring the FF's.

**Here is some video:**

<http://cbs5.com/video/?id=45687@kpix.dayport.com>

<http://www.ktvu.com/news/18647163/detail.html>

Updates later.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 2-5-09 / 1423 hours

**AND:**

Hey....

At 1537 Hours Friday, Charles and Prince Georges County (Maryland) companies were dispatched for a single family house fire with a report of possible trapped occupants. First arriving companies found a 1 story single family dwelling with heavy fire showing. As a search was being conducted, a reported flashover occurred. This resulted in a firefighter from the Waldorf VFD being burned requiring a medevac to Washington Hospital Center in Washington D.C. The Firefighter is suffering from 2nd degree burns to both hands and 3rd degree to the right ear requiring admission. One other firefighter was injured and transported to a local hospital with a possible shoulder injury. There were no civilians located in the residence. The Waldorf VFD is also where EMT Tonya Mallard lost

February 21, 2009

[www.chabotfire.com](http://www.chabotfire.com)

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her life in the Line of Duty in the Maryland State Police medevac Crash last September.

**SAN FRANCISCO FIREFIGHTERS INJURED/BURNED UPDATE:**

2 of the 6 San Francisco Firefighters injured Thursday remain hospitalized. The Firefighters were injured when a roof collapsed at a working vacant house fire. The collapse didn't directly hurt them but the resulting change of conditions did. Firefighter/Paramedic Christopher Posey, suffered life threatening injuries to his respiratory system with severe inhalation burns and CO poisoning along with second and third degree facial burns. He remains in ICU. He has more than 18 years' experience with the city, seven as a paramedic and 11 as a firefighter paramedic. Lt. James App, who has been on the job for 8 years, suffered 1st, 2nd and 3rd degree burns - but is expected to be released in a few days. Updates will follow.

**FIREFIGHTING FOAM PROBLEMS?**

Minnesota health officials are launching a major investigation into whether drinking water in 15 Minnesota cities is contaminated with chemicals **formerly** manufactured by 3M Co. and used in firefighting foam. The tests, starting next month, will be important to residents and fire officials across North America where 3M firefighting foam has been used for years, especially in training exercises, often on city-owned property adjacent to municipal wells. The foam is flushed into storm sewers or left to seep into the ground, raising the possibility that drinking water has been affected. "This could have national significance," said Doug Wetzstein, supervisor in the superfund section at the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency. Here is more:

[http://www.startribune.com/templates/Print\\_This\\_Story?sid=39229742](http://www.startribune.com/templates/Print_This_Story?sid=39229742)

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 2-6-09 / 2319 hours

**AND**

Hey...

3 Firefighters were injured in an early morning fire today in **Elgin, AL**. A wall collapsed on 3 Firefighters with 1 FF in serious condition and was flown to Huntsville. Initial reports are that he has a tib/fib fracture to his left leg above his ankle, 11 broken ribs, a concussion and was getting a chest tube. The other 2 Firefighters have NLT injuries. More to follow.

**AUSTRALIA: NEARLY 100 DEAD INCLUDING AT LEAST ONE FIREFIGHTERS FAMILY:**

Take a moment to check these links out. We have received a number of e-mails from TSL member FF's in Australia passing this information along about this massive, killer fire. So far, other than some injuries, all Firefighters are OK... but there have been many apparatus destroyed. Here are the links-updates later:

<http://www.news.com.au>

<http://www.news.com.au/adelaidenow>

<http://www.news.com.au/adelaidenow/story/0,22606,25024248-5006301,00.html>

<http://www.news.com.au/heraldsun>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yWoWzjyX3nU>

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 2-8-09 / 1220 hours

**AND:**

Hey...

As most of you know, many FD's, especially in the east, have FD members as a part of Fire-Police Units to handle traffic and related safety details on or near scenes. Well, on Friday, Wayne County (Pennsylvania) Fire Police Officer Clyde Walter was setting up a traffic detour Friday he was attacked by Joseph Rios, 72. Rios drove his Ford F-350 past Walter and nearly struck him and his vehicle. FPO Walter continued to set up road flares as he was diverting traffic away from a house fire at 0840 hours. Mr Rios, in an apparent act of lunacy, then got out of his vehicle, walked up to FPO Walter and began to yelling profanities at him. Attacker Rios next pushed FPO Walter down and started to strike him on the head with a wooden cane....and Rios continued the attack until 2 Honesdale firefighters stopped him. FPO Walter was taken to Wayne Memorial Hospital with chest pains and for evaluation of his injuries. Rios is charged with two counts of aggravated assault, one count of simple assault and one count of harassment. Amazing.

**DISPATCH ISSUES:**

There has been quite a bit of media coverage lately related to 9-1-1 and fire/emergency service dispatchers and the related operations. Dispatchers are the "first responders"...often well aware of "what we have" before we know we are even going out the door. Here are some dispatch center related videos:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5-eBxBH2IT8> (Phoenix-Dispatch Documentary)

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7GLQx2xYbes> (CalFIRE-Dispatch Documentary)

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EUlyai2YKro> (FDNY Response to Hudson River Plane Landing)

[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XvEhjBbv\\_L8](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XvEhjBbv_L8) (Vintage FDNY Dispatch Documentary)

And, like firefighters, hiring the right folks, training them and providing them with support and supervision can make or break an incident. Sometimes it can make headlines. A Fire dispatch center (or a "911" dispatch center that provides fire dispatch services along with PD and EMS) without strong leadership and aggressive initial and on-going training can be the weakest link. The training of, or the failure to properly train and supervise dispatchers is a critical factor in the entire scope of a FD providing service.

Firefighters also have to have a true understanding of what "the dispatchers" go thru...we can't do that just by listening - some time spent at the dispatch center can be a huge help in understanding. Equally, some time by dispatchers responding on runs in the field with FD units is equally a big deal. Both "sides" training on what "the other" goes thru can pay off big time and keep reporters and attorneys focused on Presidential appointees and their back taxes, instead of us.

**Here are some recent examples of dispatch related issues made public, both good and bad:**

**FLORIDA:**

<http://www2.tbo.com/content/2009/feb/04/babys-death-inquiry-focuses-911-mix/>

**MAINE:** <http://kennebecjournal.maintoday.com/news/local/5908894.html>

**GEORGIA:**

<http://www.wusa9.com/news/columnist/blogs/2009/01/atlanta-911-director-changes-tune-after.html>

**INDIANA:**

<http://www.wusa9.com/news/columnist/blogs/2009/01/more-911-calls-from-fort-wayne-triple.html>

**And...we dug this one out from last year:**

**"CAD SAYS"** <http://cms.firehouse.com/content/article/article.jsp?sectionId=16&id=58501>

Here are a few sample sites related to FIRE DISPATCHER TRAINING:

<http://community.fireengineering.com/forum/topic/show?id=1219672%3ATopic%3A14766>

<http://www.calchiefs.org/index.cfm?Section=70&pagenum=1039&titles=0>

<http://www.apointl.org>

<http://www.nena.org>

Check out our **FIRE RADIO COMMUNICATIONS** page as well.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 2-8-09 / 1700 hours

**AND:**

Hey,...

**5 James City County (VA) Firefighters** were injured and transported from an **unusual fire call** in a sprinklered commercial/industrial fire building hazardous materials last night. An electric heater started the fire fueled by some plastic materials nearby and company's sprinkler system contained the fire, BUT the water overflowed two 120-gallon vats of chromic acid onto the concrete. 4 Firefighters were taken to the hospital for injuries from the fumes of the "extremely hazardous" chromic acid. Their injuries included inhalation of the toxic fumes and eye irritation, JCC DC Ryalls said. A 5th firefighter broke his foot when a fire hose landed on it.

**ALABAMA FF UPDATE:**

As previously advised, a Firefighter was seriously injured early Sunday when a portion of a wall from a garage fire fell on him during overhaul. FF Morris Lentz from the Rogersville VFD (and President of the Lauderdale Co FF's) was flown to Huntsville Hospital, where he was in surgery Sunday afternoon...his injuries are not considered life-threatening. FF Lentz was undergoing surgery yesterday to place pins in his leg. He sustained a broken left leg, 11 broken ribs, fractured pelvis and broken back...but he can move all his extremities. The fire involved a detached garage made of logs. Part of a wall fell outward and came down on the firefighters..."there could have been serious head damage, but luckily their helmets saved them." The fire had been knocked down and the 2 FF's had just come down from a ladder, where they had been checking the eaves for extension....they were standing near a wall of the garage and a 4-foot section gave way...about five or six logs of that wall fell and collapsed on them.

**SAN FRANCISCO UPDATE:**



FF/PM Christopher Posey and Lt. James App, were hurt Thursday morning at that working vacant two-story house fire. The most serious, FF/PM Posey, remains in "critical but stable" condition. The married father of 2 suffered serious respiratory injuries after inhaling dangerous levels of super-heated gases. Lt App remained in stable condition yesterday.

## **AUSTRALIA UPDATE - FIREFIGHTERS BURNED & LIVE FIRE RADIO LINKS:**

**The following are excerpts from various Australian FF's who have written in to us:**

Greetings from a State and Fire Service in the world's news. Last Saturday, we saw the worst fire conditions in our State's history. A ten year drought produced extremely flammable forests and grasslands. We experienced temps in excess of 115 degrees with hot north winds in excess of 50 mph. At the same time we had seven major fires burning and they have so far consumed over 650 000 acres and still going. **As of now, 131 people have died.** This figure will increase. **Most fatalities were of families who tried to flee their homes in vehicles at the last moment.** At one stage, one fire traveled approx 25 miles in 20 mins, totally destroying all in its path. The width of the firewall would have been approx 25 miles in some areas. Several small communities of up to 3000 people are totally destroyed. Deaths are projected at possibly 200+...however rumors are predicting higher numbers. (Sadly). Over 700 homes destroyed and 5000+ people now homeless.

**Thankfully, still no reports of F/F LODD's, however some reported injured with severe burns and there is the Fire Fighter who lost his wife and kids while he was out fighting the fire.**

Resources from all over Australia are being sourced, including multiple skycrane helicopter water bombers, dozens of fixed and rotary wing bombers, and over 3000 Firefighters on the ground. A number of towns have been totally wiped out, with Disaster Victim Identification teams still yet to get in to establish the total number of lives lost.

Our Firefighters are doing a great job as usual, however as you imagine it is taking its toll. Many of our crews have been tasked with loss identification and this is very distressing as you are aware. Amid all the economic doom and gloom, the community as usual is responding to neighbours in need in an overwhelming manner. We have been very fortunate in relation to Firefighter fatalities and injuries in relation to the size, number and severity. **We have several volunteer firefighters uncounted for at this time and several with life threatening burns.** Most were protecting homes. There are currently in excess of 10 Firefighters in hospitals with burns in a critical condition.

**=CFA Live Fire Radio**

[http://cfastream.info/infusions/cfastream\\_streams/cfastream\\_stream.php](http://cfastream.info/infusions/cfastream_streams/cfastream_stream.php)

**=Country Fire Authority. Victoria Australia**

<http://www.cfa.vic.gov.au/>

**=Updated Breaking News**

<http://ninemsn.com.au>

**The FIREHOUSE PORCH LIGHT MAY BE ON.....**

Philly FF's Take Staffing Issues to the Taxpayers Via Radio Ads Tough times in Philly require tough actions by the Firefighters local...and the Mayor is not very happy. Like it or not, in any

city where companies are closed, **there will be delays in responses.** In many cities making these cuts, the firehouse "porch light" may be on-but there may be nobody home... Dave Statter911 has been covering this-here are the links:

<http://www.wusa9.com/news/columnist/blogs/2009/02/listen-to-radio-ad-that-philadelphia.html>

Take Care-BE CAREFUL,

BillyG

The Secret List 2-9-09 / 0745 hours

**AND:**

### **FIREFIGHTER KILLED IN THE LINE OF DUTY-CHINA (video)**

A Firefighter has died in the Line of Duty at that Central China Television's complex fire in downtown Beijing on Monday night. The FF suffered smoke inhalation while searching in the unvented structure and died in hospital early this morning. 6 other people were injured, including 5 Firefighters. Our sincere condolences. Here is some video of the fire:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ahTNjmY7EpA>

### **SEVERAL CLOSE CALLS:**

A **Trenton, NJ** Firefighter is fighting for his life this morning following a 2nd alarm fire last night. Initial reports were received for multiple trapped occupants, including children. Several people were rescued from the 3rd floor by this, and other TFD FF's. **It is reported that a Firefighter exited the building complaining of shortness of breath and then went into cardiac arrest.** The fire is considered suspicious...updates to follow.

**Tempe, AZ,** Firefighters were operating at a working fire at a vacant home on Tuesday morning. Several Firefighters were inside the home when a small portion of the roof collapsed. Captain Dan Fonseca with the Tempe Fire Department said, "When it collapsed we didn't know where everyone was at and as we were coming through we tried to gather everybody and get a head count." All of the firefighters made it out of the house without serious injuries. There were reports of homeless people in the structure.

### **FIRE HISTORY-170 people killed in PA:**

Thanks to Mike W from IFSTA for this reminder...one of the largest loss of life fires ever to occur in the U.S. happened in 1908 at the Rhodes Opera House in Boyertown, PA . 170 people lost their lives in this fire and it was responsible for many of the modern fire and building codes that are used today. Another thing that will strike you is how similar the cause of this fire was to the Rhode Island Station Nightclub nightclub fire a few years ago. To recognize the 100th anniversary of this fire, an Allentown TV station produced a very good documentary about it. A 5 minute clip that is very interesting can be found at:

<http://www.wfmz.com/special/operahousefire/>

Take Care-BE CAREFUL,

BillyG

The Secret List 2-10-09 / 1044 hours

**AND**

### **ALABAMA FIREFIGHTER DIES WHILE AT TRAINING**

**Chabot College Fire & EMS News**

It is with deep regret that we advise you that **City of Enterprise FD (Alabama) Firefighter, Jeffrey Isbell, 33, passed away yesterday morning**, February 10, 2009 from an unknown cause. FF Isbell was attending routine training at the Alabama Fire College in Tuscaloosa, Alabama. He was an Enterprise Firefighter for just over 2 years. No other information concerning his death is available at this time. Our condolences to all affected.

**YOUR STATE...and Firefighting Cancer:**

If you live in **Oregon**, the news is good. A bill that cleared their House yesterday will establish some cancers developed in all Firefighters as job-related, requiring them to be covered as occupational diseases.

The 55-1 vote sent House Bill 2420 to the Senate.

"This bill makes sure we protect the working men and women who risk their lives every day for our families and communities," said Rep. Greg Matthews, D-Gresham, who is a firefighter. **HB 2420 provides coverage for firefighters from 12 types of cancer - brain, colon, stomach, testicular, prostate, multiple myeloma, non-Hodgkin's lymphoma, throat, mouth, rectal, breast and leukemia** - and shifts the burden of proof to cities to demonstrate that cancer contracted by a Firefighter was not job-related. The bill is supported by the Oregon State Firefighters Council, the Special Districts Association of Oregon, the city of Portland, the Oregon Fire Chiefs Association and the Oregon Volunteer Firefighters....**in UNITY there is strength!**

Need information to help your elected officials understand the job related issues of Firefighting cancers? Go to this link, and then scroll down to numerous related links:

<http://dynamic.firehouse.com/broadcast/2006/12/22/firefighting-cancer>

as well as these links:

[http://seattlepi.nwsourc.com/local/378819\\_firefighters12.html](http://seattlepi.nwsourc.com/local/378819_firefighters12.html)

<http://healthnews.uc.edu/news/?/3750>

<http://www.eh.uc.edu/news/pdfs/lockey-01-18-07.pdf>

**For loads of related info and SUPPORT INFORMATION for FF's and their Families, go to:** [www.FireFighterCancerSupport.org](http://www.FireFighterCancerSupport.org)

**CHINA FIRE...AMAZING "AFTER" PHOTOS:**

Here are some amazing photos during and AFTER that fire (**look at the picture of the structure AFTER the fire went out**) in Beijing, China that killed 1 Firefighter in the Line of Duty, thanks to **Fire Geezer Bill S:**

<http://www.firegeezer.com/2009/02/10/massive-hotel-fire-started-by-fireworks/>

Here are also some related videos of the fire while burning: (**Warning: rough language**)

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KA1CzyvbpS0&feature=related>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KoFvZgw3Fxs&feature=related>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6hSPFL2Zlpg>

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List -2-11-09 / 0715 hours

**AND:**

Hey....

2 seasoned emergency managers' names have come up as the Obama administration's final candidates to head the Federal Emergency Management Agency. Both very qualified from what has been written, one candidate, Florida's Craig Fugate, also has a background as a FF/Paramedic. Here are more details from FF Nation:

<http://www.firefighternation.com/forum/topics/obama-narrows-choice-for-fema>

**Here are some related details about the reported 2 final candidates:**

<http://www.govtech.com/gt/268533>

<http://www.blogger.com/profile/11115657985016025704>

<http://www.cipert.org/?faculty/bio&id=gordon>

**TRENTON UPDATE:**

This is an update related to the Trenton (NJ) FF who sustained serious injuries at a working house fire Monday night. **Firefighter Manny Rivera remains in critical condition** in the ICU at St. Francis Medical Center. FF Rivera rescued a fire victim to escape the building then he collapsed. TFD FF's crews responded to the house fire Monday night with heavy smoke and fire on arrival. The homeowners had attempted to fight the fire with a garden hose before calling, allowing the fire time to get going. Firefighters rescued one man from a third-story window after he became trapped in the house, but the rest of the occupants were able to get out on their own.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL,

BillyG

The Secret List 2-10-09 / 2220 hours

**AND:**

Hey...

Just in the interest of accuracy and keeping you up to date on the facts, the trainee death of **(City of Enterprise FD, Alabama Firefighter Jeffrey Isbell, 33)** that occurred yesterday actually happened off-campus at the student's hotel. The course in which he was enrolled involved no physical exertion at all on Monday (day one of training) and the cause is still unknown as is the classification of this sad loss. Our condolences to all affected.

**UPDATE: TRENTON NJ FF Worsens:**

Firefighter Manny Rivera took a turn for the worse yesterday at St. Francis Medical Center, Mayor Doug Palmer praised him as a hero and urged Trentonians to pray for him. FF Rivera, a 14-year TFD veteran in his 40s and the married father of two, suffered a heart attack Monday night as he rescued a man hanging from the upstairs window of a working house fire. FF Rivera has been in critical condition since the attack - his life hanging by a slender thread as a respirator breathed for him in St. Francis's intensive care unit. More details here: [www.Trentonfirefighters.com](http://www.Trentonfirefighters.com)

**THE WORST KIND OF RUN:**

While we all respond to some of the worst stuff, the top of that can be when we respond to someone we know, or are related to. In North Carolina, a Firefighter found his wife as the DOA victim when he responded to a hit-and-run call on a rural North Carolina road Monday.

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[www.chabotfire.com](http://www.chabotfire.com)

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**Chabot College Fire & EMS News**

Firefighter Jamie Kornegay of Penderlea VFD in Pender County was responding Monday to the run and found his wife lying in the road near their house. FF Kornegay said his wife Amy, 30, was on a regular walk with her cousin when she was struck by a pickup truck. The 71-year-old driver has been arrested. Her husband said his wife was a substitute elementary school teacher and a part-time accounting clerk. The Kornegays had two sons. While not directly related to the mission of our site or this newsletter, we felt it was worthy of mention. Just a few months ago in PA, a similar tragic incident occurred as well. Our condolences to all.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL,  
BillyG

The Secret List 2-11-09 / 1425 hours

**AND:**

**WISCONSIN FIRE CHIEF LODD - FOLLOWING A VEHICLE FIRE**

**Clayton-Winchester FD (WI) Fire Chief Mathison**, 63, responded to a vehicle fire incident then returned to the station to assist with clean-up and returning the equipment to service. On Tuesday, while Chief Mathison was attending a quarterly fire department safety league (regional), he was discovered unresponsive in the restroom. Care was initiated and Chief Mathison was transported to the hospital but could not be revived.

**An Australian Firefighter** has died at a fire in his own home just after returning from fighting the massive fires they have been dealing with. **Country Fire Authority FF Russell Pitt** was found in the burned out remains of his home this morning. FF Mr Pitt had returned home briefly after days fighting bushfires at Mirboo North in Gippsland and at Yarra Glen and he was due to be sent out for fire duty again on Thursday.

**Here are videos and the story:**

<http://www.news.com.au/heraldsun/story/0,21985,25043481-661,00.html>

Our sincere condolences to the CFA as well as FF Pitt's family and friends.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL,  
BillyG

The Secret List 2-12-09 / 1532 hours

**AND:**

Hey....

Here is a link directly to the NIOSH report released today including all details, stats and photos - [www.cdc.gov/niosh/fire/reports/face200718.html](http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/fire/reports/face200718.html)

Here are some related links:

**PODCAST broadcast today from South Carolina related to this report:**

[http://www.firefighterhourly.com/firefighter\\_hourly/2009/02/special-podcast.html](http://www.firefighterhourly.com/firefighter_hourly/2009/02/special-podcast.html)

**These are links to PRIOR "Thru The Smoke" Podcasts ...with links to all previous reports related to this fire, including the independent "Routley" report:**

<http://dynamic.firehouse.com/broadcast/2008/05/20/through-the-smoke-charleston-the->

[routely-phase-ii-report-part-1/](#)

<http://dynamic.firehouse.com/broadcast/2008/06/17/through-the-smoke-charleston-the-routley-phase-ii-report-part-2/>

<http://dynamic.firehouse.com/broadcast/2007/12/07/through-the-smoke-the-charleston-firewhats-changed-part-1/>

Lots for all of us to learn from....

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 2-12-09 / 1831 hours

**AND:**

Hey....

As you know, last night, **Clarence Center** (Erie County, NY) Firefighters responded (with numerous mutual aid) to the tragic plane crash...a **real CLOSE CALL** as it occurred very close (as in within view of) to their own firehouse. Here is a link to the **FIRE RADIO DISPATCH** and operational channels from Monroe County Fire Wire:

<http://www.mcfw.com/?p=1331>

Here is the Clarence Center Fire Company home page: <http://www.ccvfc.com>

Dave Statter911 has lots of related info including maps to show the close proximity, air traffic audio etc:

<http://www.wusa9.com/news/columnist/blogs/2009/02/more-on-crash-of-flight-3407-50-dead.htm>

**REMEMBER LEXINGTON: FIRE LT SHOT AND KILLED IN THE LINE OF DUTY:**

Today marks the 5th anniversary of the murder of Lexington (KY) Lt. Brenda Cowan, who was shot and killed during a standoff situation. Like we all do daily, Lt Cowan responded in to assist on a run, got out of the rig (police had not yet arrived) and was shot. Shooter Patrick Hutchinson was declared mentally ill and murder charges against him were dropped in the incident. Another grim reminder of us never knowing what we may run into...if unsure, await the cops. Size up, size up...size up....no matter what the run. RIP Lt. Cowan. Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 2-13-09 / 1231 hours

**AND:**

Hey....

Here is a direct link to the **Erie County Fire Wire** and the audio and more local information. **Note the Chief establishing command immediately**-as it crashed right by the firehouse.

You can hear the fire alarm siren sounding in the background, and the Chiefs confirmation of the job. Numerous members of that fire company literally walked out their front doors and saw the incident. This link, in addition to having the fire radio traffic, has video as well. Chek it out here: <http://www.ecfwire.com/id111.html>

**UPDATED link:** Try this link as the one we sent before was missing an "L"...from the HTML:  
<http://www.wusa9.com/news/columnist/blogs/2009/02/more-on-crash-of-flight-3407-50-dead.html>

The above link from Dave Statter911 has **very early home "1st due" video** as neighbors attempt to account for each other. Also appears to show the first line stretched and being charged as companies arrive.

### **SHOCKING ACQUITTAL:**

A jury today cleared two Bronx tenants of causing the **Line of Duty deaths of FDNY Firefighter John Bellew, 37, and Lt. Curtis Meyran, 46**, in the 2005 Black Sunday Bronx fire. The firefighters' widows and a courtroom packed with Firefighters sat shell-shocked. Bellew's widow, Eileen, a mother of four, uttered sobs as the two were cleared on charges of manslaughter, negligent homicide and reckless endangerment. She tried to stifle her cries as family members attempted to comfort her. Beside her, Meyran's widow, Jeanette, who has three children, tightly hugged her husband's FDNY jacket in disbelief. The tenants had been accused of using illegal partitions to chop their apartments into a deadly warren of rooms stopping the FF's from seeing the fire before it erupted into a fireball which cornered them in a room with no fire escape. They were forced to leap from a fourth floor window.

A second jury is expected to reach a verdict soon on similar charges against Cesar Rios, 52, the manager of the building, and its corporate owner, 234 East 178th Street LLC.

### **DO YOU RESPOND TO HI-RISE FIRES?**

Then there are few better ways to LEARN than from here:  
[http://www.fdnymfoundation.com/2008/10/highrise\\_sympos.php](http://www.fdnymfoundation.com/2008/10/highrise_sympos.php)  
Take Care-BE CAREFUL-Seeya in San Diego.

BillyG

The Secret List 2-13-09 / 1340 hours

### **AND:**

Hey....

A non-responding tower ladder returning from maintenance crashed with a pick-up truck in **Wood County, Ohio** this afternoon. Two medivac helicopters were dispatched and the drivers of both the fire apparatus, a **Firefighter along with the civilian vehicle driver were taken to Toledo area hospitals. Another Firefighter was following as they were bringing the rig back.**

Witnesses stated that the pick-up truck ran a stop sign and drove in front of the tower. The apparatus rolled over and the pick-up was thrown across the intersection. The fire apparatus is a Shawnee Township ladder truck, which is near Lima. The truck had been repaired in Wood County-and it was not responding on a run. Updates to follow on our home page with pictures.

### **INTERVIEW WITH ONE OF THE FIRST ALARM CHIEFS TO THE NY PLANE CRASH:**

**Chabot College Fire & EMS News**

This is a link to an excellent interview with Chief Jim Quigley of the East Amherst VFD, which responded within 2 minutes of the 1st alarm as mutual aid to the Clarence Center FD's scene of the plane crash last night. Jim shares his insight and observations upon arrival at the scene and discusses some of the fire and rescue operations during his 6 hours on the scene.

<http://www.firefighternation.com/profiles/blogs/crash-responder-we-knew-it>

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 2-13-09 / 1540 hours

**AND:**

Hey...

Following a serious rollover crash while driving a 1990 Grumman Aerialcat Ladder Truck, Shawnee Township Firefighter/EMT Dick Oder, who was seat belted in, is in serious but stable condition in the University of Toledo/Medical College of Ohio. Firefighter/EMT Oder was flown via Life Flight helicopter from the crash which occurred in Troy Township, Wood County. **"FF Oder is in serious, but stable condition and is going to recover from his injuries. Make no mistake though, he is a lucky man to be alive"... from what Capt. John Norris told us.**

The crash occurred when, according to witnesses and OSP, a civilian in a pickup truck blew thru a stop sign.

**Here are some facts about the department and the incident:**

=Shawnee FD is just south of the city of Lima, OH in Allen County

**=FF/EMT Dick Oder was seat belted in.** He is one of 21 Full-time career Firefighters

=FF Oder is a 24 ½ year veteran and is 58 years old

=Vehicle was a 1990 Grumman Aerialcat 102ft ladder truck (total loss-several pictures were sent in and are posted on [www.FireFighterCloseCalls.com](http://www.FireFighterCloseCalls.com) )

=Vehicle was being returned to the FD by Firefighter Oder after being serviced by W. W. Williams in Perrysburg, OH.

**UPDATE: Heroic Chinese Firefighter LODD:**

The firefighter who died in the Line of Duty Monday when operating at that fire at the new China Central Television (CCTV) headquarters gave his life to save a trapped man, said another FF in an interview:

[http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/2009-02/14/content\\_10819484.htm](http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/2009-02/14/content_10819484.htm)

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 2-14-09 / 0900 hours

**AND:**

**14 FORESTRY FIREFIGHTERS KILLED IN THE LINE OF DUTY IN CHILE-HELICOPTER CRASH**

A helicopter carrying firefighters from a forest fire crashed in southern Chile killing 14 on board this afternoon. The helicopter had just retrieved the Firefighters from a day's working the fire which is still burning. The Firefighters were young men between the ages of 18 and

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[www.chabotfire.com](http://www.chabotfire.com)

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25 who worked for a Chilean timber and pulp company known as CELCO. Our condolences to all affected.

**FATAL OHIO FD EMS CRASH:**

At 18:45 Hours this evening a FD EMS unit in Trumbull County was involved in a crash on Rt 11. The members were returning from an earlier run. The EMS unit was Med-29 from Johnston Twp. Fire/EMS. Both members were transported to a trauma center with moderate NLT injuries-**and both were reportedly belted in**. The fatality was a civilian from the car that struck them. Initial reports are that the civilians car crossed the median of State Rte 11 in Vienna Twp.

**FOLLOWUP: Indiana Multi-Fatal Crash/Apparatus Struck:**

Below is a link to an article chronicling what led up to a major multi-vehicle winter weather accident on an Indiana highway a couple weeks ago. The first vehicle struck was a FD engine company returning from another call, which came upon a crash. Just after positioning their engine, they were struck and took a major impact, followed by two separate, smaller impacts. The belted FFs were all okay, though 2 people in other vehicles were killed. Here is the link:

<http://www.indystar.com/article/20090215/LOCAL18/902150414/1001/NEWS>

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 2-15-09 / 2130 hours

**AND:**

**MONTGOMERY CO, PA LODD (The Secret List)**

A member of the **Roslyn Fire Company, in Montgomery County, PA** has died as a result of cardiac arrest suffered while assisting police with traffic control at a vehicle accident. **Albert G. Eberle**, 74 of the Roslyn Fire Company was directing traffic at 2303hrs last evening when he suffered a cardiac arrest. CPR was performed on scene and FF Eberle was pronounced dead at Abington Hospital. FF Eberle was also a member of the Willow Grove Fire Company. Our sincere condolences to the Roslyn and Willow Grove Fire Companies as well as FF Eberle's family and friends.

Take Care - BE CAREFUL

BillyG

The Secret List 2-16-09 0938hrs

**AND:**

**AUSTRALIAN FIREFIGHTER KILLED IN THE LINE OF DUTY-Tree Falls On Apparatus**

**A Canberra Firefighter, driving fire apparatus while firefighting was killed in the Line of Duty earlier today near Marysville when a tree collapsed on the apparatus.** That Firefighter was due to return home within days. Marysville was struck very hard by the still active fires. The ACT Fire Brigade member is the 1st Firefighter to die in the Line of Duty in Victoria's massive wildland fire emergency, which so far has taken at least 200 civilian lives. He died at the scene, high in the Yarra Ranges National Park. An ACT Ambulance intensive care Paramedic on the scene was unable to save him but thankfully, another Firefighter riding in the apparatus was unharmed. The firefighter's name has not been

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released but his immediate family has been notified. Our condolences to all affected.  
Take Care-BE CAREFUL,  
BillyG  
The Secret List 2-17-09 / 0830 hours

**AND:**

Hey....

**An elderly woman was killed last night when her car was hit by a Volunteer Firefighter responding to a water emergency in Akwesasne.** The woman had pulled out of her driveway and was making a left turn into her daughter's driveway when her car was hit on the driver's side according to the St. Regis Mohawk Tribal Police Chief. The St Regis Mohawk Nation is located in New York State but is an independent tribe. The investigation is continuing and charges are pending against the Volunteer Firefighter. The FF was responding to a report of a vehicle gone through the ice into the St. Lawrence River shortly before 1900 hours last night. A search Tuesday evening turned up nothing. Searchers were to resume their efforts this morning.

**AERIAL FAILURE IN INDIANA**

While flowing water from an elevated master stream this morning, a Gary truck company experienced a catastrophic failure of their waterway. The nozzle, carriage and 1 section of waterway was jettisoned from the ladder, which was elevated to approximately 40 feet and landed a few yards away. **There is no cause as to what exactly happened this morning as of yet.** This CLOSE CALL incident is a reminder of a recent similar failure that caused the Line of Duty Death of Deputy Chief Mike Crotty of Lawrence Park, PA near Erie. Fortunately no one was injured in the Gary incident. Check out [www.IndianaFireNews.com](http://www.IndianaFireNews.com) for more details.

**HERE is the NIOSH Aerial Advisory:**

<http://www.cdc.gov/NIOSH/fire/SafetyAdvisory05052008.html>

**GUILTY OF HOMICIDE: BRONX BLACK SUNDAY FDNY DOUBLE LODD:**

The owner and former owner of a Bronx apartment building where 2 FDNY Firefighters died in the Line of Duty where 4 other FF's were critically injured while jumping from an apartment fire in 2005 were found guilty today, Wednesday, of criminally negligent homicide. Prosecutors argued that the Firefighters died because illegal partitions in two of the apartments disoriented them and forced them to jump five floors to their deaths. But last week a separate jury acquitted the tenants who installed the partitions. The jury that convicted the owners today did not know of the earlier verdict. The former owner, Cesar Rios, and the current owner, a company named 234 East 178th Street, were found guilty today of two counts of criminally negligent homicide and one count of reckless endangerment. They were each found not guilty of the most serious charge, manslaughter, which carries a maximum sentence of 15 years per count. For an individual, criminally negligent homicide carries a top sentence of four years; the company can be fined up to \$10,000.

**The Firefighters, Lt. Curtis Meyran, 46, and FF John G. Bellew, 37, died after leaping 50 feet from the building to escape the out-of-control fire on Jan. 23, 2005.**

Defense lawyers argued that the Fire Department was at fault for the deaths. The fire exposed deficiencies in the department's equipment and procedures, breakdowns in communications, problems with water flow and the lack of safety ropes, which had been standard issue until several years before the fire, investigators said. The distribution of safety ropes was reinstated soon after the fire.

**HERE is the NIOSH report:** <http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/fire/reports/face200503.html>

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 2-18-09 / 1830 hours

**AND:**

Hey...

Just a few quick (really) random thoughts we wanted to share, along with some articles to help with perspective, ....depending. And remembering our old friend, and probably yours too:

**DON MANNO.**

**BUDGET CUTS??....Not So Fast....**

If your city or jurisdiction is looking at or is cutting staffing, doing brownouts, firehouse closing etc, **make sure that someone takes a look** at what impacts those reductions will have on HOMEOWNER as well as BUSINESS (Commercial, Industrial etc) related **INSURANCE RATINGS**. Seriously, keep in mind that ISO evaluates community **FIRE PROTECTION** and provides that information for insurance companies, so they can decide what to charge every taxpayer and business owner for insurance. When staffing gets cut, firehouses close, apparatus isn't replaced and related downgrades and reductions in fire protection occur, this directly impacts insurance rates-not to mention the ability of a FD to respond.... **Sometimes people forget about that....**

Take a look here for additional information: <http://www.isomitigation.com/>

CONTACT ISO with your questions: <http://www.isomitigation.com/talk>

CALL ISO at 1-800-444-4554 and ask to speak to an ISO Community Fire Protection Rep....so you and your community can get the facts...**quickly**.

**FIREFIGHTER ARSONIST WANTS HIS PENSION:**

In what American city would a FD lieutenant known as "Matches," convicted of multiple arsons, including one at an elementary school, still feel that he's still entitled to his taxpayer-funded pension of \$50,000 per year? Check this out:

<http://www.chicagotribune.com/news/columnists/chi-kass-matches-bd-15-feb15,0,6060540.column>

**BOOZE IN THE FIREHOUSE ....OR IN FIREFIGHTERS:**

Discussions are going on at the tip of Cape Cod (MA) following the wreck of the towns only ladder truck last year. Here is more:

<http://www.capecodonline.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20090218/NEWS/902180331/-1/NEWSMAP>

**AND SPEAKING OF APPARATUS ROLLOVERS (VIDEO):**

**Chabot College Fire & EMS News**

3 Firefighters from Abilene, Texas were hurt after a fire truck accident that was captured on videotape. They were operating along some railroad tracks Wednesday when the unexpected happened. The truck was parked right near the tracks while the firefighters were hitting the fire when the truck rolled over. The truck went down an embankment, injuring all 3 Firefighters and trapping one of them for a short time. They were all taken to an area hospital where they were treated for minor injuries and released.

**HERE IS THE VIDEO:**

[http://www.wkrg.com/caught\\_on\\_camera/article/rollover\\_caught\\_on\\_tape/23802/](http://www.wkrg.com/caught_on_camera/article/rollover_caught_on_tape/23802/)

**FINAL WORD: REMEMBERING CHIEF DON MANNO**

7 years ago this week, many of us were together in Baltimore County, MD saying our good byes to a wonderful Firefighter, Officer and Man...Chief Don Manno. For those of you who knew Donnie, you understand. For those who didn't, you would love him, almost everyone in this business did and he returned it everyday. RIP **DONNIE**.

<http://www.firefighterclosecalls.com/maillist/archive.php?id=SecretList&issueID=9>

[http://firechief.com/news/firefighting\\_longtime\\_fire\\_instructor/](http://firechief.com/news/firefighting_longtime_fire_instructor/)

<http://www.nsefo.org/displaycommon.cfm?an=8>

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 2-19-09 / 1936 hours

**AND:**

**DOUBLE FIREFIGHTER LINE OF DUTY DEATH-TRAILER FIRE-WEST VIRGINIA**

It is with deep regret we advise you that 2 Firefighters were killed in the Line of Duty last night (Thursday night) while fighting a mobile home fire in Nicholas County, West Virginia. The 2 Firefighters killed were members of the Craigsville Volunteer Fire Department...the fire happened in the town of Cottle. Initial reports are that they were killed while inside the structure. 1 of the men was a senior veteran FF, the other had several years experience. Additional details will follow. As always, our most sincere condolences.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 2-20-09 / 0800 hours

**AND:**

Hey....

The names of the 2 West Virginia Firefighters killed during a trailer fire last night have been released. **49-year-old Lt. Johnnie Hammons and 26-year-old Timothy Nicholas died in the Line of Duty while operating at a mobile home fire in the Cottle area. Lt. Hammons had been with the Craigsville-Beaver-Cottle FD for 11 years and FF Nicholas had only been a Firefighter for about a year.**

When the FF's arrived at the scene, reports are that the fire was mostly in a camping trailer that was parked about 4 feet from the mobile home but the fire had spread to the mobile home. The Firefighters died when they entered the mobile home at around 2200 last night and it is reported that they were trying to keep the fire from spreading within as well as to other nearby exposures. What happened while they were interior to cause or contribute

to their deaths is yet undisclosed. 18 Firefighters turned out for the initial alarm. We will provide updates as they become available.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 2-20-09 / 2030 hours

**To subscribe to the Secret List and get these emails for yourself, go to [www.firefighterclosecalls.com](http://www.firefighterclosecalls.com)**

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## **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.

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### **The budget woes continue, in various forms and fashions:**

The City of Reno (NV) wants unions to agree to reduced pay, less hours. Reno officials said cutting \$13.5 million from the budget would mean laying off up to 79 police employees and 90 fire employees, resulting in slower response times and closed fire stations:

<http://www.rgj.com/article/20090127/NEWS04/901270340>

The Reno (NV) City Council on Wednesday gave firefighters two weeks to agree to a 2.1 percent wage decrease or face the layoff of 12 union members and closure of a fire station:

<http://www.rgj.com/article/20090129/NEWS04/901290332/1321/NEWS>

As the City of Reno looks for ways to make ends meet they are asking many employees to take salary cuts to avoid layoffs. At a meeting this week, the Reno City Council told the fire department it would have to accept a 2.1% wage cut or an entire fire station would be cut:

<http://www.kolotv.com/news/headlines/38733757.html>

Reno (NV) firefighters say they've proposed contract changes to satisfy the city's demand for concessions to avoid layoffs. Union leaders say among the changes are a provision allowing firefighters to receive straight pay instead of overtime when they fill in for others who take last-minute vacation days:

[http://www.krnv.com/Global/story.asp?S=9794175&nav=menu113\\_2\\_1](http://www.krnv.com/Global/story.asp?S=9794175&nav=menu113_2_1)

The Reno (NV) City Council will review proposals publicly Wednesday from city worker unions for concessions that would avoid laying off 36 employees:

<http://www.rgj.com/article/20090209/NEWS04/902090328>

The latest news from Reno, NV where the City Council accepted a proposal Wednesday from nine different unions to cut salaries and benefits. Each union has tentatively agreed to 2.1% budget cuts for this fiscal year ending June 30, 2009. The city says this reduction will avoid layoffs and the closing of a fire station by saving the city \$3.3 million:

<http://www.ktvz.com/Global/story.asp?S=9830638>

When you need emergency medical help, you call 911 for an ambulance, but what if those options are limited? Fire departments in Lane County Oregon hope that won't be the case, if new money is found to keep the medics rolling. Ambulance service in central Lane County is in financial trouble-- and fire chiefs blame the feds:

<http://www.kval.com/news/local/38430399.html>

Faced with rising costs, more calls for service, a stagnant economy and fewer contributions from federal programs such as Medicare and Medicaid, fire chiefs in the Eugene, Springfield and Lane Rural fire districts are staring at a financial crisis for ambulance service that they say needs immediate action:

<http://www.registerguard.com/csp/cms/sites/web/news/sevendays/6607261-35/story.csp>

Chico (CA) firefighters finally have a contract, and it means several firefighters may keep their jobs after all. Members of the firefighters union voted Wednesday to approve a contract that includes among other things, no new raises for two years:

<http://www.khsltv.com/content/topstories/story/Chico-Firefighters-May-Avert-Layoffs/vB3lep1TukORzFpSS2aDDA.csp>

The Tahoe City (NV) Fire Department is finding it quite challenging obtaining the necessary funding to rebuild a fire station:

<http://www.sierrasun.com/article/20090219/NEWS/902199955/1051&title%3DNew%20Tahoe%20City%20fire%20station:%20Officials%20still%20searching%20for%20funds>

The Spokane (WA) Fire Department had to turn down a grant that would have provided additional firefighter positions. However, this may be a smarter move than some folks think. While it would have added additional positions now, they were smart enough to think "big picture," and realize when the grant funding dried up (in 5 years), they might not be able to still fund those positions and would be forced with laying off those personnel: [www.krem.com/news/local/stories/krem2-021809-burningmoney.2d4610d0.html](http://www.krem.com/news/local/stories/krem2-021809-burningmoney.2d4610d0.html)

The Tempe (AZ) Fire Department is faced with the potential loss of positions:

<http://www.azcentral.com/community/tempe/articles/2009/02/17/20090217tr-budget0218.html>

Don't assume the benefits you receive when you retire (medical, cost of living raises, pay, etc.) will continue at the same level. As a reminder to everyone, look what is occurring in Nevada: state retirees crowded hearing rooms in Carson City and Las Vegas Wednesday, asking lawmakers to reject the governor's proposed cuts to their benefit subsidies:

<http://www.nevadaappeal.com/article/20090219/NEWS/902199971/1058&title%3DNevada%20Legislature%20%20Retiree%20benefit%20cuts%20?draconian?>

**The North Lyon Fire District (NV) Board votes to freeze fire department salaries, to help survive their budget problems:**

<http://www.rgj.com/article/20090218/FERNLEY01/902180358/1306/BIZ01>

**A County in the State of Virginia is straining to meet the needs of its community in regards to EMS service delivery:**

<http://www.emsresponder.com/article/article.jsp?id=8965&siteSection=1>

**Budget cuts loom at the Santa Rosa (CA) Fire Department including possible brownouts and/or station closures:**

[http://www.pressdemocrat.com/article/20090212/NEWS/902120360/1033/NEWS?Title=Fire\\_police\\_cuts\\_loom](http://www.pressdemocrat.com/article/20090212/NEWS/902120360/1033/NEWS?Title=Fire_police_cuts_loom)

**The City of El Monte (CA) which contracts with the Los Angeles County Fire Department for fire protection services, is looking at possibly having to close one of it's four fire stations due to budget reasons:**

[http://www.pasadenastarnews.com/ci\\_11693957](http://www.pasadenastarnews.com/ci_11693957)

**The Elyria Fire Department in Ohio must demote 9 officers and lay off 20 firefighters to make ends meet:** <http://www.ktvz.com/Global/story.asp?S=9830638>

**The Portland (OR) Fire Bureau has scaled back plans for moving a fire station and building a new fire station, citing it would not make good fiscal sense to do so due to construction costs. Instead they plan to bolster relationships with a neighboring fire district and provide an increased level of automatic aid to ensure the closest unit responds, regardless of jurisdiction; something more and more departments should be doing:**

[www.oregonlive.com/portland/index.ssf/2009/02/fire\\_bureau\\_changes\\_plans\\_for.html](http://www.oregonlive.com/portland/index.ssf/2009/02/fire_bureau_changes_plans_for.html)

**A cash-strapped Oregon Fire Department laid off their only paramedics, eliminating ALS services for their community:** <http://www.ktvz.com/Global/story.asp?S=9830638>

**The City of Pasadena (CA) is exploring options to slash the budget of its fire department as part of a wider effort to close an estimated \$10 million deficit. The city proposes eliminating bonus pay for firefighters trained as paramedics. The firefighters union will likely counter with a plan to cut department salaries by 1 percent across the board, union officials said:**

[http://www.contracostatimes.com/california/ci\\_11577621?nclick\\_check=1](http://www.contracostatimes.com/california/ci_11577621?nclick_check=1)

**The City of Portland (OR) has a sad, but true message regarding upcoming budget cuts – “get used to it,” and information on how the fire department must cut almost one million dollars out of it's budget :**

[http://blog.oregonlive.com/portlandcityhall/2009/02/budget\\_cuts\\_coming\\_up\\_get\\_used.html](http://blog.oregonlive.com/portlandcityhall/2009/02/budget_cuts_coming_up_get_used.html)

- and:

[http://www.oregonlive.com/portland/index.ssf/2009/02/city\\_looks\\_for\\_7\\_million\\_in\\_bu.html](http://www.oregonlive.com/portland/index.ssf/2009/02/city_looks_for_7_million_in_bu.html)

**Public Relations Nightmare Stories:**

A Reno (NV) councilwoman says state pension rules on overtime have been abused within the Reno Fire Department to pad firefighter pensions and increase taxpayers' contributions for their retirement: <http://www.rgj.com/article/20090131/NEWS/90131011>

A D.C. firefighter shot his girlfriend, who is also a D.C. firefighter, and her parents before killing himself Wednesday afternoon, police and fire officials said: [http://cms.firehouse.com/web/online/News/DC-Firefighter-Wounds-3--Kills-Self/46\\$62605](http://cms.firehouse.com/web/online/News/DC-Firefighter-Wounds-3--Kills-Self/46$62605)

The Tulsa (OK) City Council on Thursday approved two separate probes into allegations that some Tulsa firefighters falsified their emergency medical training records: [http://www.tulsaworld.com/news/article.aspx?subjectid=11&articleid=20090130\\_11\\_A1\\_TheCit259310](http://www.tulsaworld.com/news/article.aspx?subjectid=11&articleid=20090130_11_A1_TheCit259310)

A teenager and an ex-firefighter are charged with arson in Coatesville (PA): [http://www.philly.com/philly/hp/news\\_update/20090220\\_Teen\\_ex-fireman\\_charged\\_in\\_Coatesville\\_arson\\_probe.html](http://www.philly.com/philly/hp/news_update/20090220_Teen_ex-fireman_charged_in_Coatesville_arson_probe.html)

A Seattle (WA) firefighter who was the top scorer on a promotional test but was denied promotion, while a lower-scoring African-American co-worker was promoted, has won his appeal and will have a trial in his case against the city: [http://seattletimes.nwsourc.com/html/localnews/2008764850\\_discrimination20m.html](http://seattletimes.nwsourc.com/html/localnews/2008764850_discrimination20m.html)

So many Atlanta (GA) firefighters called in sick Sunday that five understaffed fire stations closed for the day, according to the city's fire chief: <http://www.cnn.com/2009/US/02/02/firefighters.sick.calls/index.html>

Only in Chicago? A Chicago Fire Department Lieutenant, convicted of multiple arsons, nicknamed "matches," is seeking his pension, stating "it's the Chicago way!" <http://www.chicagotribune.com/news/columnists/chi-kass-matches-bd-15-feb15%2C0%2C6060540.column>

A former Jersey City (NJ) firefighter yesterday pleaded guilty to punching his captain in the face while fighting a three-alarm blaze last summer and he was immediately fired but will serve no prison time, officials said: <http://www.firerescue1.com/fire-news/454741-no-jail-for-nj-firefighter-who-punched-captain/>

A former volunteer firefighter from southwestern Idaho has been convicted of setting wildfires on federal land in 2007: <http://www.kpvi.com/Global/story.asp?S=9736188>

Fire officials failed to identify serious safety concerns, including a lack of smoke detectors and proper exits, when they inspected an east Texas homeless shelter where five men later died in a fire, according to records obtained by The Associated Press. "Looks OK" was the only thing written on one report prepared after an April 2005 inspection, one of the documents provided by the city of Paris (TX) in response to the AP's request under the Texas Public Information Act. None of the five



inspections conducted in the 10 years before the Jan. 5 fire was by a state-certified fire inspector, and all failed to notice that the facility lacked the basic safety requirements for overnight occupancy. Dozens of men lived amid containers of used clothing and other highly flammable material: <http://www.star-telegram.com/462/story/1201929.html>

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**Great fire department public relations stories – something all can learn from:**

Firefighters are good guys. Just ask any child. That the men and women of Hillsboro's Fire Department have formed Random Acts, a organization where they volunteer their free time for charitable acts, might seem a logical extension of that image:

<http://www.oregonlive.com/news/argus/index.ssf?/base/news/1233084061135900.xml&coll=6>

A Seattle (WA) Firefighter was recently assaulted while treating a patient – a good reminder to all of us to never let down our guard, and always expect the unexpected:

<http://www.komonews.com/news/local/38750612.html>

Boise (ID) Firefighters raise money for cancer:

[http://www.ktrv.com/Global/story.asp?S=9769628&nav=menu439\\_2](http://www.ktrv.com/Global/story.asp?S=9769628&nav=menu439_2)

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A class act by the Chico (CA) Firefighters Association – give up raises to save jobs of brother/sister firefighters. City leaders expect to rescind layoff notices to five firefighters Wednesday after the fire union's agreement to give up raises for the next two years becomes official. The Chico (CA) City Council is set to ratify a contract Tuesday for the fire union, in which the union will give up the 4 percent raises it received this year and is scheduled to receive next January. That concession is expected to save the city some \$800,000 over the next two years:

[http://www Orovillemr.com/news/ci\\_11614331](http://www Orovillemr.com/news/ci_11614331)

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Lessons learned from Flight 1549, Communicating Under Stress – a timely piece on firefighter safety and how to better manage an incident:

<http://www.firerescue1.com/firefighter-safety/articles/454984-Communicating-Under-Stress-Lessons-from-Flight-1549/>

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I guess times are not that bad....only 533 candidates showed up to take the written test for the Peoria (AZ) Fire Department recently. California candidates are sometimes faced with thousands of competitors for a few positions:

<http://www.azcentral.com/community/peoria/articles/2009/01/29/20090129gl-peofire0129-ON.html>

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And in Miami (FL), Patience and persistence are about to pay off for the hundreds of men and women who spent the weekend camped out in front of the City of Miami's administration building to be the first to file an application to become one of the city's newest firefighters. Miami Fire-Rescue has said that they will accept the first 750 applications. The department has 35 open positions:

<http://cms.firehouse.com/content/article/article.jsp?sectionId=46&id=62546>

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The second- and third-largest fire and medical emergency agencies in northern Idaho's Kootenai County might merge: [www.idahostatesman.com/newsupdates/story/645798.html](http://www.idahostatesman.com/newsupdates/story/645798.html)

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As the worsening economy continues to shrink city budgets, four Phoenix area communities are hoping to stretch budget lines by combining financial resources to provide regional ambulance service. City leaders and fire officials from Mesa, Gilbert, Queen Creek and the Apache Junction Fire District say within the next three weeks they plan to sign off an agreement that would allow each to jointly contract private-sector ambulance services.

<http://www.azcentral.com/community/mesa/articles/2009/01/30/20090130mr-regional0130.html>

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The number of fatalities involving firefighters trapped in burning structures has essentially remained consistent over the past decade. To reduce these figures, we must become and remain aware of the total fireground environment — and not just the fact that fire is visible on scene. A timely article titled Fireground Tactics – Pre-fire planning: <http://www.firerescue1.com/Columnists/Michael-Lee/articles/454801-Fireground-Tactics-Pre-Fire-Planning/>

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A good article about the Phoenix (AZ) Fire Department's health and wellness program for its members, something many departments and members could do better at, myself included:

<http://www.azcentral.com/community/ahwatukee/articles/2009/02/09/20090209ar-firefit0211.html>

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Keeping it local, two Oregon fire departments find a way to save some money while trying to upgrade their fleets. Last week, the Charleston Fire Department sold their second of two fire trucks to the Winchester Bay Fire Department. In October, Charleston Fire paid the Salem Fire Department for three of their used trucks to replace their fleet: [www.kcby.com/news/38664002.html](http://www.kcby.com/news/38664002.html)

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7 Houston (TX) African American firefighters are suing the city, saying the written promotional examination (a 100 question multiple choice test) they are using is unfair and prevents an adverse impact:

[www.chron.com/disp/story.mpl/metropolitan/6247438.html](http://www.chron.com/disp/story.mpl/metropolitan/6247438.html)

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To help increase efficiency and provide more bang for their buck, four Oregon Fire Departments teamed up to purchase a fire simulator to train their firefighters. One department alone could not usually afford such a tool, but when you share your finances and vision, things like this can happen:

[http://www.sandypost.com/news/story.php?story\\_id=123371197402472600](http://www.sandypost.com/news/story.php?story_id=123371197402472600)

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**An Oregon House bill is being questioned as being too favorable towards firefighters in regards to assuming cancer was job related so a firefighter, who is determined to have cancer, can receive worker's compensation. In California, this already exists, but never every state has the same such laws protecting the firefighters. The question that is being posed is an interesting one, based on a statistic that 40% of the population (not just firefighters) are going to get cancer anyway, so why not also include folks such as auto mechanics, factory workers, etc., who also work in jobs that easily expose them to cancer causing substances. In tough economic times, things like this are going to be news worthy items:**

<http://www.statesmanjournal.com/article/20090213/COLUMN0101/902130320/1001/NEWS>

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**Suspects posing as Clark County (NV) Firefighters, and even wearing their uniforms, are the focus of recent thefts in the Las Vegas area:**

[http://www.ktnv.com/Global/story.asp?S=9725341&nav=menu498\\_1\\_1](http://www.ktnv.com/Global/story.asp?S=9725341&nav=menu498_1_1)

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**Canadian firefighters who died in the line of duty did not wear their SCBAs:**

[http://www.fireengineering.com/display\\_news/173498/25/none/Canadian\\_firefighters\\_who\\_died\\_didn%27t\\_use\\_SCBA](http://www.fireengineering.com/display_news/173498/25/none/Canadian_firefighters_who_died_didn%27t_use_SCBA)

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**A Seattle (WA) Firefighter recently retired, having served 50 (yes fifty) years on the job. 72 years old and still very passionate about his career and serving his community. He also has not called in sick in over 42 years and still enjoys coming to work. More importantly, over the years, he has created a scholarship for students aspiring to be firefighters – that has given out over \$500,000 in scholarships to date. He obviously understands what it means to give back to the community and not just treat the career as a job and have the “8 to 8 – out the gate mentality.” An inspiration to all of us, and a great role model for all generations of firefighters, hope he has a long and productive retirement:**[http://seattletimes.nwsourc.com/html/localnews/2008764851\\_firefighter20m.html](http://seattletimes.nwsourc.com/html/localnews/2008764851_firefighter20m.html)

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***Please be safe out there and make every day a learning opportunity – because it is!***

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 Stay Safe!

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

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**Chabot College Fire Technology & EMS web site:** [www.chabotfire.com](http://www.chabotfire.com)  
**Chabot College web site:** [www.chabotcollege.edu](http://www.chabotcollege.edu)

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

**The Fine Print:**

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