



FIRE & EMS NEWS

January 25, 2009

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

For the past few weeks, our website – www.chabotfire.com has been experiencing some technical difficulties and has been unavailable due to some changes at our website hosting service. We are feverishly working on this and hope to get the website restored in the very near future. We apologize for any inconvenience this may have caused you, thank you.

FIREFIGHTER EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY – Humboldt Fire District #1:

The Humboldt Fire District 1 (Eureka, CA) will be accepting applications for the position of **Firefighter**, until: February 9, 2009. To download an application packet and find out more information, visit their website at www.hfd1.org

REQUIREMENTS INCLUDE:

- Be 21 years of age or older
- Possess a high school diploma, or equivalent
- Possess a Class "C" California Driver's License and obtain a Class "B" license within six months of appointment
- Possess a current American Heart Association Health Care Provider CPR card or equivalent
- Certify non-use of tobacco products and/or illegal controlled substance
- Must possess a CPAT card
- Must possess a current EMT 1 card and be eligible for certification as an EMT 1 ETAD by Northcoast EMS within three months of appointment

The Ideal Candidate

Will, in addition to the above:

- Possess a balanced combination of formal education of both a general nature and specific fire service curriculum.
- Possess both a high level of physical fitness and the personal and professional desire to maintain it.
- Have a strong desire for a fire service career at Humboldt Fire District.
- Have recent successful fire/EMS experience, paid or volunteer.
- Have had life experiences and an outlook resulting in a thoughtful, honest approach and a strong work ethic.
- Possess the capability to interact with people in a wide range of professional settings.
- Possess an understanding of the technical skills supported by a strong interest in teaching others.
- Have an attitude and appearance resulting in the ability to promote a positive image for the fire service.
- Have demonstrated the physical and mental preparation to successfully manage the physical and emotional stresses of emergency service employment.
- Possess the written and verbal skills to effectively present these abilities.

The Selection Process

- Applications and letters of interest will be reviewed to determine the most qualified applicants. Applicants who meet the minimum qualifications will be notified via mail by February 20th and invited to take a written test, scheduled for February 28, 2009.
- A ranked list according to the written test scores will then be prepared. Candidates in the 90th percentile range will be placed in band "A". Candidates in the 80th percentile range will be placed in band "B". Candidates in the 70th percentile range will be placed in band "C".
- Candidates in band "A" will be invited to a peer group interview. The interviews will be held on Sunday, March 1, 2009.

For more information about the **Humboldt Fire District #1**, visit their website at:
www.hfd1.org.

For more information about the **Humboldt Fire District 1 Firefighters Association**, I.A.F.F. (www.iaff.org) **Local 1770**, visit their website at www.hfd1.org/union.html

FIRE SERVICE TRAINING & SAFETY INFO FROM THE U.S. FIRE ADMINISTRATION:

USFA Releases Provisional 2008 Firefighter Fatality Statistics

EMMITSBURG, MD. – The United States Fire Administration (USFA) announced today there were 114 on-duty firefighter fatalities in the United States as a result of incidents that occurred in 2008. During this period, there were firefighters lost from 34 states and one from the Virgin Islands. North Carolina experienced the highest number of fatalities (11), while Oregon (9), Pennsylvania (9), California (8), New York (7), Illinois (6), Missouri (6), and Ohio (6) each suffered more than 5 on-duty losses.

"The tragic losses of on-duty firefighters in 2008 are a reminder of the necessary commitment and efforts by firefighters in all fire departments across the United States to focus on and improve our operational safety," United States Fire Administrator Greg Cade said. "We understand all too well that many of these losses are preventable. The USFA remains dedicated to continuing our efforts to ensure 2009 is a year where we reduce these losses so that firefighters can return home safely to their families and continue serving their communities." As the USFA continues to collect and evaluate information regarding the 2008 on-duty firefighter deaths, here are some of the early known facts:

- Preliminary estimates indicate that heart attacks and strokes were responsible for the deaths of 50 firefighters (43.8%) in 2008. This shows a decrease from 54 of the 118 (45.7%) firefighters in 2007.
- In 2008, 26 on-duty firefighters died in association with wildland fires.
 - This loss is more than double the 11 wildland firefighter fatalities in 2007.
 - The 2008 toll is also above the annual average of 21 wildland fire-associated fatalities over the past 10 years, 1999-2008.
- For 2008, 64.9% of all firefighter fatalities occurred while performing emergency duties.
- Twenty-nine firefighters died in 2008 as the result of vehicle crashes.
 - Fourteen of these deaths involved aircraft crashes.
 - Fifteen firefighters died in motor vehicle crashes.
 - Six firefighters were killed in crashes involving their personal vehicles and three died in water tender (tanker) crashes. These two vehicle types have historically been most often involved in crashes that take the lives of firefighters.
 - Speed and a lack of seat belt use historically contribute to these incidents.

These fatality statistics for 2008 are provisional and subject to change as the USFA contacts State Fire Marshals to verify the names of firefighters reported to have died on-duty during 2008. The final number of firefighter fatalities will be reported in USFA's annual firefighter fatality report and is expected to be available by early July.

For additional information on firefighter fatalities, including the

- **annual fatality reports** (www.usfa.dhs.gov/fireservice/fatalities/statistics/report.shtm) from 1986 through 2007 and the
- **Firefighter Fatality Retrospective Study 1990–2000** at <http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/applications/publications/display.cfm?it=9-0437> ,
- please visit the **USFA Web site** at www.usfa.dhs.gov/fireservice/fatalities

FIRE SERVICE TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES:

Here 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

Seminar #1:

Thursday, January 29, 2009 — "Strategy, Tactics and Safety": Presented by Deputy Chief Vincent Dunn (ret.), FDNY

Chief Vincent Dunn, FDNY (retired), will share his forty years of firefighting experience in a seminar about firefighting and safety. Chief Dunn will examine dangers of structural firefighting and identify methods to manage and control these fireground dangers. He will illustrate strategies and tactics to reduce death and injury to firefighters.

For details on this seminar, go to: www.firenuggets.com/seminarbaypro09dunn.pdf

Seminar #2:

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

Seminar #3:

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

Seminar #4:

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

ALL FOUR 2009 SEMINARS:

- *Four seminars, five speakers, and quality professional networking, all for one low price of \$300, a \$140 savings off the individual seminar fees. This is 100% tax deductible as a professional education expense.*

For details on this four-seminar option, go to

www.firenuggets.com/seminarbaypro09allfour.pdf

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

Carr Convention Center
4400 Rosewood Drive
Pleasanton, CA 94588

FIRE SERVICE TRAINING OPPORTUNITY:

Assessment Center and Fire Simulation Workshops
Instructor: Chuck Wilson

Assessment Center Workshop –

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

COURSE CONTENT:

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

Simulator Workshop -

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

COURSE CONTENT:

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

Instructor: CHUCK WILSON

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

Class Locations and Dates:

Newark, CA

February 3 (Assessment Center)
February 4 (Simulator Workshop)
Newark Silliman Center
6800 Mowry
Newark, CA

Corona, CA

February 5 (Assessment Center)
February 6 (Simulator Workshop)
Corona Fire Training Center
730 Corporation Yard Way
Corona, CA

Tempe, AZ

February 7 (Assessment Center)
February 8 (Simulator Workshop)
Scottsdale Public Safety Training Center
911 N. Stadium Drive
Tempe, AZ

Register at: www.promotionalworkshops.com

Classes are \$110.00 per day, per class, Pre-registered

\$120.00 per day per class at the door

3% Credit Card fee

* Now Accepting Visa and Master Card *

For More Information, contact:

CHUCK WILSON
77-263 Maliko Street
Kailua Kona, Hawaii 96740-4468
(310) 261-7795 Cell
cwilson@promotionalworkshops.com

**FIREFIGHTER EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY –
Yosemite (CA) National Park:**

Yosemite National Park is recruiting seasonal firefighters for the 2009 fire season.

The park covers 1,182 square miles ranging from 1900 feet to 13,000 feet elevation. The park is open year round with the majority of activities occurring from March to October. Yosemite receives more than 3 million visitors each year.

Yosemite National Park is located in the Sierra Nevada mountains. It is 208 miles from San Francisco, 81 miles from Merced and 94 miles from Fresno. Yosemite's fire management program is diverse and complex. Fire management tools include suppression, wildland fire use, prescribed fire and mechanical thinning.

The parks fire crews operate out of 3 structure / wildland stations, 1 interagency wildland station, and one helibase. During the peak season the park employs approximately 80 firefighters and fire support staff.

The crews work a 40 hour week and overtime is frequently available. Crews are available for off park fire assignments and may be away from home for extended periods of time.

Seasonal firefighters typically start work in May and usually end their season in October, but may work longer in dry years. Shopping, dental, medical, and postal services are available in the park. Government housing may be available.

Enrollment or completion of a basic 32-40 hour wildland firefighting course meeting NWCG standards is recommended.

Completion of a Firefighter 1 recruit academy, Emergency Medical Technician, hazmat operations or other fire / rescue related classes are desirable but not required. Instructions to apply for these positions can be found at USAJOBS using the announcement number DOI-FIRE-2009-006 - <http://www.usajobs.gov/>

This announcement is also being used to fill positions at other National Parks as well as positions with the Bureau of Land Management. First consideration for Yosemite National Park positions will go to applications submitted before January 20, 2009.

Further information may be found at Yosemite's website www.nps.gov/yose/index.htm or by calling the fire stations.

- El Portal Fire Station 209-379-1903
- Valley Fire Station 209-372-0416
- Wawona Fire Station 209-375-9515

The Hodgedon interagency station and Crane Flat helibase are seasonal and usually closed between October and April.

Yosemite National Park offers a unique opportunity to work in one of California's most scenic locations. The park is an independent jurisdiction providing all emergency services within the park boundaries. Search and Rescue and EMS are primarily provided by the parks law enforcement rangers. Wildland and structural fire response is provided by the parks fire crews. A 24 hour ALS ambulance is staffed at the clinic in Yosemite Valley; ambulances in the other districts are cross staffed by fire crews or rangers as needed. The park employs a mix of basic, intermediate and advanced life support providers.

Park resources include:

- 6 Type 1 engines located in El Portal, Wawona, and Yosemite Valley
- 4 Type 3 wildland engines located in El Portal, Hodgedon Meadow, Wawona and Yosemite Valley
- 4 Type 4 wildland engines located in El Portal, Wawona and Yosemite Valley
- 1 Type 2 water tender located in El Portal
- 1 Type 2 Helicopter (7 person flight crew) located at Crane Flat
- 1 Type 2 crew (18-20 people) located in El Portal
- 1 Fire Use crew (7 people) located in Wawona
- 1 Fire Effects crew (5 people) located in Wawona
- 6 Ambulances located in El Portal, Hodgedon, Tuolumne, Wawona and Yosemite Valley
- 1 Rescue truck located in El Portal
- 1 Hazmat truck located in Yosemite Valley
- 1 Command bus located in Yosemite Valley
- 3 Search & Rescue trucks located in Yosemite Valley

The park helicopter is rappel and short haul capable. In addition to flying in support of fire operations it is frequently utilized for search & rescue, medivac and law enforcement missions.

Yosemite Search & Rescue (YOSAR) is organized through the main SAR cache in Yosemite Valley. Each of the outlying districts has a SAR coordinator. Personnel for major SAR operations is drawn from the core group of SAR members, park rangers, fire crews, SAR volunteers and search dog teams.

As a fire crew member, employees will work a 40 hour week, generally five 8 hour days on the engine crews or four 10 hour days on the hand crews. The engine crews and helicopter are staffed to provide 7 day coverage. During the peak fire season it is not unusual for the crews to work extended hours and / or an overtime day. This occasionally results in

employees working 6 days, and 50-60 hours in a week. During a seasonal firefighters 5-7 month period of employment it is not unusual for an employee to work 200-600 hours of over time.

When fire crews respond to an off park assignment they can work 14 days or more without a day off. During these assignments they may work up to 16 hours a day. When travel time to and from an incident is included crews may be away from home for a total of 16-20 days.

When crews respond to an incident off park, they are occasionally provided with motel rooms but most of the time they will sleep on the ground in a fire camp. Tents, sleeping bags and food are provided when the crews are away at an incident. Crews assigned to remote fires may live under very primitive conditions.

During a typical work day the crews will begin with cleaning and inspection of the station and equipment, followed by 1 hour of physical training. Through the rest of the day the crew may complete training evolutions, equipment maintenance or project work. The fire crews will conduct many pre-suppression projects including hazard fuels reduction, hydrant testing, and maintenance of the 30-100 foot vegetation clearances around park buildings. All of the parks fire stations are older buildings, so various repair and remodeling projects are common.

The engine crews at the El Portal, Wawona and Yosemite Valley stations also provide structure fire response in the park. Properly trained and certified seasonal firefighters may be outfitted with structural PPE and utilized on the structure engines at their supervisor's discretion.

Yosemite fire frequently provides additional training to their seasonal work force. The type and quantity of training varies each year based on the overall experience of the parks crews and how busy the fire season is. In the past this training has included one or more of the following classes, S211 Portable pumps & water use, S212 Wildfire power saws, S215 Fire operations in the wildland / urban interface, S271 Helicopter crew member, S290 Intermediate wildland fire behavior and S131 Advanced firefighter. Additionally search and rescue often provides swift water and rope rescue training to the fire crews so they can better assist with search and rescue operations.

FIRE TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES AT THE NATIONAL FIRE ACADEMY:

STUDENT RECRUITMENT FOR *Demonstrating Your Fire Prevention Program's Worth* P378 – Second Pilot Offering

The United States Fire Administration's National Fire Academy is conducting a second pilot class at the National Emergency Training Center (NETC) in Emmitsburg, MD, for its newly developed 6-day course, *Demonstrating Your Fire Prevention Program's Worth (DYFPPW)*.

The pilot class is scheduled to occur April 5 - 10, 2009, with students to arrive Saturday, April 4 and depart Saturday, April 11, 2009.

Applicants who were not successfully placed in the first pilot offering must reapply for the second pilot.

DYFPPW (P378)

Course Description:

The purpose of this course is to provide students with the tools and skills to be able to evaluate their organization's fire and injury prevention programs. The course provides a systematic way to improve and account for evaluation actions by involving procedures that are useful, feasible, ethical, and accurate.

The course framework guides fire prevention professionals in their use of prevention program evaluation. It is a practical, nonprescriptive tool, designed to summarize and organize essential elements of prevention program evaluation. The emphasis is on the practical, ongoing evaluation strategies that involve all program stakeholders, not just evaluation experts.

The main themes of the course include:

- Misconceptions regarding the purposes and methods of program evaluation.
- The essential elements of prevention program evaluation
- The steps for conducting effective prevention program evaluation
- Review standards for effective program evaluation

Course units include:

- Why is Evaluation Important in Prevention – the myths, purpose, benefits, of prevention program evaluation, evaluation applied to risk reduction, ethical considerations.
- Evaluation 101 – the stages of program evaluation and applications to current programs
- Engaging Stakeholders and Describing the Program – persons involved in or affected by the programs, primary users of evaluation, description of the program need, expected effects, activities, resources and context.
- Focusing the Evaluation Design – purpose of the evaluation, users and uses of evaluation, questions, methods and agreements for the evaluation.
- Gathering Credible Evidence – methods and logistics for gathering credible evidence. Indicators and sources. Sampling types and common tools and interviewing techniques.
- Writing Objectives – SMART objectives. Benchmarks and timelines for evaluation.
- Analysis - using measures of central tendency and dispersion to interpret data.
- Using EXCEL – formatting and analyzing the data.
- Using the Information – Actions Based on Results – actions and opportunities of results. Presentation of findings.

This new 6-day course presents tools and skills in a logical sequence for conducting effective prevention program evaluations. Examples of four types of evaluation are presented throughout the course.

- Formative evaluation
- Process evaluation
- Impact evaluation

- Outcome evaluation

Student Selection Criteria: Any person responsible for programs involved with fire/injury prevention. Students should identify their specific prevention role on the application, and indicate that they have responsibility for prevention programs. Target audiences typically include: fire marshals, fire and building inspectors, public fire/life safety educators, juvenile firesetter intervention specialists, code inspectors and officials, and other community or allied professionals in the fire and injury prevention field.

A laptop computer is required for this class. Please bring to class a laptop computer with Microsoft Office that has a recent version of EXCEL program capabilities. You will be responsible for the computer and its programs while at NFA. The NFA will not purchase or reimburse for the purchase of a computer or its programs. Also please bring information with you to class regarding one new fire/injury prevention program for which you are responsible. The prevention program should be based on a community need. Information helpful to bring may include data about the program, i.e. its results, coverage statistics, etc. You may also want to bring a description of the program, including its objectives.

Application Process:

- Students must complete the 2-page General Admission application (FEMA Form 75-5) available on the website at: <http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/nfa/about/attend/apply.shtm>
- Completed applications should be submitted by January 28, 2009 to:
NETC Admissions Office
16825 S. Seton Avenue
Emmitsburg, MD 21727
- Completed applications may also be faxed to the Admissions Office at (301)447-1441 or (301)447-1658.
- Applicants should not make plans to attend the pilot until notified by the NETC Admissions Office.

Stipends for eligible students are available for attendance at these pilots. Attendance at the pilot courses does not prevent an eligible student from obtaining another stipend within the same fiscal year.

FIREFIGHTER EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY – CAL FIRE:

CAL FIRE, (formerly known as **California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection or CDF**) is now accepting applications for **Firefighter I**. Applications will be accepted **until January 30, 2009** for the 2009 fire season, which generally starts in the end of May and generally goes through October. If you are interested in applying you must complete a Firefighter I application (CAL FIRE Form 215) and mail it or deliver it in person to the North Coast Region I and Cascade Region II units (see next page for locations). Applications will be accepted on a file in person basis only for the units in Southern California Region III and Central Sierra Region IV. Applications must be filed at each unit in which you wish to be considered for appointment.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The hiring process:

After submitting an application, it is reviewed and given a preliminary score based on your education, training and experience. The more boxes you can check the more points you can get. By mid March you should receive a letter indicating weather you passed the preliminary evaluation. If a passing score is given you may then be invited to an interview. The interview is 100 percent of you score. Because each unit must follow the same guidelines for hiring

you can expect to hear the same, or close to the same questions at each interview. This can be a big help when trying to improve your interviewing skills. So the more units that you apply to the better chance you have to interview and improve.

Typically an interview panel is made up of an engineer and a captain. In some cases at the completion of your interview you are given your score, in other cases it is mailed to you. Your score is based from 0 to 100 points. Typically you need to get a score in the upper 90's to be considered for employment. By mid May you should have received a letter indicating whether or not you are being considered for employment. From here one of a number of things can happen, you could get a letter stating that you will not be considered for future employment, or you can be contacted and offered a job, or you could be contacted and offered a slot in an academy but not a job.

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

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

What CAL FIRE can offer you?

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

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

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

NORTHERN REGION

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

Chabot College Fire & EMS News

- **Amador-El Dorado Unit**, 2840 Mt. Danaher Road, Camino, CA 95709, (530) 644-2345
- **Butte Unit**, 176 Nelson Avenue, Oroville, CA 95965, (530) 538-7111
- **Humboldt-Del Norte Unit**, 118 S. Fortuna Blvd., Fortuna, CA 95540, (707) 725-4413
- **Lassen-Modoc Unit**, 697-345 Highway 36, Susanville, CA 96130, (530) 257-4171
- **Mendocino Unit**, 17501 N. Highway 101, Willits, CA 95490, (707) 459-7414
- **Nevada-Yuba-Placer Unit**, 13760 Lincoln Way, Auburn, CA 95603, (530) 823-4904
- **San Mateo-Santa Cruz Unit**, 6059 Highway 9, Felton, CA 95018, (831) 335-5353
- **Santa Clara Unit**, 15670 Monterey Street, Morgan Hill, CA 95037, (408) 779-2121
- **Shasta-Trinity Unit**, 875 Cypress Avenue, Redding, CA 96001, (530) 225-2418

- **Siskiyou Unit**, 1809 Fair Lane Road, Yreka, CA 96097, (530) 842-3516
- **Sonoma-Lake-Napa Unit**, 1199 Big Tree Road, St. Helena, CA 94574, (707) 967-1400
- **Tehama-Glenn Unit**, 604 Antelope Blvd., Red Bluff, CA 96080, (530) 529-8548

SOUTHERN REGION

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

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

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

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

Minimum Qualifications for Seasonal Firefighter positions:

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

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

For additional information, contact:

North Coast Headquarters: (707) 576-2275
Human Resources Office: (916) 445-7801
Southern Region Headquarters: (559) 243-4100
Sierra Region IV: (559) 222-3714
Equal Employment Opportunity: (916) 445-8113

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

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

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

CPAT TESTING CENTER LOCATIONS:

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

Northern California
6723 Sierra Court, Suite G
Dublin, CA 94568

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

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

**FIRE TRAINING INFO FROM THE CALIFORNIA
STATE FIRE MARSHAL'S OFFICE**

For more information on important changes to **Fire Instructor Certification** and **Master Instructor Registration**, go to: <http://osfm.fire.ca.gov/training/pdf/Firelinefall2008.pdf>

Karen Terrill
Communications Officer , State Fire Marshal's Office
CAL FIRE
1131 S Street
Post Office Box 944246
Sacramento, CA 94244-2460
(916) 324-4770
Karen.Terrill@fire.ca.gov

FIREFIGHTER EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES:

If you want to become a firefighter, have you started taking fire department examinations yet? If not, what are you waiting for? If you say you're not ready, you'll probably never be ready. If you want to wait until you finish your degree, then you're going to have wasted about two (or more) valuable years that could have been spent learning how to master the fire service testing process. You should be taking every fire service exam you qualify for – what's the worst that can happen if you take a test? If nothing else, you will hopefully start to learn your strengths and weaknesses and what it takes to become a firefighter.

Don't rely on us to provide you with every fire department that is accepting applications. We only send out a small fraction of the current open firefighter positions across the United States. If you truly want to become a firefighter, put your money where your mouth is and subscribe to a fire testing service that will notify you when fire departments across the United States are accepting applications.

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

- www.firecareers.com
- www.firerecruit.com

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

FIREFIGHTER EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES:

A joint firefighter exam is going to occur in early 2009 in the State of Washington; departments that will potentially hire off of this hiring list include, but are not limited to: Bellingham, Bremerton, Central Kitsap, Olympia, Sea Tac, South King, and South Kitsap.

General Information and Scheduled Dates:

Application availability:

- January 12 through February 23, 2009.
- Applications will be available: at Bates Technical College, South Campus Fire Service Training Building (office hours 8 am to 5 pm if going in person), on the Bates Web Site: www.bates.ctc.edu/firefighter/, as well as at the selected participating agencies:
 - o Bellingham
 - o Bremerton
 - o Central Kitsap
 - o Olympia
 - o Sea Tac
 - o South King
 - o South Kitsap.

Written test date:

- April 4, 2009 (on this date is also the CPAT orientation).
- You will need to sign up prior to the orientation to attend. Qualifying applicants will move on to the CPAT.

CPAT dates:

- Orientation: April 4, 2009.
- Pre Test: May 2 and 3, 2009.
- Orientation: May 30, 2009.
- Test date: May 30 and 31, 2009.

Dates are tentative and subject to change.

For more information on the testing process, visit: www.bates.ctc.edu/firefighter/

DECEMBER 2008 STATE FIRE TRAINING REPORT:

Download your monthly report from the California State Fire Marshal at <http://calchiefs.org/items/SFMReportDecember2008.pdf>

FIREFIGHTER FATALITY INFORMATION:

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

Chabot College Fire & EMS News

Name: Jerry Parrick
Rank: Firefighter
Age: 59
Gender: Male
Status: Volunteer
Years of Service: Unk
Date of Incident: 12/17/2008
Time of Incident: 1200hrs
Date of Death: 12/17/2008
Fire Department: West End Volunteer Fire Department
Fire Department Address: Haugan, MT 59842 (11T PN 1947 4943)
Fire Department Chief: Bruce Charles

Incident Description: Firefighter Parrick was inside of his personal vehicle warning motorists with his truck's emergency lighting. He was stopped on a curved section of roadway near the scene of a motor vehicle accident. A FedEx semi-tractor trailer slowed and attempted to move to another lane of travel but was unable to successfully do so, striking Parrick's vehicle. Firefighter Parrick was partially ejected from his truck and passed away at the scene from his injuries. Weather and road conditions were reported to have been possible contributing factors to the initial and subsequent accident.

Incident Location: Interstate 90 near mile marker 17 (USNG: 11T PN 2229 4821)

Map View: <http://www.fidnet.com/~jlmoore/usng/?zoom=14&usng=11TPN22294821&disp=h>

Funeral Arrangements: Pending

Memorial Fund Contact and Address: Pending

Tribute is being paid to Firefighter Jerry Parrick at www.usfa.dhs.gov/fireservice/fatalities/

To date, 108 firefighter fatalities have been reported to USFA in 2008 as a result of incidents that occurred in 2008 and one from a prior year incident.

AND:

Name: Michelle L. Smith
Rank: Firefighter
Age: 29
Gender: Female
Status: Volunteer
Years of Service: 10
Date of Incident: 12/20/2008
Time of Incident: 2152hrs
Date of Death: 12/22/2008
Fire Department: Delaware City Fire Company No. 1, Inc.
Address: 815 Fifth Street, PO Box 251, Delaware City, DE 19706
Map:

Chabot College Fire & EMS News

<http://www.fidnet.com/~jlmoore/usng/?zoom=14&usng=18SVJ48658072&disp=h>

Fire Department Chief: James D. Rosseel

Fire Department Website: www.dcf15.com

Incident Description: Firefighter Smith was assisting with patient care at the scene of a motorcycle accident. A New Castle County (NCC) Police Officer stopped to assist with traffic control, as rescue and fire police units from Wilmington Manor began to arrive. A vehicle struck the County Police vehicle then striking Firefighter Smith. The driver of the vehicle then fled the scene. Smith was treated on scene by NCC Paramedics and EMT's from Minquadale Fire Company. Firefighter Smith was transported to the hospital but succumbed to her injuries after two days of intensive care. The suspected driver of the vehicle taking Smith's life was reported to have been apprehended and is expected to be charged with manslaughter, driving with a revoked license, and leaving the scene of an accident.

Incident Location: DuPont Highway and School Lane in the vicinity of the New Castle County Airport (USNG: 18S VJ 4878 9164).

Map View:

www.fidnet.com/~jlmoore/usng/?zoom=17&usng=18SVJ48789164&disp=h

Funeral Arrangements: Pending, updates will be posted at: www.dcf15.com/index.cfm

Memorial Fund Contact and Address: Pending, updates will be posted at:
<http://www.dcf15.com/index.cfm>

Tribute is being paid to Firefighter Michelle L. Smith at
<http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/fireservice/fatalities/>

To date, 109 firefighter fatalities have been reported to USFA in 2008 as a result of incidents that occurred in 2008 and one from a prior year incident.

AND:

Name: Steve Hagan, Sr.
Rank: Lieutenant
Age: 48
Gender: Male
Status: Volunteer
Years of Service: 4
Date of Incident: 12/22/2008
Time of Incident: 2330hrs
Date of Death: 12/23/2008
Fire Department: Blenheim Fire Department
Address: PO Box 128, 104 E. High St., Blenheim, SC 29516
Map:
<http://www.fidnet.com/~jlmoore/usng/?zoom=15&usng=17SPU23691962&disp=h>
Fire Department Chief: David Rogers

Chabot College Fire & EMS News

Incident Description: Lieutenant Hagan responded to the scene of a motor vehicle accident. While at the scene, he began to feel sick and was taken to the hospital in Bennettsville. Hagan was subsequently transported by ambulance to the hospital in Florence, SC, where he went into cardiac arrest and was unable to be revived.

Funeral Arrangements: 12/27/2008 @ 1400hrs in Blenheim, SC.

Memorial Fund Contact and Address: In honor of to Lieutenant Steve Hagan, Sr., C/o Blenheim Fire Department, PO Box 128, 104 E. High St., Blenheim, SC 29516

Tribute is being paid to Lieutenant Steve Hagan, Sr. at <http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/fireservice/fatalities/>

To date, 110 firefighter fatalities have been reported to USFA in 2008 as a result of incidents that occurred in 2008 and one from a prior year incident.

AND:

Name: Dennis McClennan
Rank: Driver
Age: 54
Gender: Male
Status: Volunteer
Years of Service: 37
Date of Incident: 12/27/2008
Time of Incident: 1625hrs
Date of Death: 12/27/2008
Fire Department: Princeton Junction Volunteer Fire Co. #1
Address: 245 Clarksville Road, Princeton Junction, NJ 08550

Map:

<http://www.fidnet.com/~jlmoore/usng/?zoom=17&usng=18TWK30876140&disp=h>

Fire Department Chief: Dennis Huber

Fire Department Website: <http://www.pjfd.com/>

Incident Description: Firefighter McClennan returned home following a fire alarm and shortly thereafter collapsed. Despite rescue efforts he succumbed to an apparent heart attack.

Funeral Arrangements: Viewing, 1800-2100hrs on 12/30/2008 at Princeton Junction Fire House, 245 Clarksville Road, Princeton Junction, NJ 08550. Funeral Services, 1100hrs on 12/31/2008 at Princeton Junction Fire House with burial at Dutch Neck Presbyterian Church.

Memorial Fund Contact and Address: Contributions in honor of Firefighter Dennis McClennan are to be made c/o the Princeton Junction Fire Company, 245 Clarksville Road, Princeton Junction, NJ 08550.

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

Chabot College Fire & EMS News

To date, 111 firefighter fatalities have been reported to USFA in 2008 as a result of incidents that occurred in 2008 and one from a prior year incident.

AND:

Name: Norm Koch
Rank: Fire Police Captain
Age: 79
Gender: Male
Status: Volunteer
Years of Service: 50+
Date of Incident: 12/30/2008
Time of Incident: 1245hrs
Date of Death: 12/30/2008
Fire Department: East Pembroke Fire Department
Address: 2623 Main Rd., PO Box 44, East Pembroke, NY 14056 Map:
<http://www.fidnet.com/~jlmoore/usng/?zoom=13&usng=17TQH19476386&disp=m>
Fire Department Chief: Robert Yungfleisch

Incident Description: Fire Police Captain Koch suffered an apparent heart attack while assisting at the scene of a motor vehicle accident. Koch was transported to the hospital but all efforts to revive him were unsuccessful.

Funeral Arrangements: Pending

Memorial Fund Contact and Address: In honor of Fire Police Captain Norm Koch, c/o East Pembroke Fire Department, PO Box 44, East Pembroke, NY 14056

Tribute is being paid to Fire Police Captain Norm Koch at
<http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/fireservice/fatalities/>

To date, 112 firefighter fatalities have been reported to USFA in 2008 as a result of incidents that occurred in 2008 and one from a prior year incident.

AND:

Name: Jarrett Little
Rank: Firefighter
Age: 24
Gender: Male
Status: Paid-On-Call
Years of Service: 6
Date of Incident: 12/31/2008
Time of Incident: 2110hrs
Date of Death: 12/31/2008
Fire Department: Walker County Fire and Rescue
Address: 7249 N Highway 27, Rock Spring, GA 30739-2363
Map:
<http://www.fidnet.com/~jlmoore/usng/?zoom=13&usng=16S%20FD%2060879%2054524>

Chabot College Fire & EMS News

Fire Department Chief: Randy Camp

Incident Description: Firefighter Little was responding to a chimney fire. While making a turn, the apparatus hit a pole and flipped. Little was entrapped with two others. He was rushed to a local hospital where he succumbed to his injuries.

Funeral Arrangements: January 5, 2009

Memorial Fund Contact and Address: In honor of Firefighter Little, donations may be sent to the Walker County Fire and Rescue, 7249 N Highway 27, Rock Spring, GA 30739-2363

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

To date, 113 firefighter fatalities have been reported to USFA in 2008 as a result of incidents that occurred in 2008 and one from a prior year incident.

AND:

Name: Gary Stephens
Rank: Firefighter
Age: 57
Gender: Male
Status: Career
Years of Service: 28
Date of Incident: 01/02/2009
Time of Incident: 0200hrs
Date of Death: 01/02/2009
Fire Department: Elizabeth Fire Department
Address: 411 Irvington Avenue, Elizabeth, NJ 07208-2068
Fire Department Director: Onofrio Vitullo

Incident Description: While at the scene of a house fire, Firefighter Stephens was accidentally run over by a fire truck as it backed up to lay hose to a hydrant. He was rushed to a local hospital where he succumbed to his injuries.

Funeral Arrangements: Pending

Memorial Fund Contact and Address: Pending

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

To date, 1 firefighter fatality has been reported to USFA in 2009 as a result of an incident that occurred in 2009. USFA does not have a Line-of-Duty-Death (LODD) criterion nor does it make LODD determinations.

AND:

Name: Richard Lee Montgomery
Rank: Firefighter
Age: 54

January 25, 2009

www.chabotfire.com

Chabot College Fire & EMS News

Gender: Male
Status: Volunteer
Years of Service: 15
Date of Incident: 12/31/2008
Time of Incident: 1759hrs
Date of Death: 12/31/2008
Fire Department: Hobo - Big V Volunteer Fire Department
Address: 633 Hwy 4 East, Booneville, MS 38829
Map:
www.fidnet.com/~jlmoore/usng/?zoom=13&usng=16SCD55683914&disp=h
Fire Department Chief: Randel Livingston

Incident Description: Firefighter Montgomery was at the scene of a working residential structure fire setting up a fan on the front porch for ventilation. After turning and stepping down off of the porch, Montgomery collapsed from an apparent heart attack. Firefighter Montgomery was rushed to Baptist Memorial Hospital – Booneville (16SCD56523615), but all efforts to revive him were unsuccessful.

Incident Location: Residential structure along County Road 4040 (USNG: 16S CD 6633 2051)

Map View:
<http://www.fidnet.com/~jlmoore/usng/?zoom=13&usng=16SCD66332051&disp=m>

Funeral Arrangements: A fireman's funeral was held for Firefighter Montgomery, plus services on 01/03/2009 at McMillan Funeral Home in Booneville. Burial with military and fireman honors followed at Oaklawn Memorial Park in West Booneville.

Memorial Fund Contact and Address: In honor of Firefighter Richard Lee Montgomery, c/o Hobo - Big V Volunteer Fire Department, 633 Hwy 4 East, Booneville, MS 38829.

Tribute is being paid to Firefighter Richard Lee Montgomery at
<http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/fireservice/fatalities/>

To date, 114 firefighter fatalities have been reported to USFA in 2008 as a result of incidents that occurred in 2008 and one from a prior year incident.

AND:

Name: John C. Myers
Rank: Firefighter/Mechanic
Age: 61
Gender: Male
Status: Volunteer
Years of Service: 6
Date of Incident: 01/03/2009
Time of Incident: 1533hrs
Date of Death: 01/03/2009
Fire Department: Union Chapel Volunteer Fire Department

Chabot College Fire & EMS News

Address: HC Box 3030, Pittsburg, OK 74560

Map:

<http://floridadisaster.org/gis/kml/viewer.htm?zoom=13&usng=15STU38864478&disp=h>

Fire Department Chief: Phillip Danley

Incident Description: Firefighter John C. Myers passed away from injuries received in a motor vehicle accident while working at the scene of an outdoor grass fire. Myers was operating a fire department vehicle and traveling south on County Road Wesley, near the Pittsburg County line (OK), when his son, Firefighter Juston Myers, also working the fire and operating a privately owned vehicle heading north on CR Wesley, crossed left of center on the narrow gravel road in heavy smoke obstructed conditions and collided head on with the fire department vehicle his father was driving. Personnel from several fire departments in the area worked for more than an hour and a half to free Firefighter John C. Myers from the wreckage. Firefighter Juston Myers and a passenger in the privately owned vehicle were both injured in the accident. Juston was treated at the scene and his passenger, Clayton Rice, was taken to a nearby hospital with head, leg and arm injuries.

Incident Location: On County Road Wesley, USNG: 15S TU 3497 3518 (6.67km due east of US Hwy 69), Atoka County, OK.

Map View:

<http://floridadisaster.org/gis/kml/viewer.htm?zoom=15&usng=15STU34973518&disp=h>

Seatbelts: Equipped and not in use both vehicles.

Funeral Arrangements: 01/07/2009 @ 1100hrs, Brown's Funeral Home
(<http://www.brownsfuneralserviceatokaok.com/>), 800 W 13th Street, Atoka, OK 74525

Memorial Fund Contact and Address: In honor of Firefighter John C. Myers, c/o Union Chapel Volunteer Fire Department, HC Box 3030, Pittsburg, OK 74560

Tribute is being paid to Firefighter John C. Myers at www.usfa.dhs.gov/fireservice/fatalities/

To date, 2 firefighter fatalities have been reported to USFA in 2009 as a result of incidents that occurred in 2009.

AND:

| | |
|-------------------|--|
| Name: | Kevin M. Kelley |
| Rank: | Lieutenant |
| Age: | 52 |
| Gender: | Male |
| Status: | Career |
| Years of Service: | 30 |
| Date of Incident: | 01/09/2009 |
| Time of Incident: | 1430hrs |
| Date of Death: | 01/09/2009 |
| Fire Department: | Boston Fire Department |
| Address: | 115 Southampton Street, Boston, MA 02118 |

Chabot College Fire & EMS News

Fire Department Chief: Kevin P. MacCurtain
Fire Department Website: <http://www.cityofboston.gov/fire/>

Incident Description: Several firefighters on board Boston Fire Department's Ladder 26, a 1995 E-ONE 110' RMA, were seriously injured when for a cause still to be determined the truck was unable to stop while coming down Parker Hill Ave, shortly after clearing a medical assistance call. Lieutenant Kevin Kelly passed away at the scene from his injuries. The apparatus, at the bottom of the steep hill, reportedly left no skid marks as it crossed Huntington Ave, striking two parked vehicles, crashing through a brick wall, and then striking a building; coming to a final resting position inside of the entrance way area of the multi-story residential structure. There were no pedestrians or residents of the building reported to have been injured in the incident and investigation continues into the cause.

Seat belts: Unknown

Incident Location: 835 Huntington Ave., Boston, MA (Grid: 19T CG 26221 88943)

Map View:

<http://www.fidnet.com/~jlmoore/usng/?zoom=18&usng=19TCG2622188943&disp=h>

Funeral Arrangements: Pending. Updates will be posted at
<http://www.bostonfirelocal718.org>

Memorial Fund Contact and Address: Pending. Updates will be posted at
<http://www.bostonfirelocal718.org>

Tribute is being paid to Lieutenant Kevin M. Kelley at
<http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/fireservice/fatalities/>

To date, 3 firefighter fatalities have been reported to USFA in 2009 as a result of incidents that occurred in 2009.

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

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

Hey..

Here are some updates and a message below:

UPDATE: WISCONSIN LINE OF DUTY DEATH: MORE DETAILS RELEASED:

Lt. Rick H. Borkin, a 16-year veteran of the Thiensville VFD, died Monday evening after experiencing respiratory problems during a training exercise at the Milwaukee Area Technical College campus in Oak Creek, the Ozaukee County Coroner stated...."He had a history of respiratory problems but wanted to participate in the exercise anyway," Thiensville Fire Chief Brian Reiels said Lt. Borkin, 42, had been sick for about a week before attending the Firefighter II certification training. Lt. Borkin was one of three Thiensville firefighters who attended the training. During a physically challenging part of the training, he indicated he wasn't feeling real well and sat down and collapsed soon afterward. Lt Borkin was immediately attended by paramedics but was pronounced dead at the scene about 203-last night. Lt. Borkin was promoted in May to training officer....he was employed by Infinity Telecommunications and is survived by his wife, Stephanie, and a 13-year-old son. Rest in Peace, Lou.

UPDATE: RADIO TRAFFIC FROM THE MONTGOMERY COUNTY TRIPLET RESCUE:

One of the reasons we send this stuff out and have for 12 years is so all of us, us included, can use it and learn from it. This one is an excellent case study for any elected official who may be involved in the "budget review process" to review and listen to...and then determine "what would happen if that fire happened here"...here are some thoughts to ponder and discuss around the firehouse table:

==What's your staffing and response at 1300 hours on a weekday?

==What's your staffing anytime?

==What do you send on a 1st alarm to a dwelling fire? (How many rigs, how many FF's, how many bosses?..who will command it? Who will supervise the exterior and interior divisions? Who handles FF tracking/accountability?)

==How long will it take all required companies to arrive? (We say that because if the 1st due arrives quick but the next due are 5-10 minutes away-we have to understand what we can "realistically" do-and not do, given the circumstances.)

==Do the closest firehouses respond initially irregardless of whose jurisdiction the fire may be in?

==How fast can you get lines stretched and water on the fire or to protect those interior? How do you know?

==How fast can you get ladders thrown all around the dwelling? Who does that?

==Is EMS/ALS due on all 1st alarms to support a possible rescue or injured firefighters?

==Is a trained RIT team on the 1st alarm automatically?

Chabot College Fire & EMS News

These rhetorical questions give ANY FD plenty to think about (and act on, depending) after reading the below and listening to the radio traffic. Below is a narrative from Montgomery County Fire & Rescue PIO Pete Piringer describing the sequence of events where three young brothers were rescued last week:

On Wednesday, December 3, 2008 units from the Montgomery County Fire and Rescue were dispatched for the report of a fire at a house located at 4806 Jamestown Road. 3 kids were rescued by firefighters and taken to the hospital. A father and 2 firefighters were injured and were also transported to local hospitals. The children remain at the hospital in and are in critical condition. The father was transported in serious condition to the MedStar Burn Unit, as well. It is believed the fire smoldered and burned undetected for an extended period before being detected by the Nanny. Damage is estimated at \$500,000. The family will be displaced. Two family pet dogs also survived, one was temporarily unaccounted for. The house did not have functional smoke alarms at the time of the fire. Due to recent upgrades and remodeling, new wireless and interconnected smoke alarms were in the process of being installed to replace older, hard-wired smoke alarms.

Thanks to Dave Statter for the efforts and the link and Pete Piringer for the details:
<http://www.wusa9.com/news/columnist/blogs/2008/12/radio-traffic-from-montgomery-county.html>

A MESSAGE:

If you are having trouble viewing The Secret List because you are using an iPhone, Blackberry, etc - please go to <http://firefighterclosecalls.com/secret.php> and enter your email like you are subscribing, this will give you a link to update your profile, update it to TEXT ONLY - that way your device will receive the message without graphics. How 'bout that for customer service? Only the best.

Take care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 12-9-08 / 2110 hours

AND:

Hey...

A **CLOSE CALL** this morning in Milwaukee as a Firefighter jumped into a snow bank to put himself out while operating at a working 2.5 story dwelling fire. The FF is being treated for first and second degree burns.

NOTE: Initial reports are that one of the civilians was working on a gas tank in the basement , that civilian suffered singed hair, some smoke inhalation and a burned hand when the tank caught fire.....and following that, upon arrival, 2 Firefighters tried to remove the tank...the gasoline was sloshing back and forth, the tank spilled out, it erupted into a fireball and 3 firefighters were hurt. 1 FF has second degree burns on his back, on both wrists, on the side of his face and his hair is burned off. The 2 other firefighters are being treated for smoke inhalation and another suffered minor injuries. Update to follow on our home page.

MAYDAY IN OHIO:

Chabot College Fire & EMS News

A Cincinnati Firefighter was rescued after falling inside a working house fire this morning. CFD companies responded at about 0630 hours...and had fire showing from the basement and both the first and second floors of the dwelling. A Firefighter doing a search fell through a hole in the floor and a "Mayday" was transmitted...other firefighters immediately went in and pulled him to safety. It worked out fine as the Firefighter was not hurt, and was back operating at the fire a short time after the incident.

APPARATUS STRUCK IN NORTH CAROLINA:

Shortly after 1230 hrs today an engine company from the Whitsett FD (Guilford County) was struck while operating on I-85 / I-40. Eng 31 urgently called (Guilford County) communications and advised his unit was struck. From the radio traffic, it appeared the apparatus was in the left lane or left shoulder blocking for a previous crash. Initial reports are that a civilian vehicle was wedged between his truck and the (left side) jersey wall, and he could not get out of the vehicle (not pinned or hurt, but believe the door was jammed). The rig will have to be towed from the scene and we'll have more details on our home page as they become available.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 12-11-09 / 1527 hours

AND:

Hey...

3 Firefighters and a civilian were injured this morning in Willowbrook (Illinois) when a fire company responding to a call was struck by two other vehicles. The ladder truck was responding to a medical run around 0800 when it was hit by two cars as it was turning right into a parking lot. Several vehicles were yielding to the truck and an ambulance behind it, when a woman went around the stopped vehicles from behind and struck the fire truck near its front end. A second female driver then panicked and somehow hit the side of the truck. The ambulance was able to respond to the initial call and an EMS box alarm was initiated for the crash involving the fire truck. Three firefighters and the driver of the second car were taken to the hospital. The firefighters, who were all wearing seat belt. Cops said several citations were issued, including at least one for failure to yield to an emergency vehicle.

FIREFIGHTERS STRUCK UPDATES:

Today's earlier North Carolina Crash:

http://www.wxii12.com/news/18256522/detail.html?treets=gws&tid=2659936169813&tml=gws_4pm&tmi=gws_4pm_-1_03000212112008&ts=H

High Point FF struck and injured last month:

http://firenews.net/index.php/headlines/headlines_article/1118/

VERY TOUGH WEEK FOR THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION of HOMEBUILDERS...

....Lost Support for a Lame Idea and a Genuinely Terrible Loss of Jobs.

The International Code Council's Appeals Board unanimously found no wrong doing in the

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Sept. 21 vote on IRC Proposal RB64-07/08 mandating fire sprinklers in new SFD's at today's meeting. The board's decision will be voted on by the BOD at a meeting next week in Las Vegas. The denial of the appeal is expected to be supported by ICC's Board of Directors...which means the IRC will require the installation of fire sprinklers in single family homes beginning Jan. 1, 2011. The IRC is the model code for residential building in 46 states including Washington, D.C.. As you know, the "not very happy" National Association of Homebuilders filed their appeal on Oct. 30, whining that the ICC failed to provide a balance of interest in voting. The letter of appeal stated the ICC did not "prevent a single interest group, specifically the fire service, from unfairly dominating the voting at the final action hearings." One interesting argument by the NAHB during the hearing was that they felt that the volunteer fire service shouldn't have been allowed to vote. Silly homebuilders. How'd that work out?

MORE BAD NEWS:

And in other bad and genuinely unfortunate news, not unlike many, many other associations, governments and businesses, the NAHB is making major staffing and budget cutbacks to attempt to survive on one of the worst housing downturns in United States history...the NAHB is cutting \$11.5 million from its operating budget. To balance NAHB's budget, they will be eliminating 52 jobs...half of those aren't filled currently. The layoffs took place this week. In addition, they are also heavily reducing expenditures previously approved for 2009. While we absolutely wish no ill to anyone affected by this tough economy, perhaps the NAHB should (or should have) reconsider the value and high cost in their predictably losing battle against the fire service, public safety and residential fire sprinklers. Hind sight is always 20/20...but if they had used some available (and offered) hind-sight on the history of residential fires and deaths, they could have fully understood that the answer is residential sprinklers to protect the beautiful homes NAHB members build-and those in them. Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 12-11-08 / 2007 hours

AND:

Hey...

A Close Call in PA this morning as a car slammed into a firehouse in Bucks County, setting the building on fire and killing the driver. According to Hilltown Fire Chief Jim Walter, the car went out of control at around 0430 hours outside Hilltown Firehouse #60 and the vehicle slammed into the firehouse, sparking a fire in the facility that went to a 2 banger. It took about an hour to get the fire under control but there were other injuries, and no Firefighters were in quarters at the time of the accident. Here is their website: <http://www.hilltownfirerescue.org/> and we have some pics on our home page.

NO SOLUTION TO BUDGET CUTS:

A firefighter angered about FDNY budget cuts was arrested for falsely reporting a fire at a public school on City Island in the Bronx-endangering his "own" firefighters. That was just one case as he reportedly went on a false alarm spree, pulling fire alarm boxes and calling 911 with false alarms. Nicholas Vrettos, 30, a six-year veteran of Ladder 53, made about a dozen false reports of fires on City Island. The "runs" came in within a 45-minute span on Dec. 4,

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the day FDNY Commish Nick Scoppetta announced \$9 million in cutbacks. Vrettos, who joined in 2002, is charged with a felony count of falsely reporting an incident. The school 911 call followed an announcement that Ladder Company 53 on City Island, where Vrettos worked, was one of 4 firehouses that would be partly closed at night. If convicted, Vrettos faces up to seven years in prison. A firefighters' union spokesman said that because Firefighter Vrettos was not on duty at the time of the call, he would not be represented by a union lawyer. Comm Scoppetta said his acts were "unforgivable."... "Anyone who shows such blatant disregard for our firefighters' time and the safety of the public should be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law."

Take Care-BE CAREFUL-Think.

BillyG

The Secret List 12-12-08 / 0847 hours

AND:

Hey...

Loudoun County (VA) Fire Rescue has been cited by the Virginia Department of Labor and Industry's Occupational Safety and Health Compliance division for violation of workplace safety standards. The violation notice follows a May 25 house fire in which 7 Firefighters were injured and burned. Here is the link to that fire information and video:

<http://firefighterclosecalls.com/fullstory.php?75264>

According to an article in the Leesburg Today newspaper, specifically, the violation is for "employees that were exposed to fire hazards while engaged in search, rescue and interior structural firefighting activities at a single family residence." LCFR has presented additional information to the state agency in an effort to reverse the findings of a violation. This is the department's first occupation health and safety citation. The document states that there was insufficient staffing on site at the time that fire-rescue crews entered the burning home on Meadowood Court near Leesburg. The November citation does not impose a fine because Virginia law doesn't allow penalties against public agencies.

As you may know, around 1300 hours on Sunday, May 25, Firefighters entered the house to perform a search and to begin attacking the working fire. At that time, an engine and tower ladder were on the scene with no other command support or companies. While there we no clear indications of people trapped, but since no one from the home met the FF's on arrival, the OIC made the decision to conduct the search. At that point, there was heavy fire on the C side extending up and into the structure. While searching, conditions deteriorated rapidly, a MAYDAY was then transmitted and the trapped (and injured) firefighters were forced to escape through an upstairs window. Six of the seven injured men and women have returned to work but one career Lieutenant is still recovering from his burn injuries after a long-term stay at Washington Hospital Center.

A separate three-month regional investigation into the incident resulted in 64 recommendations for the fire-rescue department, ranging from additional training programs, communication processes and staffing. The final report (link above) suggests an increase to the minimum staffing requirements for engines, trucks and rescue companies to 4 firefighters but unlikely due to the fiscal issue.

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The citation also recommends the implementation of Standard 1500 from the NFPA, which addresses the two-in-two-out policy where a minimum of two employees must be located outside the fire when at least two employees enter the fire. County Chief Joe Pozzo said they do follow a two-in-two-out policy, but that the potential for imminent life danger caused the Captain on the scene to make a judgment call. Here is a link to the entire article: <http://www.leesburg2day.com/articles/2008/12/12/news/fp334fire121208.txt>

This tough fire is another reminder to any of us of the importance of our own size ups..and determining if the resources we have on the scene match the tasks that must be performed now, 5 minutes from now, and later. The question: What is the most we can do--right now--with the resources I have on the scene-right now...includes rescue, but may also mean rapidly getting water on the fire as the higher priority...it all depends on the conditions, the size up and immediately available resources. In the cases of possible rescue following size up, the rapid determination of risk for that possible (or confirmed) rescue is critical for us-and those we are trying to find and save. Sometimes we must take risks.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 12-12-08 / 1345 hours

AND:

Hey..

Once again, this time of year, Fire Chief Magazine starts posting its annual list of "double-duty" firefighter/soldiers overseas for the holidays: <http://firechief.com/news/holiday-1106>

If YOU have or know of a Firefighter, EMT, or fire family member serving overseas, send their name, address and/or e-mail ASAP to Janet Wilmoth at: janet@firechief.com ...and she will get it posted ASAP. Every year they usually get a great response from soldiers overseas that receive cards and packages from fire departments who go to the site and send stuff to those listed....it's a HUGE deal and it's important so we need to help keep it up. Many of the soldiers AND those others serving on this list are sons and daughters, brothers and sisters, colleagues and friends, fathers and mothers in the fire service family....so help please get this years list up and running.

Take Care-Thanks,

BillyG

The Secret List 12-15-08 / 1025 hours

AND:

Hey...

An FDNY Ladder company going on a run crashed into an MTA bus in Brooklyn injuring several people, including 2 Firefighters late this morning. 6 firefighters from Ladder 103 were transported to the hospital, 2 Firefighters, the Officer and the FF driving are reported to have serious but non-life threatening injuries. At least one of the FF's was temporarily pinned in the apparatus. Additionally, 19 people on the bus were shaken up and were being treated and transported. The front of the bus suffered extensive front-end damage and the windows were blown out. We'll post more details and pics on the home page.

NEW HAMPSHIRE FF MAYDAY:

2 SW New Hampshire Firefighters suffered minor injuries while operating at a 5 alarm fire in a dwelling in Marlborough this morning. The 2 Firefighters were removed and transported after partially falling through a floor. The fire was reported to be in the cellar and extended up to the first floor...the 2 FF's crawled in through a sliding glass door, and got a few feet to search when the floor gave way beneath them. One FF suffered a burn to his wrist and the other a knee injury.

A TOUGH RUN IN MARYLAND: KIDS, FIREFIGHTERS and CAR SEATS:

Last night, Prince Georges County (MD) Firefighters and Medics ran a tough call on I-95 north bound near College Park. Maryland State Police are continuing their investigation into how a 5 year old became entangled in a seat belt strap while his mother was driving on I-95. The injured child was not breathing but is in critical condition at Children's Hospital. Just before 1800 hours, PG Fire/EMS dispatchers sent companies along with MSP to a call from a hysterical woman who said her child had a seat belt wrapped around his neck and she needed help. 1st arriving was a trooper who saw the kid in the left rear seat with the seat belt wrapped around his neck....the trooper cut the seat belt loose from the vehicle and removed it from the child's neck. The child was not breathing and the trooper immediately started rescue breathing. A member of PG's Laurel VFD stopped and assisted the trooper with CPR until responding companies arrived.

It is unknown exactly how the child became entangled in the seat belt. It is not clear if the victim was secured by the seat belt when he became entangled in the seat belt shoulder strap. A two-year-old boy, believed to be the victim's brother, was in a booster seat in the right rear of the vehicle. MSP is continuing their investigation. PG Fire & EMS wanted us to pass this along to remind all of us as to the importance of having your residents and citizens fully aware of their states law as well as exactly how the public can get trained on the use of car seats for kids. According to Teresa Ann Crisman of Prince Georges County Fire-EMS, there is a great possibility that this incident could have been avoided if the child was properly fitted in an approved restraint system. More good info here: <http://www.usa.safekids.org>

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 12-16-08 / 1720 hours

AND:

Hey...

A Town of Marilla (Erie County, NY) Assistant Fire Chief was seriously burned while conducting a search for the occupant in a working house fire this morning. Assistant Chief George Gertz has serious burns (1st and 3rd degree) on his hands and head after he went into the working dwelling fire. Upon his arrival, neighbors reported they thought the occupant was inside... the Chief also heard a dog barking inside the dwelling which added to his concern that someone may be inside. Chief Gertz forced entry into the home and right after that, interior fire conditions worsened significantly which resulted in his injuries. Chief Gertz was removed from the structure, treated and transported to the hospital...but his injuries are non-life threatening. As of around noon he was alert and conscious speaking with other FF's. The occupant was not inside the home at the time of the fire. We wish Chief Gertz a rapid

recovery.

2 NEW LODD REPORTS WITH PHOTOS AND GRAPHICS FROM NIOSH:

BALTIMORE CITY FIRE RECRUIT KILLED WHILE TRAINING:

This is the tragic Line of Duty Death of Baltimore City Fire Recruit Rachael Wilson in February of 2007. TAKE TIME to READ this report (and review the photos and graphics) to learn how-from the start-including the hiring process, this LODD was completely avoidable: <http://www.cdc.gov/NIOSH/FIRE/reports/face200709.html>

MERCER COUNTY (PA) FIREFIGHTER KILLED WHILE OPERATING AT A DWELLING FIRE.

Firefighter Brad Holmes of the Pine Township VFD lost his life in the Line of Duty in February after suffering severe burns over 75-percent of his body from operating at a house fire in Grove City. TAKE TIME TO READ this report, review the photos and graphics... to learn specifically the issues related to size-up, search, water supply and communications that lead to the tragic loss. <http://www.cdc.gov/NIOSH/FIRE/reports/face200806.html>

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 12-17-08 / 1234 hours

AND:

MONTANA FIREFIGHTER LINE OF DUTY DEATH-REMEMBER FDNY 3 LODD's THIS DATE in 1998.

A Firefighter was killed yesterday when a semi crashed into his vehicle while he was managing/warning traffic for a separate wreck on I-90. Firefighter Jerry Parrick, 59, from Haugan was a member of the West End Volunteer Fire & Rescue in Mineral County. FF Parrick was in his Dodge pickup in the outside westbound lane of I-90 with his emergency lights on, directing/warning traffic around the corner from the first crash. An approaching FedEx semi with two trailers tried to slow and move but couldn't because of other traffic in the vicinity...while trying to brake, the truck slid and jackknifed on the slippery snow-covered road, and both trailers collided with Firefighter Parrick's pickup, partially ejecting him from the vehicle. FF Parrick, who was not wearing a seat belt while this vehicle was stationary, was pronounced dead at the scene. As always our most sincere condolences to the members of West End Fire & Rescue but especially the family and friends of Firefighter Parrick.

REMEMBER FDNY TODAY:

Today is the 10 year anniversary of the tragic Line of Duty Deaths for Canarsie (Brooklyn) Firefighters from FDNY Ladder 170: Joe Cavalieri, Chris Bopp and Jimmy Bohan. Early Friday morning December 18, 1998, FDNY along the entire fire service experienced another tragic multi-loss LODD 7 days before Christmas. At 0454 hours Brooklyn C.O. send 1st alarm companies for a top floor fire of a 10 story 50 x 200 fireproof building used as a senior citizen's residence. Engine 257 and Ladder 170 were 1st due and arrived within 4 minutes with fire showing out 2 windows. Second and 3rd alarms were quickly transmitted. As per SOP, 1st due Ladder 170 were assigned to search the fire floor for victims. Lieutenant Joseph Cavalieri with FF's Christopher Bopp and James Bohan went up 10 flights of stairs

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with cans and tools to search for and rescue the resident of apartment 10-D, who was believed trapped...but she got out prior, unknown to FF's.

On her way out, the lady left her apartment door open. The additional air from the hallway fed the fire and blew it out the windows. The halls were equipped with sprinklers but they were deactivated. As the Lieutenant and FF's got to the door, the winds changed and blew estimated 30 mph winds back into the apartment creating a 2,000 degree fireball now blowing into the hallway. The 3 FF's were able to transmit a MAYDAY ...but that was it. The extreme heat trapped them, horrifically asphyxiated them and burned their masks off. Also injured in the fire were 6 other FF's and 4 residents. Despite efforts to save their lives they succumbed to the injuries. Today, December 18, 2008, we remember FDNY's Lieutenant Joseph Cavaleri, FF Christopher Bopp and FF James Bohan. Here is a report from that fire: <http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/fire/reports/face9901.html>

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 12-18-08 / 1150 hours

AND

Hey...

In the "EXPECT THE UNEXPECTED" section, a driver that was struck by a Florida fire department ambulance responding to a call died yesterday. A 63 year old man of Pembroke Pines, died from injuries suffered in a crash that happened about 10 p.m. Wednesday. The Pembroke Pines Fire-Rescue ambulance had its lights and siren on as it headed west. As it approached an intersection, Mr. Johns, who had been headed east, ignoring the responding unit, made a U-turn in his car...turning directly in front of the ambulance. The Firefighter driving, Larry Shahboz, tried his best to avoid Johns by swerving but the ambulance collided with the passenger side of the car. FF Shahboz and 2 other Firefighters got out of the ambulance and treated Mr. Johns before other paramedics arrived. The FF's were not hurt. FF Shahboz, with 18 years on the job was naturally shaken as this was his first on-duty crash.

DEJA VUE...ALL OVER AGAIN: Apparatus blocking Saves Troopers Lives: Remember wayyyy back in November of 2006 when a N.J. Deputy Fire Chief was arrested on I-80 and held in handcuffs for two hours? Those irrational actions followed an argument with the New Jersey State Police trooper after the Chief refused to move the blocking/protecting apparatus on Route 80. D/C Robert Jenkins of the Rockaway Township FD was charged with disobeying a state trooper and disorderly conduct after arguing with that trooper at the scene of the crash. A second firefighter who drove the apparatus also was ticketed following the conflict. Thoughtless, reckless criminals!...in the eyes of that trooper.

Well-it all worked out in the end, but man oh man, the emotions and the personalities. We have always been advocates of planning ahead with all area cops for blocking and protecting the scene...shut the road down if you have to...to protect ALL the Firefighters and other emergency service personnel on the scene. Well..now, fast forward to YESTERDAY in NJ on the very same roadway....

YESTERDAY 4 New Jersey State Police troopers escaped certain death when a tractor-trailer plowed into their accident scene on icy Interstate 80 (yep-the same I-80) in Hope. The troopers (along with FF's) were operating at a crash when a tractor-trailer lost control just before 0530 hours. The tractor-trailer skidded into another vehicle that spun out on the icy lanes. The rig then smashed into the BLOCKING FIRE APPARATUS and 2 state police cruisers that had responded to the previous crash. Others along with 4 troopers escaped serious injury and NJSP officials believe it worked out well because the fire apparatus was able to block their patrol cars from taking the direct hit. Their police cruisers were totaled..but they weren't.

FIREFIGHTER SURVIVAL VIDEO:

We sent this video out a while back, but some missed it...here ya go:

<http://www.wisn.com/video/17971947/index.html>

Of course, it's the Christmas and holiday season, and its been our tradition on The Secret List to send some not-so-serious video clips out as our very heart warming special gift to you ...because we simply care too much. Yep-that's it. So...here is another to enjoy:You come out of a decent fire, it went well, no one hurt...you take a blow, you get ready to go back for overhaul...when you suddenly realize a civilians camera is on you. What do you do? One answer is this: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=h3NX-4EiSMs>...or maybe not.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 12-19-08 / 0855 hours

AND

Hey...

Around 2130 hours last night, Fire-EMS personnel from Delaware City (DE) were operating at a motorcycle crash on Delaware's busy highway, Route 13. While treating the initial patient, a FD EMT was suddenly struck by a passing car-and then the driver of that car jumped out of the car, jumped in another car and fled the scene. The hit and run driver and those involved are still at large. The FD EMT is in critical condition with numerous fractures and a head injury-but was reported to be speaking to crews initially at the scene. Another report is indicating that the fleeing driver first slammed into a police car that then struck the EMT....more details to follow.

FDNY DOUBLE LODD FOLLOWUP: (LEGAL)

The family of FDNY Firefighter Robert Beddia, who died in the line of Duty in the Deutsche Bank fire, has agreed to accept a \$5 million payment from the crooked general contractor overseeing the toxic tower's demolition. The family of FDNY FF Joseph Graffagnino, the other firefighter who died in the August 2007 fire, rejected Bovis Lend Lease's unusual offer. The Manhattan D.A. is expected to announce early next week that a grand jury has indicted mobbed-up contractor John Galt Corporation with manslaughter and 14 others with fraudulently filing false business forms.

JUST KEEP GOING AND DON'T STOP? (LEGAL)

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And in California, proving that no good deed goes unpunished, the state's high court said a would-be Good Samaritan accused of making her friend a paraplegic by pulling her from a wrecked car "like a rag doll" can be sued. The Court said the Good Samaritan law only protects people from liability if they are administering emergency medical care, and, err, umm, huh... that Lisa Torti's attempted rescue of her friend from the crash didn't qualify. Torti had argued that she should still be protected from a lawsuit because she was giving "medical care" when she pulled her friend from a car wreck. Alexandra Van Horn was in the front passenger seat of a car that crashed in 04... Torti was a passenger in a car that was following behind the vehicle and stopped to help after the crash. Torti feared the car was going to explode and pulled Van Horn out. Van Horn testified that Torti pulled her out of the wreckage "like a rag doll" and that Ms. Van Horn blamed her friend for her paralysis. Here is more: <http://abcnews.go.com/TheLaw/story?id=6498405&page=1>

9-1-1 VIDEO:

And lastly, as a part of our Christmas and Holiday Season of giving back to you-because we simply do more than just care, here is a reminder of why FIRE RESCUE and 9-1-1 DISPATCHERS often have the toughest job...and how CAREFUL they MUST be when giving over the phone EMS instructions: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ja-dq89wr-s>

Take Care-BE CAREFUL,

BillyG

The Secret List 12-21-08 / 0435 hours

AND

Hey...

This morning, in Anne Arundel County (Maryland) an engine company was blocking a crash scene in I-295 near I-195. The road conditions were really bad with black ice being a problem as well. Several civilian vehicles, losing control, struck fire apparatus as well as a medic unit. A civilian in a car was tragically killed as a result of that medic unit "struck" crash. No fire or EMS personnel were injured. One of their other engines was also struck at a separate scene but no one was hurt. More reminders of how "we" need to expect this to happen-and manage our personnel at a scene. Block and protect.

GEORGIA FATAL CRASH:

On Friday, a 52 year old man was killed when his motorcycle slammed into a Savannah FD apparatus. The motorcyclist tried to pull onto a roadway, but when he did ran into the side of the rig. The preliminary investigation shows the driver of the fire apparatus couldn't have done anything to avoid it...naturally, the Firefighters stopped and went to help, but their efforts were futile as the civilian was DOA. The fire apparatus wasn't traveling very fast and was able to stop well short of about thirty feet after the crash happened

DELAWARE CITY UPDATE:

As you are aware, Delaware City (MD) Fire Company EMT Michelle Smith, while performing duties on an MVC scene on DuPont Hwy, was struck by a vehicle. She was treated and transported to the hospital with serious traumatic injuries. She is in stable condition and was conscious and talking with the DCFC Chief while at the scene and during transport. She was taken into surgery early this morning and was in surgery for approximately 4 hours, with a 2 hour recovery period at the minimum. Her family is currently at the hospital with her, along

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with a contingent of Officers and Members of the DCFC. Updates to follow as we wish Michelle a rapid recovery.

FDIC MEMORIES:

If you have EVER been to FDIC, you have great memories. if you have NEVER been to FDIC, stop reading this RIGHT NOW and go here: www.FDIC.com and PLAN on attending. Seriously. Some of you have recent memories of FDIC, some of you with NHGH (No Hair or Gray Hair) have many memories from FDIC in Indy to FDIC in Memphis or in Cincinnati. GREAT memories. Well, for those who have been to FDIC since it has moved to Indy spent many, MANY days in the RCA dome. You remember, don't you, that pressurized dome with ONE revolving door that you had to get a running 8-10 mph start in order to go and get caught in, spun around a bit and then spat out on the other end? You know, the one where, just a few years ago, several small children actually spun around and around for 2 days before being removed from the device?

Well, since so many FDIC attendees complained (and have since required counseling by Dr. Halton... himself a suffering and battered VICTIM of the RCA Dome revolving door), the staff at FDIC was able to secure the funds to DESTROY The RCA Dome. Yes, it is gone-and they did it ALL for you, the FDIC attendee. It was imploded yesterday because THE FIRE SERVICE had simply had enough. The POWER of the unified FIRE Service...how 'bout that! So take a moment and watch the video and HEAR the Fire Engineering/FDIC Staff yelling in the background as the DOME comes tumbling down. If you listen carefully, you can actually hear Eric, Bobby, Diane, Mary Jane, Lila, Bob, Nancy, John, Glenn, Skip and many others gasp in awe as another bit of FDIC history passes by. Take a look, listen and let the difficult memories of YOU being trapped in the hi-speed revolving door flow thru and out of your head: www.youtube.com/watch?v=yZVqBg7SsME

Take care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 12-21-08 / 1211 hours

AND:

Hey....

The latest condition on Michelle Smith, 30, a FD EMT with the Delaware City Fire Company (DE, not MD as I accidentally wrote earlier) is that there may be additional orthopedic surgeries required tonight if swelling can be reduced enough. NOTE: She is still in a comatose state, on a vent and at the moment, is reported to be very, very critical with massive traumatic injuries literally from head to toe. Here is the scoop on what happened. The initial accident happened when 30 year old man lost control of his Harley Davidson motorcycle while riding south on U.S. 13. Delaware City FD EMT Michelle Smith, 30, along with the crew arrived and began to treat the bike rider. Then, a New Castle County police officer arrived on the scene. The officer noticed a 2004 BMW 760 speeding in his direction and got back into his car to avoid being struck...the BMW then sideswiped the cop's car... lost control and violently struck EMT Smith and Reiss, who were both on the ground. The BMW stopped on the shoulder of the road, but shortly after another vehicle pulled up alongside and the dirtbag got inside it and fled the scene. Updates to follow....keep her and her 11yr old daughter. in your prayers-she has some extremely serious injuries.

3 OHIO FIREFIGHTERS STRUCK:

3 Akron Firefighters were hit by a car while operating at the scene of an crash yesterday. The second vehicle was traveling westbound and hit a firefighter who was the directing traffic. The vehicle also then struck the vehicle that was on fire. The 2 other Firefighters were inside the car rescuing the driver. One Firefighter was treated at the scene. The other two were taken to Akron City Hospital. They were treated and released.

FOR MORE CRITICAL INFORMATION ON ROADWAY SURVIVAL FOR FIREFIGHTERS, GO TO: www.ResponderSafety.com

FIREFIGHTERS INJURED IN NEW YORK-COLLAPSE AT STRUCTURAL FIRE:

4 Firefighters operating at a commercial building fire in Allegany County town of Friendship (NY) were injured this morning (3 critical at the time of this report). Initial reports are that the FF's were making entry in the rear and the rear wall collapsed without warning. One report is that it collapsed nearly vertical with a debris field of about 15 feet. The Firefighters were entrapped for an unknown short amount of time. Initially no one knew of the entrapment until someone heard one of the least injured guys yelling for help. 3 of the firefighters are from Cuba (NY) and one is a Friendship Firefighter. Reported injuries are 1 FF with possible collapsed lung and broken vertebrae, 1 FF with possible broken back and neck, 1 FF with possible broken arm and facial injuries, and the 4th is unknown at this time. Updates here: <http://www.pcfirenews.com/>

Busy & bad couple of days...BE CAREFUL. EXPECT (and plan for) THE UNEXPECTED WHEN ON THE ROADWAYS-ANY ROADWAYS.

Take Care,
BillyG

The Secret List 12-21-08 / 2138 hours

AND:

Hey...

Hopefully you are getting all of your shopping done or are in the process. Things are tight this year-for everyone. For those who have jobs and are stable, most are leaning on being conservative due to the unsteadiness of the economic stuff. For those who don't have a job or who are threatened with layoffs, our prayers and hopes for a better 2009...sooner than later.

Understanding that times are really tough right now, those who are in leadership positions need to THINK. Relax, we aren't going to rant about Firefighter layoffs or staffing this time. But this is a rant. We are just BEGGING those in elected positions, city hall dwellers, department leaders, insurance companies etc to please...just THINK. Think about the consequences of your statements and actions. Now look, we have all done things we didn't think about first and ended up regretting it-nuth'n new, and we have a few trophies to prove it. But this time of year-with the economy the way it is-pause and THINK before doing something stupid if you are in one of the above leadership positions.

Perhaps you have heard about Baltimore Mayor Sheila Dixon and her Ssshhhh (Self Selected Secretly Hushed) raise. The mayor and other Bawlmer' City leaders have been

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slammed by their own residents when Dixon and crew had authorized pay increases for one another and for City Council members ...while at the same time cutting the city's budget. The rich get richer.....

The sneaky raises went on their 100 page agenda the day before Thanksgiving under the title "Salary Adjustments." Now, being SMART politicians, instead of listing the positions by their names, each was secretly identified only by job numbers. There was no discussion of the items during the public meeting, and each elected official abstained on her salary increase. A breath of fresh air on what is the right thing to do....you vote for my raise, I'll vote for yours. Uh oh--smells like the Blagojevich School of How to Govern. Of course, not everyone agreed at the city council meeting, it got ugly: www.youtube.com/watch?v=somH2V19BjE

In remembering her training from the Blagojevich School of How to Govern, her Honor The Mayor Dixon, initially said she would keep the \$3,700 increase, which shot her salary up to \$151,700,noting her very long hours and high dollar college tuition due for her daughter's education. Damn. Where did those long hours come from? That must have been a shock when she took office. Completely unexpected. Sort of like a Firefighter complaining about that really loud noise coming from those speakers at 0300 hours. We get woken up?!? Little sleep?! No one TOLD us.

How about this: You know what the job paid and you knew your kid had to go to college. Make it work. We know many, many Firefighters (reading this) who have to "make it work" with FAR less money than that.

Of course, after THE SECRET RAISES (disclaimer: no connection to THE SECRET LIST no matter what the Mayor may claim) were found out and made public, the mayor, in Homer Simpson "smack my head fashion", rapidly changed her mind and urged other city leaders to do the same. We loved her quote: "People think we should do this job for nothing," Dixon said..and added "I woke up this morning, I was back in my more rational mind. I'm human. That's why I backed off." We love it when we get back in our more rational mind. It usually follows a trip to CVS.

Do a job for no pay? What's that? NO PAY?? WTF!!?? Something as dangerous as being the Mayor of Baltimore? Heck yeah-you should get paid. Let's leave the "do it for no pay work" to North America's hundreds of thousands of volunteer Firefighters to work for free. Do it for just above nothing? We'll leave that for the many North American career Firefighters who almost all have to work extra jobs just to make ends meet. Mayoring? Risky business for sure. Haven't you read the NIOSH, err, I mean the MY-GOSH* reports on Mayoral Line of Duty Disasters? It's rough out there. (*Mayors Yearning to Get Outstanding Salary Handouts)

Well, after all this (as they see it) silliness, all the above folks are giving their money to charitable groups. That's a good thing...but it shouldn't have taken the screaming public to make them think. All they had to do is look at the city budget and that should have been enough. Look at how the citizens and employees are living. All they had to do was do as they ask their employees: live within your means. Or maybe that really doesn't matter.

It certainly didn't to Governor Rod B...who, by the way, did NOT try to auction off President Elect Obama's Senate seat. Certainly not. That wasn't the case at all. Fortunately, we are

very well connected and have access to the tapes that provide the facts-he was NOT auctioning off Pres Elect Obamas's seat. Yeah-he was auctioning...but it is not CLEAR that it is specifically P.E. Obamas seat he was offering. Think: I didn't inhale. I didn't have sexual relations with that woman. Yeah-that's the ticket. So no worries, the Illinois Gov should be cleared once this evidence is produced-well, sure, it is him-look at the hair-that proves it is him-but he did nothing wrong. Silly old Illinois politics. But here, take a look for yourself: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gblxAoWKsmE>

INCREDIBLE:

Do you remember the working fire and mayday in Houston on April, 2007 involving Captain Eric Abbt? here is the report, audio, video etc thanks to Dave Statter911: <http://www.wusa9.com/news/columnist/blogs/2007/09/report-now-out-on-houston-office.html> hat fire made headlines again last week. In what qualifies as nothing LESS than a WTF?!!....the insurance company is arguing in court that a policy it issued that excludes payments for pollution prevents the families of three people killed in that building fire from being compensated because the deaths were caused by smoke inhalation and not the actual flames. In other words, the FIRE caused POLLUTION in the building and the insurance company won't cover DEATH BY POLLUTION. WTF?!!

The (not so) Great American Insurance Co (<http://www.greatamericaninsurance.com/>) asked a U.S. District in Houston to rule that the deaths caused by the smoke, fumes and soot from the working building fire, will not be covered by the policy because there is a specific exclusion for pollution and it mentions smoke, fumes and soot. A court hearing in the case is set. DEATH BY POLLUTION AT A STRUCTURAL FIRE.

The working fire smoke, err, ummm, pollution from the fire killed 52-year-old Jeanette Hargrove, 46-year-old Marvin Wells Sr. and 38-year-old Shana Ellis. In October the arsonist admitted she set the fire. Great American's potential liability in the case is \$25 million...after all, since 1872, they are, according to their website, a trusted specialty insurance partner... as long as you have no claim. Which in contrary to the statement that Great American's roots go back to the 1800's...and Great American entered the twentieth century as one of the most respected and financially stable companies in America with an excellent reputation for paying claims.

This is the kind of sneaky, nasty, irresponsible clueless selfish thinking that has gotten the crooked rich richer and the honest poor poorer. Look at that clown Bernie Madoff's in NY who admitted ripping off poor and rich folks with his \$50 billion Ponzi scheme. Makes you wonder...if they whip a guy for throwing his shoes at our President, what would the punishment be for ripping off so many people....?

Where is Robin Hood when we need him? <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RQtCrnF3zx8>

We are hardly without blame or ownership in making our share of un-thinking mistakes, it happens, its human...but as we get older and wiser we are driven to think a bit more. And the more we have ever done something wrong, the more we starting realizing it is wrong. No matter what it is. But when every alarm bell in your head goes off, you should pay attention-especially when someone else's well being is in your hands. You should pay attention. We can only hope. www.youtube.com/watch?v=hbb7EY_R9mU

Take Care,
BillyG
The Secret List 12-22-08 / 1025 hours

AND:

Hey...

While FF's around Delaware and the world are praying for the recovery of hit & run victim Delaware City Fire Company EMT Michelle Smith, another Delaware Firefighter, 18 year old Will Breasure, was involved in a very serious crash. FF Breasure was ejected from his vehicle while responding to an alarm last evening. He has multiple serious traumatic injuries and was flown to the same hospital Michelle is in. Will is a member of the Georgetown Fire Company. Updates to follow.

DELAWARE HIT AND RUN UPDATE:

In regard to DCFC EMT Michelle Smith, she remains in extremely grave condition-we will keep you updated. The Delaware State Police have an excellent idea of the identity of the dirtbag who was driving that BMW who abandoned the car after the crash...and fled the scene by jumping into another car that drove off. More to follow.

REMEMBERING KEOKUK:

When we think of staffing and Firefighters who gave their lives (especially where staffing was a contributing factor) ...we remember Keokuk, Iowa. Today is the anniversary of the Line of Duty Deaths of Keokuk Assistant Fire Chief Dave McNally, 48, Firefighter Jason Bitting, 29, and Firefighter Nate Tuck, 39...all of whom were killed while attempting the rescue of three trapped kids-who also perished. These 3 Firefighters left eight kids of their own behind.

The Firefighters died when a flashover occurred while the 3 were doing their interior search. Like so many areas, staffing is a major issue in Keokuk, and that morning, 4 of the 5 on-duty firefighters arrived on scene and upon hearing the mother screaming that her children were trapped inside, they immediately went in after them. When "Mom" screams that her kids are inside...we go in. Here is more information:

ARTICLES:

[http://cms.firehouse.com/web/online/Commentary-and-Features/Goldfeder--Four-Days-and-More-In-December/16\\$37724](http://cms.firehouse.com/web/online/Commentary-and-Features/Goldfeder--Four-Days-and-More-In-December/16$37724)

NIOSH FIRE REPORT:

<http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/fire/reports/face200004.html>

INTERVIEW with Chief Mark Wessell of the Keokuk FD:

<http://www.firefighternation.com/profiles/blog/show?id=889755%3ABlogPost%3A205169>

....provided in the memory of Dave McNally, Jason Bitting and Nate Tuck.

SERVING THE PUBLIC AND THE "F" BOMB:

This OUTSTANDING video from Colorado, thanks to Dave Statter911, has plenty to offend for those who are bothered by an F-bomb, or 3, or 30...so use caution watching this. With that said, it is well worth watching related to fire, police and community relations and how you can, may or may not deal with your BOSSES...the taxpayers.

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<http://www.wusa9.com/news/columnist/blogs/2008/12/must-see-tv-man-and-his-dog-along-with.html>

Take Care-BE CAREFUL-THINK: DO NOT MOVE ANY VEHICLE...without everyone being buckled in.

BillyG

The Secret List 12-22-08 / 1056 hours

AND

DELAWARE CITY (DE) FIRE COMPANY MEMBER DIES IN THE LINE OF DUTY

It is with deep regret that we advise you of the Line of Duty Death of Delaware City Fire Company - www.dcf15.com (DE) Member Michelle Smith, age 29. As you know, Smith was operating at the scene of a motorcycle crash Saturday evening when she was struck and critically injured. Her injuries were too severe and she has now tragically died in the Line of Duty. The Delaware City Fire Company was providing ambulance coverage for the Wilmington Manor Fire Company that evening. Upon arrival at the crash, and initial assessment of the patient, FD Ambulance Driver Michelle Smith, 29, was assisting the EMT on scene with patient care. A County Police Officer stopped to assist with traffic control, as rescue and fire police units from Wilmington Manor began to arrive. A vehicle that attempted to avoid the incident scene struck the County Police vehicle and then swerved around the Delaware City BLS unit, striking Ms. Smith. The driver of the vehicle then fled the scene. Ms. Smith was treated on scene by New Castle County Paramedics and EMT's from Wilmington Manor and Goodwill Fire Companies. She was transported with extensive traumatic injuries and has now succumbed to those injuries. Police are narrowing in on the suspects in this hit and run...and now, potential murder. Our most sincere condolences to the members of the Delaware City Fire Company but especially the young Daughter, her family and friends of Michelle Smith. Here is their home page: www.dcf15.com

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 12-22-08 / 1200 hours

AND:

Hey...

Police arrested the driver who struck and killed a Firefighter/EMS Driver of the Delaware City (DE) Fire Company. Delaware State Troopers arrested 28 year old Joseph Taye of Bear (Delaware) this evening. The cops believe he was the driver of the BMW that hit 30-year-old FF/EMS Driver Michelle Smith. Taye is expected to be charged with manslaughter, driving with a revoked license, and leaving the scene of a crash. Smith died in the Line of Duty at Christiana Hospital this morning morning. She was taken to Christiana in critical condition following the Saturday night crash and her condition worsened Sunday night. She was treating a motorcycle driver on Route 13 around 2200 hours. Smith was caring for the biker when a 2004 BMW 760 sideswiped a police car, narrowly missing the a cop, and running over FF Smith and Reiss. Reiss remains hospitalized with serious injuries. As also previously mentioned, the cops say a car following the BMW stopped and let the BMW driver get inside, before speeding off. More details to follow.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

January 25, 2009

www.chabotfire.com

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BillyG

The Secret List 12-22-08 / 2315 hours

AND:

SOUTH CAROLINA FIREFIGHTER DIES IN THE LINE OF DUTY FOLLOWING A RESPONSE

A Blenheim, Marlboro County (SC) Firefighter died in the Line of Duty this morning following his response to a vehicle crash. The 50 year old FF returned home after the run early this morning when he complained of chest pains. EMS was called to his home and he was transported. While undergoing evaluation at the hospital he coded and efforts to save his life were unsuccessful. More details will be posted later at www.SConFire.com As always, our sincere condolences.

UPDATE: DELAWARE CITY (DE) FF LODD-SUSPECT ARRESTED:

Deadly crash nothing new for this dirt bag.... Delaware State Police late last night identified the driver who killed FF Michelle Smith in the Line of Duty as Joseph Taye, 28, of Bear. Taye was arrested and expected to be charged with manslaughter, second-degree assault, driving on a revoked license, leaving the scene of a crash and failure to report a crash. According to Maryland court records online, Citizen Taye has a criminal record dating back to 1998, which includes charges of assault, resisting arrest, marijuana possession and traffic violations. His most recent arrest occurred in November 2007, when he was charged with failure to stop at the scene of an accident involving injuries. According to court records in Delaware, Taye was convicted May 1, 2005, of possession of a firearm by a person prohibited and resisting arrest. Taye is being held in Young Correctional Institution in lieu of \$37,000 cash bail. FF Smith and her Delaware City crew normally would not have responded to that call..but on Saturday night, they were covering for the Wilmington Manor Fire Company, which was holding its annual installation ceremony. Amongst numerous examples of her dedicated service, FF Smith recently was honored with the "Edward McCormack Award" by the Delaware State Fire Prevention Commission for excellence in fire-prevention education. FF Smith, who leaves behind a 12-year-old daughter, volunteered to work the cover detail at Wilmington Manor that night. More details & pics here: <http://www.dcf15.com/index.cfm>

66" WATER MAIN BREAK, RESCUES & CLOSE CALLS IN MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MD:

Here is follow-up and excellent coverage of this mornings water main break in Maryland from Dave Statter911:

<http://www.wusa9.com/news/columnist/blogs/2008/12/swift-water-rescue-from-66-inch-water.html>

UPDATE: NY STATE FIREFIGHTERS HURT IN COLLAPSE:

3 Firefighters injured when a brick wall collapsed on them early Sunday in Friendship (NY) remain hospitalized but are expected to make a full recovery. One Cuba firefighter was taken to Jones Memorial Hospital, Wellsville, where he was treated and released. Two other Cuba firefighters and a Friendship firefighter were taken to Erie County Medical Center, where they remained Monday in good or fair condition. The most seriously injured Firefighter has had two operations since Sunday afternoon but he and the others are expected to recover.

UPDATE: GEORGETOWN (DE) FIREFIGHTER EJECTED WHILE RESPONDING (No Seat Belt)

19 year old Firefighter William Breasure was critically injured on his way to the firehouse to respond to a reported building fire Sunday evening. He was on the way to the firehouse when his car hit an embankment and went out of control. FF Breasure, not wearing a seatbelt, was thrown from the car and found laying 10' away from his vehicle. He was treated at the scene for traumatic injuries and was flown to Christiana Hospital where he remains sedated and on a vent due to chest and lung issues-but is expected to recover. Cops say it appears speed was a factor in the crash.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 12-23-08 / 1210 hours

AND:

Hey...

In what continues to unfold as an absolutely incredible story related to the horrific Line of Duty Death of Delaware City (DE) Firefighter Michelle Smith... the criminal circumstances only gets worse.

As you already know, the motorcycle crash occurred on Route 13 southbound on Saturday evening. The operator of the bike, Edward Reiss, was injured in the incident and was lying in the roadway. A Delaware City Fire Company ambulance (standing by to cover that area for the Wilmington manor Fire Company) arrived on the scene within minutes and DCFC FF Michelle Smith got out of the ambulance, ran over to Mr. Reiss and began to administer care. A New Castle County Police Officer then arrived on the scene and activates him emergency equipment. Moments later, the 2004 BMW 760 traveling southbound on Route 13 entered the crash scene and sideswiped the county police car causing significant damage. The Police officer leaped back into his car just prior to the impact and avoids injury. The BMW, operated by veteran criminal Joseph Taye, 28, of Bear, loses control and strikes Smith and Reiss. The BMW comes to a stop on the right shoulder south of the crash scene.

At that point, a light colored Honda, possibly an Accord, pulls up to the crash scene. The operator of the Honda, an unidentified black male, ACTUALLY HELPS TAYE into the Honda (Taye is unable to walk himself) and the Honda subsequently flees the scene. Witnesses describe the fleeing Honda and also advised that the operator of the BMW was a black male...with an obvious physical impairment/disability. Officers, Troopers and New Castle County Police officers, respond to the BMW registered owners address...the car was apparently not Tayes. Through outstanding police investigative practices, the name of Joseph Taye comes up. It is learned that Taye was a black male with a physical impairment. Back at the crash scene, evidence technicians process the BMW and locate a finger print which ultimately proves to be a positive match for Taye.

Tragically, yesterday, Monday, December 22nd, Ms. Smith succumbs to her injuries and is pronounced dead at Christiana Hospital. Her death is Line of Duty.

During the evening hours of December 22nd, detectives complete arrest warrants for Taye.

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Troopers respond to Tayes home in Bear and take him into custody without incident. Taye is arraigned on the following offenses: Manslaughter, Assault 2nd, Driving while Revoked, Leaving the Scene of a Crash and Failure to Report a Crash. Bail is set at \$30,000.00 only (yeah-we know) and Mr. Taye is committed to the Howard Young Correctional Institute. As you know, this case is still very much active. Investigators are seeking to identify the operator of the Honda that fled the scene of the crash with Taye in the car. We have no doubt that they will get Tayes "partners in crime"...

FF Michelle L. Smith has served the Delaware City Fire Company <http://www.dcf15.com/> and the Delaware City Ladies Auxiliary for over 5 years, holding the Secretary position with the Ladies Auxiliary. She also served with the Volunteer Hose Company of Middletown, DE: <http://www.vhc27.com/>. Michelle is survived by her 12 year old daughter. Again, our condolences to all affected, the members of the Delaware City, Wilmington Manor Fire Companies and VHC of Middletown but especially her family, her daughter and her friends. Kudos to the Delaware State and the New Castle County Police involved in this bizarre case for the outstanding police work done so far as they continue to hunt for Tayes accomplices. More to follow....

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 12-23-08 / 1741 hours

AND

FIREFIGHTER MICHELLE SMITH FUNERAL DETAILS & 12 YEAR OLD DAUGHTER TRUST FUND DONATION INFORMATION

The Delaware City Fire Company has announced the Line of Duty Death services for Firefighter Michelle Smith, 29, who passed away Monday, December 22nd. Services for Michelle are being coordinated by Department Officers and Members, State Fire Chief's Association members, and the National Fallen Firefighter's Foundation Local Assistance State Team. In respect for the holidays and the family's wishes, we have scheduled the services appropriately.

The viewing will be held on Sunday, January 4th, from 1500 hours until 1900 hours, at the Delaware City Fire Company Memorial Hall, 815 Fifth Street, Delaware City, DE 19706. The services will be held on Monday, January 5th, at 1000 hours, at the Delaware City Fire Company Memorial Hall, 815 Fifth Street, Delaware City, DE 19706. The firefighters honors and procession will immediately commence and continue to the internment being held at Odd Fellows Cemetery, 420 S. DuPont Blvd., Smyrna, DE 19977.

Michelle is survived by her 12 year old daughter, Emily. A trust fund has been set up in Emily's name for donations. The family has requested that in lieu of flowers, donations may be made to The Emily A. Burge Trust Fund, c/o Delaware City Fire Company, PO Box 251, 815 Fifth Street, Delaware City, DE 19706, or donations may be made directly to the Delaware City Fire Company.

Fire Companies or agencies wishing to participate in the ceremonies should limit their participation to one apparatus. Apparatus and personnel should plan to report to the staging area (to be determined) by 9 am on Monday, January 5th. Details will follow early next week

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concerning the particulars of the ceremony. Please check their website, www.dcf15.com for up to date information.

Take Care,

BillyG

The Secret List 12-24-08 / 0837 hours

AND:

Hey...

A Bonham Fire Department Ambulance collided with a car at a rural intersection, killing all three people inside the sedan on Christmas day. According to the cops, the ambulance driver failed to see the Chevrolet Malibu before turning onto U.S. Highway 69. The car slammed into the ambulance, sending both vehicles off the road and leaving the ambulance on its side in a ditch. Killed were civilians Pamela Kay Touart, 59, and her twin sons, Cameron Wayne Boudreau and Kipp Leonard Boudreau, both 29. The 2 Firemedics in the ambulance were taken to a hospital and later released. Bonham Fire Chief Bill Palya says it did not appear the family wore seat belts. The ambulance was headed back to its station at the time of the accident. Leonard is located about 50 miles north of Dallas.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 12-26-08 / 0945 hours

AND:

Hey...

Just when you thought the circumstances related to the horrific hit and run Line of Duty Death of Delaware City (DE) Firefighter Michelle Smith couldn't get any worse...it does. This isn't the first time that career criminal Joseph Taye was involved in a hit and run....why, just one year ago, the paraplegic Taye...yeah, paraplegic... (Taye was paralyzed from the waist down in July 2005 when he was shot outside a bar) was involved in another previous hit and run crash in Maryland that left two women injured, one seriously. When police found the wrecked silver 2004 BMW after that late-night crash Nov. 30, 2007, they discovered a 4 foot wood stick in the rear seat area.

Incredibly but I guess, not surprisingly for a career criminal, Delaware State Police found a stick just like the other "I drive because I WANT to -- stick" last Saturday, inside the same BMW, after that crash that killed Firefighter Smith in the Line of Duty. In both crashes, the cops think that career criminal Taye was using that stick to operate the brake and gas pedals...the BMW was not even equipped with handicapped devices that would allow a person, career criminal or not, whose legs are paralyzed, to drive. Even one with a suspended license. You see...Criminal Taye blew off the law and drove anyway-because he must have simply "wanted to"..even though his driver's license had been revoked.

But he really didn't care.

He had places to go.

People to see.

And a Firefighter to kill.

Well, not intentionally some might say. Well if he didn't intentionally obey the law, then he intentionally broke it. Sounds like we are being too rough?

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He could have killed you.

Your family.

Your kid.

More Firefighters.

He killed a kids Mom who happened to be a Firefighter.

Get the picture?

Being too rough? Criminal Taye roughly shot his middle finger up at anyone who obeys law.

Cops say there was only one person in that BMW last Saturday night, which was abandoned at the crash scene after Criminal Taye ran down FF Smith....and they found a wooden stick by the open right front passenger door. And now, this one will shock you: they also found booze bottles in the front seat and a wheelchair was in the back seat. And believe it or not, Criminal Tayes fingerprints were found in the car! How did he get away? He can't walk. Well...someone in a Honda pulled up and drove Criminal Taye away. From the scene. With a critically injured Firefighter laying there. Someone just picked up criminal Taye and drove away. Just like that.

On Monday, Taye was charged with manslaughter, second-degree assault, driving while his license was revoked, leaving the scene of a crash and failure to report a crash in the Saturday night accident that killed FF Smith and left 30-year-old biker Edward Reiss in critical condition. Very unfortunately, Taye was then released from Delaware's Young Correctional Institution on Tuesday after posting a measly \$37,000 bail, just in time for Christmas. Did we mention that career Criminal Taye has a criminal record dating way back to 1998, which includes charges of assault, resisting arrest, marijuana possession, possession of a firearm, resisting arrest and traffic violations? Yep...he follows the rules all right...no real obvious in-your-face reasons that HE should remain behind bars after killing a Firefighter, are there?

Like it or not, Criminal Taye has his freedom for now. Think he could very potentially find a new stick and get someone to help him go cruising on the highways again? What are the odds of THAT happening...again? It would probably be wise for everyone to stay of the roads in Delaware for a while. Why didn't the judge think of what Criminal Taye might do to repeat history, again? Who will be Criminal Tayes next victim as he flips off the law and goes stick-cruiz'n. The judge should have thought of that. Some judge.

Who will be Criminal Tayes next victim? While Criminal Taye decides where and how he wants to travel next, the remains of the late Firefighter Michelle Smith awaits the members of her family and the Delaware City Fire Company to prepare for her burial. Some trade off. Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 12-26-08 / 1400 hours

AND:

Hey...

A Jamestown (IN) Firefighter is in surgery after a semi truck struck and ran him over near the scene of 2 others crashes on I-74 near the Boone/Hendricks County line around 1000 hours this morning. The Firefighter was at the scene of the crashes when the semi hit him, and after he was hit, he was pinned under the semi for about 30 minutes until he was extricated and

transported. The Firefighter is in surgery now due to multiple serious traumatic injuries. There were reports of ice in the area where the incident occurred. Updates will follow.

INDIANA APPARATUS RESPONDING CRASH:

And also in Indiana, 4 Pike Township Firefighters were being hospitalized this morning after their apparatus struck a tree during a EMS run. Initial reports are that their injuries appeared to be non life-threatening, The Firefighters headed out on the engine just before 1100 hours on an EMS run and while responding to the scene, their engine hit ice and the driver lost control.

UPDATE ON THE DELAWARE FIREFIGHTER THAT WAS EJECTED WHILE RESPONDING:

The Georgetown (DE) Firefighter that was ejected while responding to a fire call earlier this week remains in critical condition. He had surgery yesterday but at last report-his condition has not changed. FF William L. Breasure, 19, was ejected when the 2004 Dodge Stratus he was operating hit an embankment after crossing railroad tracks. FF Breasure lost control of the car and was thrown from the vehicle. A preliminary investigation has shown that speed was a factor in his crash and it does not appear that FF Breasure was wearing a seat belt. Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 12-26-08 / 1506 hours

AND:

ROLLOVER CRASH TAKES THE LINE OF A NEW ZEALAND FIREFIGHTER-OTHER FF SERIOUS

A Firefighter from the Hicks Bay Voluntary Rural Fire Force was Killed in the Line of Duty at the scene of a fire apparatus rollover on State Highway 35 in eastern Bay of Plenty. Another Firefighter has been airlifted in a serious condition to hospital. The Hicks Bay fire apparatus, a 1978 Bedford, was responding to a call to a motor vehicle accident north of where they went over a bank at about 1555 New Zealand Daylight Saving Time (+11 GMT). Hicks Bay is a very quiet and rural coastal area in the Gisborne region of the North Island of New Zealand. As always, our most sincere condolences.

DR. JOHN PRYOR KILLED AT WAR - JEMS EDITORIAL BOARD MEMBER:

It is with deep regret that we inform you of the death of Major John Pryor, MD, a member of the JEMS Editorial Board who was killed by mortar fire on Christmas Day in Iraq while serving as a trauma surgeon in the United States Army Reserve Medical Corps., 1st Forward Surgical Team (FST). Dr. Pryor was a trauma-critical care surgeon at the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia and served as Penn's Trauma Program Director and the Director of the Office of Life Support Education for the Division of Trauma. He joined the U.S. Army Reserve Medical Corps. after the attacks of 9/11 and served two active duty tours as the trauma surgeon for the 344th Combat Support Hospital in Abu Ghraib, Iraq, during 2006, and then with the 1st FST in 2008. Here is an article from JEMS' AJ Heightman related to this tragic loss:

http://www.jems.com/news_and_articles/columns/Heightman/JEMS_editorial_board_member_killed_in_Iraq.html

SNOW CAUSES COLLAPSE SERIOUSLY INJURING A WASHINGTON STATE FIREFIGHTER:

A Bothell Firefighter was seriously injured Friday when an awning, loaded with snow, collapsed on him as he operated on an EMS run. The firefighter was transported after the 1645 hours incident...and was scheduled to undergo facial surgery late last night. The Firefighter was bringing a stretcher to transport the patient when the awning came down on him.

DRUNK STRIKES FIRE APPARATUS IN CALIFORNIA:

A man was arrested for driving under the influence Christmas night after he smashed into a San Mateo fire engine. The engine had just pulled out of quarters to respond to an elevator rescue when the man struck the engine at about 2000 hours. No one was injured, but the engine was unable to carry out its response to the elevator rescue. The apparatus involved in the crash received minor damage and there is one less drunk off the road-for now.

ARIZONA FIRE APPARATUS STRUCK:

A fire apparatus operating at crash sites was struck by a rubbernecking driver Thursday afternoon. The Tohono O'odham FD rig was staged on the side of northbound I-19 when another vehicle crashed into it around 1435 hours. The driver who hit the fire apparatus was looking at the previous accident scene. No firefighters were injured, though the rig was taken out of service because of the damage it incurred.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 12-27-08 / 0157 hours

AND:

Hey...

On the evening of December 27, 1983 a warehouse was the scene of the worst disaster and Firefighter LODD loss of life in the history of the Buffalo NYFD. The warehouse had contained an illegal 500 gallon propane tank whose valve was broken off while it was moved and the building was in the process of being evacuated. The propane gas started to leak, eventually reaching an open flame. The tank exploded, killing all 5 firefighters assigned to Ladder 5 and 2 civilians; it also damaged a dozen city blocks and caused millions of dollars of damage in fire equipment. BFD members Mike Austin, Mickey Catanzaro, Red Lickfeld, Tony Waszkielewicz, and Matty Colpoys were killed in the line of Duty instantly. The 3 engines, 2 trucks, rescue and 3rd Battalion were responding to that report of the large propane tank leaking in the building. Engine 32 arrived and reported nothing showing, but they were talking to some workmen from the four-story, heavy-timber warehouse (approx. 50' x 100'). Truck 5, Engine 1 and BC Harvey Supple (who was critically injured) arrived right behind E-32.

37 seconds after the chief announced his arrival, there was a tremendous explosion. It completely leveled the 4 story building and it demolished many buildings on four different blocks. It seriously damaged buildings that were over a half a mile away. The ensuing fireball started buildings burning on a number of streets. A large gothic church on the next block had a huge section ripped out of it. For an excellent article on this tragic fire by then new firefighter-and now, BFD Fire Commissioner Mike Lombardo, go to:

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<http://cms.firehouse.com/content/article/article.jsp?id=2596§ionId=6>

<http://cms.firehouse.com/content/article/article.jsp?id=2596§ionId=6>

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.....

BillyG

The Secret List 12-27-08 / 2145 hours

AND:

Hey....

While this is not a Line of Duty Death, we feel it is worthy of notification because most Firefighters wouldn't hesitate to attempt a rescue-on or off duty....and that was the case in Colorado yesterday. A South Metro <http://www.southmetro.org/> Firefighter Paramedic was 1 of 2 snowmobilers killed in an avalanche in Grand County yesterday. The Firefighter/Medic, 38 year old Brian Kopp, lost his life while attempting the rescue of another snowmobiler during an avalanche. The 3 snowmobilers were caught in the avalanche around 1440 hours Saturday. One of them was able to escape, but 2 of them, Kopp, and 19-year-old Mark Goetz, tragically died. The lone survivor of the avalanche stated that FF Kopp was rushing to rescue Goetz, who had got into trouble on the mountain, even though FF Kopp knew it could be dangerous and subsequently lost his life in the process. Goetz had gotten into trouble on the hill, and FF Kopp turned to help him ...when he himself got caught in the slide.

The men who died were in a group of four snowmobilers. Goetz and Kopp rode up a steep slope between Little Gravel and Gravel Mountain where they got stuck. Goetz's father, Chuck Goetz, 59, rode his snowmobile above them, planning to come down and help free them. When he did, an avalanche swept all three down the mountain. Chuck Goetz escaped the slide. Rescue workers were unable to revive Goetz and Kopp and both died at the scene. FF Kopp started his career with South Metro Fire Rescue in 2000 as a firefighter and later became a paramedic. He was studying to be a Lieutenant with his department. Our condolences to all affected by this tragic loss.

UPDATE: Delaware Firefighter Will Breasure Ejected-Remains Critical:

As you remember last weekend, Georgetown (DE) FF Will Breasure was ejected in a single vehicle crash while responding on a fire call. As of this morning, Doctors were going to cut back on the ventilator to see if Will could handle breathing on his own. After cutting it back for a short time they determined that he's not able to handle it on his own yet so they increased it back to the original settings. The nurse said they will maybe try to do it again in another day or so most likely. She said that though his lungs are slowly improving the pneumonia has created a lot of secretions in his lungs and that is hampering some stuff. His crew from Georgetown (77) has been by his side and visiting-and he did mouth some brief words to them as well. Updates can be found here: <http://georgetown77.com/>

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 12-28-08 / 2133 hours

AND:

Hey...

3 members of the Baltimore City FD were injured this morning when a 2nd floor partially collapsed at a fire. Firefighters from T18/12 fell to the basement and during their rescue, 2

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www.chabotfire.com

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other FF's were injured in the process. At this time 2 of the members are released with burns and minor injuries and the 3rd member is at Shock Trauma with 2nd degree burns and was stable and doing well this morning. Command officers in Baltimore City acknowledged the extreme heroic efforts of their members in the rescue of their own. We wish the injured members a rapid recovery.

==CAN YOU HELP? : NY FIREFIGHTERS INJURED IN COLLAPSE UPDATE:

A Firefighter who had a wall fall on him a week ago today in Friendship (NY) remains in serious condition. FF Thomas Torpey, 29 has improved to serious condition from the fire and wall collapse. 3 FF's were released and still have out-patient treatment. Fire Lieut Jason Butts of the Cuba FD, has a Web site (www.cfdsmokeeaters.com) and he is updating the condition of FF Torpey and the others.

CAN YOU OR YOUR FD HELP?

FF Torpeys Doc said he would like as many cards as possible to be sent to boost his spirits. Get well cards can be sent to:

Firefighter Thomas Torpey
Friendship FD
P.O. Box 503
Friendship, N.Y., 14739.

==TODAY'S WTF?!

".....We have MORE Firefighters than we need"... "The number of firefighters per truck does not correlate with either public or firefighter safety...." More short sighted city hall dwellers with pre-determined final conclusions. 'Course it depends on what you DO need-and if it is "your" fire or not. Major cases of NTS....and then there will be a fire...and then...well, you know what happens after that.

This time it is (again) in Massachusetts where the City of Brookline's "Efficiency Initiative Committee" (the name of that committee alone forces us to call EAP and make an appointment) may recommend that the BFD trim 20 to 36 firefighters, while leaving the cops unscathed. "We have more firefighters than we need," member Sandy Batchelder said at a recent meeting of its public safety subcommittee. "It's up to the fire chief to decide what to do." Six members of the subcommittee determined that the smaller reduction, which would mean cutting a company, could be done in the short term - saving the town \$1.4 million in next fiscal year's budget. But while deferring to Chief Peter Skerry, they cited extensive research by member Peg Senturia that the number of firefighters per truck does not correlate with either public or firefighter safety.

Brookline staffs with 4 Firefighters on the apparatus while many surrounding communities do it with 3 or less. Look, those with 3 (or less) DO NOT operate as efficiently or safely as those with 4. It's simple math based upon the required tasks for any given fire. Now, if they want to cut their staffing and accept the fact that their companies and operational response times will suffer, that's different. At least it would be honest thinking. But then again, it's an "Efficiency Initiative Committee" in city hall. What did anyone expect to come out of that committee. To get an idea about how BFD's Local 950 feels, check

www.brooklinefirefighters.org/index.cfm

Beware of an "Efficiency Initiative Committee" coming to a City Hall near you. Better yet...be pro-active, FORM ONE...but one where open minds and a true interested understanding of what a fire can do exists. Start with the "sprinkler" discussion and then follow it with the..."just in case it is not sprinklered" discussion".....

==A MOTHERS PLEA AFTER LOSING HER OWN CHILDREN IN A FIRE:

While we try to remain focused about what we do on the FFCC website and what we send out on The Secret List to normally be focused on FF safety and survival, sometimes we will take an opportunity to pass other fire info on to you. This would be one of those cases.

A few years ago I became friends with Commissioner Lloyd Ayers in Philadelphia. If you pickup anything about him, it is his concern for the incredible amount of fire deaths in his city. He and his Firefighters have their hands full if you understand the socio-economic fire problem in that city. It is really bad. And it was bad again this weekend. One of the first "heads up" we got on this was from Dave Statter/911 early Saturday morning. Dave and I go way back a few decades as friends and his support of helping get fire and EMS information out there is top shelf.

In this latest Philly fire, the mother of 3 little kids killed in a Philadelphia house fire held up their morgue photos at a packed church and pleaded with the hundreds in attendance to outfit their homes with smoke detectors to prevent such tragedies. 6 people were found huddled together at one end of the room; a seventh was found near the basement's only exit to the outside. Investigators said the interior basement stairs had been removed. There were no smoke alarms in the house. Here is a local link to the tragic fire:
<http://www.nbcphiladelphia.com/news/local/Mother-of-Fire-Victims-Makes-Emotional-Plea.html>

Here is a link to Dave's information:

<http://www.wusa9.com/news/columnist/blogs/2008/12/mother-holds-up-morgue-photos-in-church.html>

Take care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 12-29-08 / 1535 hours

AND:

FRENCH FIREFIGHTER DIES IN THE LINE OF DUTY DURING SEARCH

A Firefighter from Narbonne (France) died in the Line of Duty yesterday (Sunday, December 28, 08) after a search for a victim at a working fire that occurred on Christmas Day, December 25th. At around 1730, the Narbonne (France) FD received a call for an apartment fire in an older style building. When the first engine got on scene, a lady came out to them advising that her husband was missing and still in the building (in fact, he had left by another door and was actually out of the building). 2 Firefighters immediately entered the building to make the search, and after a while, they became disorientated in the building. One of the Firefighters, FF Jérôme Gateau ran short of air and his partner activated his PASS device. Rescue Firefighters entered to help them...the search took a while to locate them...and had to breach a wall to remove them. Both Firefighters were hospitalized, FF

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Gateau had lost consciousness and was heavily intoxicated by CO, the other Firefighter Vincent Lignon (age 20), who stayed with him, was burned but has survived. FF Jérôme Gateau died in the Line of Duty as a result of the smoke inhalation on Sunday December 28th. He leaves 2 children, 2 boys aged 4 & 5 and his wife is a volunteer fire nurse with the EMS of Narbonne FD. As always our sincere condolences to all affected-especially the family of FF Lignon.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 12-30-08 / 0745 hours

AND:

As we were getting ready to send this-we were advised of THREE serious active FD incidents:

- 1-North Babylon-Suffolk County NY. Apparatus involved crash requesting EMS units, people trapped.
 - 2-Waldorf, Maryland-A vehicle crash into apparatus, possibly involving multiple vehicles, civilian pinned-no FF's reported injured.
 - 3-Houston-Kent County-DE-A FF thru the floor at a fire-trapped-rescued-now being treated
- Details will follow either here or on our home page. BE CAREFUL.

=====

NEW JERSEY FIREFIGHTER DIES IN THE LINE OF DUTY FOLLOWING A RUN

Lifelong Princeton Junction resident and Volunteer Firefighter with 37 years as a FF died in the line of Duty Saturday afternoon after returning from a routine call. FF Dennis McClenahan, 54, passed away from a heart attack at home only a few hours after responding to a minor alarm at Nassau Park Pavilion mall. "We came back, everyone went home and a few hours later he collapsed," said Fire Chief Dennis Huber. Although FF McClenahan had suffered a minor heart attack more than 10 years ago, Huber stressed that McClenahan did not appear to have health problems recently. "He was cleared of that and he's been fine since". FF McClenahan's devotion infected not only his colleagues, but his immediate family. His wife Cathy is a member of the Princeton Junction Fire Co. Ladies Auxiliary, and daughters Sandy and Cindy followed in their father's footsteps when they joined the company as associate and active members, respectively. Funeral arrangements will be held at 1100 hours Dec. 31 at the Princeton Junction Volunteer Fire Company: <http://www.pjfd.com/> As always, our sincere condolences to all affected.

MORE BAD NEWS IN PHILLY...AND COMMENTS FROM THE MINNESOTA GOVERNOR:

The Philadelphia Firefighter's union <http://www.iaff22.org> has lost their battle to prevent the Mayor from closing 7 fire companies as part of the city's current budget crisis. The judge claimed that the Firefighters failed to show that the cuts posed a threat to public safety. Things that make you go Hmmm. Be it seconds or minutes-how can those cuts NOT pose a threat to public safety...unless. perhaps, as a judge, or as a mayor, you simply don't want it to? Judge Gary DiVito ruled yesterday that the Mayor CAN totally make the cuts because he felt that the FF's had failed (in his eyes) to show that the cuts posed a threat to public safety.

But on the other side of the USA, Minnesota Governor Tim Pawlenty announced budget cuts

Chabot College Fire & EMS News

from state funds to cities and counties. In a classic response representing city hall dwellers, Jim Miller of the Minnesota League of Cities says police and fire services would INEVITABLY be affected! Typically, cities do that-they publicly go after Fire (and sometimes PD) because in many cases, we are a pain in the tush. I said Tush for a few of you whining that we have too many implied cuss words on The Secret List, such as WTF which, as if you didn't know, stands for Well Trained Firefighters...duh. Sometimes in some cities, we aren't liked very much. Sometimes we earn that reputation by being extreme and ridiculous in our requests. But in almost cases we do not. Fire departments DO cost money and we generate little revenue which annoys some. Usually those who have not yet had a fire or medical emergency.

But WE LOVED Governor Pawlenty's response: "There are lots of options, not in all cities, but in many cities, where they can go to reduce spending or to tighten their belts before they might impact police and fire," he said. "And city council members, any mayor, any city administrator who would say their first course of action is going to be to affect public safety, I would politely say they have misplaced priorities." Bingo.

Back in Philly, Local 22 requested an injunction earlier this month, arguing that the Mayor was required to bargain with the union when it came to issues of firefighter safety. Judge DiVito said the union's expert witness had FAILED (!?) to show that eliminating 5 engine companies and 2 ladder companies would endanger firefighters or the public. The city claims they will not lay off any firefighters or close any fire stations. Rather, firefighters staffing the 7 companies will be reassigned. The grievance filed earlier this month argues that the cuts would violate the city's contract with the union by "jeopardizing the safety and health of firefighters in a manner that is likely to cause death or serious physical harm." While arbitrators have ruled that running the department and establishing staffing levels are legitimate management prerogatives, the contract prohibits cuts that may imperil firefighter health and safety.

Amazing. In a City with one of the highest civilian death rates from fire - there are cuts. Take care-BE CAREFUL Responding, Operating, Returning ...and at City Hall. BillyG
The Secret List 12-30-08 / 1111 hours

AND:

Troopers from the Collision Reconstruction Unit at Troop 2 formally charged Joseph Taye, 28, of Bear approximately one hour ago with Murder in the first degree. This charge was upgraded from Manslaughter due to Michelle Smith of the Delaware City (DE) Fire Company losing her life while performing her duties. Edward Reiss' injuries (the motorcyclist she was treating) charge of Assault 2nd was changed to Assault 1st due to the severity of Mr. Reiss' injuries. The charges of Driving while Revoked, Leaving the Scene of a Crash and Failure to Report a Crash remained the same.

Mr. Taye was committed to Howard Young Correctional Institute without bail. This case is still very much active. Investigators are seeking to identify the operator of the Honda as well as locating that particular vehicle that fled the scene of the crash with Taye in the car. At the

time of this release, Mr.Reiss is still in Christiana Hospital in stable but serious condition.
Take care-BE CAREFUL
BillyG
The Secret List 12-30-08 / 2030 hours

AND:

NEW YORK FIREFIGHTER HAS HEART ATTACK AT SCENE-LODD

It is with deep regret that we advise you of the Line of Duty Death of East Pembroke (Genesee County NY) Firefighter Norm Koch. Norm was the Past Chief of the Corfu Fire District and currently a Commissioner of the East Pembroke Fire District and their Fire Police Captain. Norm passed away yesterday afternoon while assisting at the scene of crash. Captain Koch suffered an apparent heart attack and was transported to the hospital where he was pronounced. Firefighter Koch had over 50 years in the Fire Service with Corfu and East Pembroke FD's.

WHEN THERE ARE NO RUNS...IT IS "WASTED" TIME....SO EMPTY THE FIREHOUSE:

Now...back to Minnesota, where there is at least 1 city administrator who isn't listening to their Governor. As of January 1, the Austin FD will have nobody in quarters overnight. The decision was made last week in a closed door meeting between the City and the local fire union. The contract between the city and the Local 598 FF union expired last year. The city has tried to figure out a new contract since then, but according to City Administrator Jim Hurm, the city and union couldn't work out an agreement on the 24-hour coverage schedule, so now the 10-person fire department will work from 0700-2230 hours. In other words, starting January first, the FF's will be "on call" overnight, but not actually in the fire station-creating a significant and measurable response delay. Local citizens have rightfully questioned the safety of not staffing firefighters overnight, and although Mr Hurm could not (would not?) disclose exactly why the city decided to empty the firehouse, he did say the city wants to get the most "productivity" out of its FD. He stated that there are a lot of wasted man hours on many overnight shifts...as long as no one reports a fire. And when someone does, after 2230 at night, they will clearly be able to measure the slow response time, lost productivity, increased risk and the potentially tragic fire and life loss of their FD. After all, all those FF's did at night was sleep. Sleep well, that is, unless someone called for help which is then how a FD's "productivity" really gets measured. Un-staff the firehouse: WTF?!

DELAWARE UPDATES:

1-Harrington (DE) Assistant Chief Robbie Brode is home and in good spirits. His shoulder was dislocated and he has 2nd degree burns on his wrists and hip. He was hurt when he fell from the first floor into the basement yesterday while operating at a working fire.
2-Georgetown FF Will Breasure is holding on and fighting hard. There are small improvements but the pneumonia is really working on him. Will was ejected from his car while responding to a fire last weekend and was not wearing his seatbelt.
3-Here is a link with an update related to the new murder charges again career criminal Joseph Taye in the LODD against FF Michelle Smith, of Delaware City. The original manslaughter charges against Taye were reviewed by the state Attorney General, who upgraded them today to murder, because FF Smith was killed "performing her official duty." Detectives are still searching for the Honda and the skulls in it.

<http://www.delawareonline.com/article/20081231/NEWS01/812310356>

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 12-31-08 / 0901 hours

AND:

We regret to advise you that a Firefighter with Walker County (Georgia) Emergency Services has been killed in the Line of Duty. Last evening around 2330 hours, FF Jarrett Little lost his life in an apparatus crash while responding to a reported structure fire with his crew of 3. The apparatus overturned while responding. FF Little was 24 yrs old and was a career firefighter in Walker County and began his career and was currently still an active volunteer in Fort Oglethorpe. 2 other Firefighters are in the hospital. Additional details to follow. As always our sincere condolences to all affected.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 1-1-09 1230 hours

AND:

OUR JUDGEMENT, PARENTING & SCREAMING PAIN = Happy New Year 2009

Hey...

Another year gone by. Wonderful. No, really-WONDERFUL. First of all, personally, it's been a wonderful year. I have aged fairly well according to me. And still going to and working at fires. Stop-do not write me and talk to me about fire prevention right now, I just need a moment...I became a FF in '73 to go to fires and I am well aware that soon, there won't be any more fires...so just leave the runs (and me) alone for now. The taxpayers, the FF's and companies we respond with generally made it out safe from those runs. We saved a lot of stuff. As I said: Wonderful.

The most important thing that has happened this year, in addition to a successful colonoscopy (had one yet? Don't get "behind"...) is that I became a Grandpa. I love being a Daddy and I am beyond proud of my kids. As many of you are...but now this: Grand-Daddy...whoa! ...way too cool. My family is deeply blessed and I am deeply in love-so just leave me alone if I start staring at pictures that I also force you to look at, or if I start talking about the wonder-filled young lad ...or if I just start daydreaming, drooling and uttering some gibberish words that only he and I understand. Being "Poppie" is a trillion times better than wonderful.. and even more than that.

Being a Parent is a blessing and almost always awesome.

But sometimes being a parent is horrifically painful.

S c r e a m i n g l y painful.

Please read on.

Did some bad things happen to me this year? A few...but too few to mention (sorry Frank). Overall I am blessed, lucky, fortunate and all that stuff and I wish that blessing on anyone reading one word of this piece. But odd's are, most of you are about as lucky as I am. We get to be firefighters. We made it home. We have "someones" in our lives that love us. We are

generally healthy. Not all-but most. Are we always happy? No. But that's sometimes up to us...and sometimes up to others. And sometimes it's about the judgment (and perspective) applied on both sides of trying to be happy. Sometimes we have a reason to be unhappy. Sometimes it's valid. But sometimes, in our brotherhood ...(which, of course, includes the girls too-all the same to us on this job) ...we whine about some of the most b s stuff.

-"The new sofas in the firehouse aren't comfortable"

-"Those new probies are worthless"..."Well, then train them"..."Nuh-uh-they aren't my problem"

-"I was late to work but it wasn't my fault-this FD is the worst"

-"Our crew was woken up 3 times to go to EMS runs last night...just because some morons didn't feel well"

-"Ewww...yuck...they used WTF!? in The Secret List again"

-"I don't like these new policies-I ain't gonna follow 'em-so there"

-"He s*cks. She s*cks. It s*cks. They s*ck. Everything at this FD s*cks. We all s*ck (the team version)..."

If that's how you feel-quickly get Rick Lasky's book. Read it. Do what he says. Quickly. Or give it to those who need it. Try to fix your FD. Or get to EAP. Or find a different FD. Or maybe find something new to do.

OUR OWN JUDGEMENT:

Before I, you or we start whining about something in the firehouse-we need to think and apply some GOOD JUDGMENT before running the mouth, the pen-or the keyboard. We ALL do. Easy said-hard to always do. Sometimes our ever so fragile emotions get involved and boom...there we go! Off to the races with our mouth, comments, thoughts and opinions. And sometimes those comments are about the "Brothers" or "Sisters" we work with. Ahh-the Brotherhood! Be careful. Remember B.M.A. As an old timer once said: "I'll let you know when I am your brother"....

A while back, a friend told me to stop telling him when things are going well. He won't like reading this...but he'll be OK. I am lucky...but may not be tomorrow. But right now, today, things are decent. Very little to whine about...and as we know on this job especially, that can and will change at some point. That's just the way it is. But for now: good health, good FD, great family ...and then there is that sweet Grand baby boy! Judgment is kind of like the rudder in the boat. While we go about our lives (da boat), judgment is what we use to steer what we do and how we do it-good and bad. Sometimes judgment is easy-sometimes it is rough ...but it is always the common denominator in the final outcome. Sometimes we can go back and fix our "not so good" judgment but sometimes we (and others) may be stuck with our judgment. We have all had our turn in the barrel when it comes to poor judgment. Part of life.

For example, if you want to buy someone a gift, the judgment to do so is based upon them being worthy of that gift and...if you have the cash. Easy judgment. Even if they weren't worthy, WTF!, ya got them a gift. At least they will they THINK you like'm. On the other hand, when you pull up and the fire is rolling, you have to do a quick sizeup and use dead serious judgment based upon your fire experience and training in steering that "boat" to a good

outcome. In that case, judgment affects many more than the just the person using their judgment. Poor judgment at a fire or emergency by one person can affect many.

In 2008, there have been plenty of cases to look at where we-or someone else affecting us, used judgment with good...not so good...or horrible outcomes.

Most recently, well documented career criminal and paraplegic Tave in Delaware used horrific judgment in deciding to AGAIN drive a car that he had no license for. He further used his horrific judgment in getting tuned up before, and possibly while driving that car. His pre-nightmarish judgment further continued in the sewer as he drove someone else's car. More poor judgment on their part for allowing Tave to drive that car-if you even want to call it driving. Criminal Tave drove using sticks to control gas and brakes. Poor judgment....again. And then he ran over and eventually killed FF Michelle Smith-and critically injuring her patient. The same FF Smith who used good judgment that evening to volunteer to help out at another fire company by covering their EMS runs. And then, in the final act of intentionally poor judgment, someone swung by the crash, someone took Career Criminal Tave away...leaving FF Smith to die. And she did. She will be buried Monday.

Good police work using good and careful judgment in Delaware nailed Criminal Tave. But after being in prison for just a little while, poor judgment allowed him to be free. The roads of Delaware were again, very unsafe. Of course we know there are laws and sometimes bad guys have to be let free. Again, it's based upon law, but also judgment. In this case, upon first looking at the law, it was felt that they couldn't hold him. But after looking at it again, and fully investigating the law and the options within the law, those judging, and The Judge, had the chance to improve on their initial judgment and grab Criminal Tave. They did and his tush in now back in the slammer-where it absolutely belongs. Thank you Judge. An example of how sometimes, we do have a chance to go back and alter our initial judgment. We are lucky when that happens. But sometimes it doesn't happen. For example, if Criminal Tave wanted to "turn back the hands of time" and alter his decisions of repeated landfill worthy judgment, he couldn't, he killed a Firefighter. Too late now. There is no turning around the fact that FF Michelle Smith's daughter is now mommy-less. We are pretty sure that Criminal Tave will pay for his crime. We are also pretty sure that he probably doesn't care about what happened. Hopefully we are wrong. We are once in a while.

That's the difference between most firefighters, judges, cops and others. Most of us care at varied degrees because if we didn't, we wouldn't do what we do. And because we have the chance to do what we do, we also must take our training and experience to constantly try to apply good judgement. When we don't, we can sometimes alter it and make it "better" but sometimes we cannot.

As we hope and pray for the recovery of another Delaware Firefighter, Will Breasure, we also are sure that if he could go back and reverse his judgment to belt in before responding, he would. Agree? Then keep praying for young Will but also, make sure you and your members put your frickn seat belts on. We are getting better. More and more FF's are belting in. But some are slipping by.

By hard training and tough enforcement by fire officers, we can be altered into applying smart judgment when getting in the rig, the car or whatever. When we heard about Will

Breasure...we all hope and pray he will be ok. That's good. We need to do that. But then we also have to focus HARD on ourselves and our own FD's...just never budge any vehicle without a belt on and the problem gets solved. And it's not just in Delaware. It's everywhere. Look at the recent fire apparatus crashes w/ injuries in NYC. Or the ones in California. Or Mississippi. No FD is immune to the issues of incomplete self or company officer judgment.

Remember NTS ? (Non Thinking Syndrome) - it's laced with judgment stuff.

When we look at some of the LODD's and critical injuries in 2008-or even 10 years ago, it's hard to not think about judgment. For example, just last night, New Years Eve, we received an e-mail from a Firefighters Father about a decision he made using his own personal, and deeply thought out personal judgment. He decided he wanted to take his e-mail off The Secret List. That happens from time to time. Sometimes because some people feel our language is too rough. Well, we do try and balance that so the city hall SPAM systems won't block important info related to our survival. But we also wonder what firehouses some folks work in were the language doesn't get a little rough once in a while...usually to "colorfully" express a point. Call me weak, but sometimes those words help.

SCREAMING PAIN

Sometimes people drop off TSL because they disagree with our occasional commentary or rare cynicism. We'll miss you. Really. But sometimes it is for reasons that rip right through your heart. Sometimes the reason is because of "screaming pain" that will just not go away. This is one "Dear Chief" letter we received from a man who has a very strong life-long right to be very un-happy. His letter starts and ends in quotes, as follows, he wrote:

".....First of all Happy New Year!

I wanted to tell you why I am doing what I'm doing. Huh?.... You say? I will be taking my name off the Secret List. I've had it with the idiots out there in the fire service.

It is too depressing and aggravating reading what is reported. I buried my Firefighting Son 10 years ago in a LODD and no one can tell me why. This is about the same time I hooked up with your Secret List e-mailing. I've read your informational notes in Close Calls and share your site with my FF friends. It makes me sick to read what Firefighters do when the adrenalin is flowing strong and then again, when it isn't.

=Limited or no PPE (while operating interior) ?

=Heart Attacks with elderly Firefighters (who are operating on the scene) ?

Why in God's creation are we allowing people with over 50 years experience in the fire service still responding to (and operating at) emergency calls? Studies show time and time again how stressful this job is on a healthy (and young) body. In most cases we are asking for trouble.

You want to decrease cardiac arrest in the fire service? Start with family history, then

physicals (weight control!), then mandatory stress classes in every firehouse. Most of these issues, I am sure, happen on the volunteer side of the fire service. Which I know (the excuses of) it being "tough" to regulate when the volunteer population is dangerously decreasing.

I did a talk a couple years ago for the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation. It was a make shift talk since I had little time to prepare, but tried to get through it for the cause. So I spoke from my heart as I went. Whether it was right or not, I started my talk with these Firefighters with:

=="What if you get a call at three in the morning from an IC, or you answer the door at home to see a Fire Chief with tears in his eyes to tell you what just happened to your (Firefighter) Son or Daughter?"

=="Or you answer your door to hear your (Firefighter) Mother &/or Father just died in a fire."

=="What if you were the Fire Chief having to make that call? What if you were the Fire Chief making that call knowing the injury or death was preventable. What if....CHIEF?"

Making sure the equipment is ready does not end in the FD bays. If an Engine has trouble starting or is unsafe we either must fix it or retire it, because it may cause injury or death. If an engine does not go where we want it to (brakes, tires, mechanical systems), we leave it in the bays until we fix what is wrong. Never use apparatus that isn't 100%.

My point?

I have been a Firefighter for over 15 years and I watched the Mother of my Son sob and cry at our Son's, our Firefighter Son's funeral. His brothers cried. We all cried. And as his Dad, I cried so uncontrollably for months wondering why it wasn't me that was killed-instead of my child, Joey. It should have been me that was killed. Fathers aren't supposed to bury their children. I went to Emmitsburg as a Father and listened to other LODD Fathers. I've shared your information with my people ever since I started reading it. There is always something to learn and share. So, your objective is working.

But...

Personally, I can't read about the incompetence, or lack of leadership at some fire departments anymore without wanting to throw something or just sitting down and staring at a wall. It just hurts too much.

God Bless. Be Safe, Matt...."

(end of his letter)

HAPPY NEW YEAR. Some letter, huh?

I'll bet that each of you said "HAPPY NEW YEAR" to someone last night. Some of you may have actually MEANT that. Some of you may have meant it as much as when the cop who gives you a ticket says "Have a Nice Day". Thanks Officer-I will be sure to. But just in case SOME of you actually MEANT "Happy New Year" ...and may be interested in applying some JUDGMENT...so that maybe we have, at least, a BETTER New Year...here are just a few GOOD JUDGMENT items that might help:

-Be personally prepared for the run when the tones go off. Healthy? Eating right? Medical physicals? Is your gear set? Where are your personal tools? Does your light and radio work? Apply some heartfelt judgment.

-Driving to or on the run? Who is qualified to drive? Should "they" be driving? How are they driving? Slow enough to control the rig? Red lights? Stop signs? Is everyone seat belted or would you rather take a chance at slamming into the windshield and being ejected? A little judgment fixes this and avoids you being on the ICU vent until your family decides what to do with you.

-Enough staffing on the 1st alarm to provide water, stretch lines, vent, search, stretch more lines, rescue, supervise inside and all 4 sides outside while tracking all of your FF's? Any less FF's responding on the 1st alarm than what is calculably needed is predictably poor judgment. You can't "do" a 25-30 Firefighter fire with 10 Firefighters and expect it to work well. We lose. The fire wins.

Civilians get killed. We do too.

Better judgment in planning staffing (including auto-mutual aid if that's what it takes) and response appropriate alarm assignments makes it predictably much better. There were many examples of that in 2008.

-Size Up. Several of the most horrific single family dwelling fire injuries and LODD's in 2008 were because of poor judgment, specifically with incomplete or non-existent size up. Our response, resources, personnel and equipment must match the worse case scenario potential of what is reported. And we DO know what that is before we have the emergency-if we wanna know. Pre-plan your buildings or neighborhoods. Good judgment gets us out of the firehouse and into the field to see what will be on fire soon.

-We ALL Want To Go in. That's why we joined. Most times we go in and should. But sometimes we can't go in immediately. Sometimes we must wait or do something other than interior. Sometimes we don't go in. We all hate that, but judgment applies. For example, when half of the light weight wood truss structure is well involved, we can't always go in. A decent judgment thought is that when there is no real indication of people trapped, and a significant amount of the house is involved, we may want to focus on getting water on the fire. Get it flowing from the best vantage point asap before working on anything else that "might" be a problem. Maybe interior. Maybe not. Use good judgment in using what you have on the scene at that time to identify, slow down or fix the fire problem. Deal with what we KNOW vs. what if's or what might be.

"But...but...but what if someone MIGHT be in there!?"

Most times the solution is to put the fire out. Get water on the fire. Quickly. Look. If any of this is new to you, then you better be a probie. Otherwise, this is stuff we know. Sometimes we just need a reminder. Sometimes we need to be smacked on the helmet-like Joey's Dad did to us above. And sometimes we need to be reminded that good judgment is a major ingredient to determining if you, them, us and we get to continue to go to fires.

Good judgment coupled with fire experience and training, in most cases, fixes problems. It can usually help avoid them. Not all-we said "most" cases. We can't forget that ...SOMETIMES Firefighters must absolutely take risks when Mom is on the lawn screaming the kids are inside. Sometimes firefighters must risk (and sometimes give) our lives when the risk is pretty clear and good judgment is applied. When the size-up indicators are there...and when we have experienced and trained Firefighters and Fire Officers involved: Our judgment and the risks our Firefighters sometimes take usually pays off without creating any screaming pain for Firefighters parents, spouses, kids ...or anyone else. On behalf of Gordon, Brian, Forest, Chris, Barry and Rudy, we wish each of you and your families a happy, healthy and peaceful 2009.

Take Care,
BillyG
The Secret List 1-1-09 / 2020 hours

AND:

N.J. FIREFIGHTER KILLED IN THE LINE OF DUTY-STRUCK BY APPARATUS

It is with deep regret that we advise you that a Firefighter operating at a working fire in Elizabeth (N.J.) was killed in the Line of Duty after getting struck by fire apparatus this morning. Initial reports are the Veteran Firefighter was pinned beneath the fire apparatus, was removed, treated and transported where he tragically succumbed to his injuries. Additional information indicates that he was involved in establishing a supply line and was struck by the or another apparatus. The fire came in around 0200 hours in an abandoned house and spread to a nearby occupied house. The family of four was able to escape the fire unharmed. We will provide an update this afternoon when it is released by the EFD. Our deep condolences to all affected by the 1st LODD of 2009.

In 2008 there were 113 Firefighters killed in the Line of Duty in the United States.
Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG
The Secret List 1-2-08 / 1010 hours

AND:

UPDATE: NJ FF LODD-Run Over By Backing Apparatus
ALSO: Related Apparatus Backing Training Info Links Below

A 57-year-old Elizabeth (N.J.) Firefighter who was reported to be functioning as an Acting Captain, Gary Stephens, suffered extensive head and chest trauma when fire apparatus ran January 25, 2009

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over him at about 0230 hours this morning. The 28-year veteran never regained consciousness and was killed in the line of Duty. A/Captain Stephens was directing the apparatus, which was backing up under a bridge supporting the New Jersey Turnpike as it laid down a supply line for Firefighters operating at the a fire a few blocks away. Stephens was tragically run down after turning away to look at the fire.....the apparatus was moving at less than 5 mph. Our condolences to all affected, including the Firefighter operating the rig, the members of the EFD and especially the family of A/Captain, Firefighter Gary Stephens. A suspect is being questioned about the fire. Here are 2 Elizabeth FD websites:
<http://www.elizabethnjfire.com/>
<http://www.fmbalocal9.org/>

APPARATUS BACKING SAFETY/TRAINING:

While clearly all the facts are not out on exactly how this mornings tragic LODD occurred, there is no question that Firefighters everywhere will be talking about it. So instead of just talking, here are links so that we can all HONOR the life of Firefighter Gary Stephens by reviewing SOP's, drilling and training to learn and prevent similar events.

Here are links for drill information and power points related to apparatus backing:
<http://www.firefighterclosecalls.com/drills/FCC%20Vol%202-24%20Backing%20Up%20Apparatus.pdf>
<http://www.iaff.org/hs/EVSP/PowerPoint%20Presentation%20in%20PDF.pdf>
<http://www.iaff.org/HS/EVSP/PowerPoint%20Handouts%20in%20PDF.pdf>
<http://www.respondersafety.com>

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 1-2-08 / 1350 hours

AND:

Hey...

As you know, **Elizabeth (NJ) FF Gary Stephens died in the Line of Duty** in a horribly tragic accident early this morning when he was run over by his apparatus as it backed up while establishing water. He had 28-years on the EFD. The apparatus (photo on our home page) was being driven by one of FF Stephens' longtime friends, a 25-year veteran of the EFD. The apparatus was moving at less than 5 mph when the tragedy occurred under a bridge supporting the New Jersey Turnpike. FF Stephens was directing the vehicle with hand signals as it backed up to lay a line for the structural fires a few blocks away. FF Stephens was hit after he turned to look at the fire. As we can all just attempt to imagine, the driver of the apparatus is ``devastated."

IN THE SLAMMER:

Emilio Vasquez (pictured on our home page), 19, was arrested this afternoon on arson and murder charges after he admitted setting the fire in an effort to keep warm. Vasquez had been living as a squatter there the past five days...there is no bail. FF Stephens is survived by a wife and brother. His father also was a firefighter in Elizabeth, from 1949 to 1973.

Take Care--BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 1-2-09 / 1645 hours

AND:

ELIZABETH, New Jersey:

A full honors fire service memorial service for Elizabeth (NJ) FF Gary Stephens will be held at 1100 hours on Monday, January 5, 2009 at St. John's Episcopal Church on Broad Street in Elizabeth. Here is their link: <http://sijnj.org/> Firefighter and related emergency services personnel lineup will be at 1000 hours. This is a personnel only memorial, no apparatus from visiting FD's will be included. Public transportation for those attending is strongly recommended. This will be the only public funeral/memorial event for FF Stephens. The family of FF Stephens will be holding private burial services separately. Stephens died in the Line of Duty earlier this week after being struck by backing fire apparatus.

PEMBROKE, New York:

Calling hours for Commissioner and Fire Police Captain Norm Koch will be held 4 to 8 today and Sunday at Pembroke (NY) Community Center. Services are at 1100 hours Monday at the community center, which is at Corfu Fire Department. Koch died in the Line of Duty earlier this week from a heart attack.

REMEMBER: FDNY

Lt. John H. Martinson is being honored today at a plaque ceremony, as this is the 1st anniversary of his death that happened in a Brooklyn high-rise fire. Lt. Martinson, 40, was trapped in a burning apartment at the Ebbets Field Houses complex on Jan. 3, 2008. He was separated from his Firefighters in heavy smoke conditions. Martinson, of Staten Island, was a 14-year FDNY veteran assigned to Engine 249 in Flatbush and was a police officer for four years prior. A 6-year-old boy accidentally started the fire by putting a piece of holiday wrapping paper on a lighted stove, then trying to hide the burning paper under a bed. Lt. Martinson died as his wife, Jessica, was pregnant with their second child. That baby, Katherine Grace, is now 7 months old and he also left behind a young son, John.

Take Care,

BillyG

The Secret List 1-3-09 / 1500 hours

AND:

FATHER & SON OKLAHOMA FIREFIGHTERS CRASH-FATHER KILLED IN THE LINE OF DUTY - 2 SEPARATE VEHICLES, HEAD ON INTO EACH OTHER WHILE OPERATING AT A GRASS FIRE - NO SEAT BELTS USED IN EITHER VEHICLE

It is with deep regret that we advise you that a Firefighter (Father) was killed in the Line of Duty, and 2 others were injured yesterday afternoon after being involved in a head-on crash with his FF Son. Some media reports are reporting that both were killed, but we can't confirm that yet.

Firefighter John C. Myers, 61, of Pittsburg (OK) was driving a Wesley FD apparatus at 1520 hours when he crashed with his son, Juston Myers, 31, of Pittsburg. The 2 were involved in fighting the grass fire and collided due to heavy smoke and poor visibility.

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John C. Myers, the Firefighter/Father was trapped in the fire apparatus for over 1½ hours and was pronounced dead at the scene. Juston Myers, the Firefighter Son, was driving his pickup truck, suffered trunk and external injuries and was treated at the scene. FF Juston Myers' passenger, FF Clayton Rice, 30, was taken to a nearby hospital with head, leg and arm injuries. Seat belts were not in use in either vehicle. Initial reports are that there was so much smoke clouding the rural roads that the two never saw each other and collided head on. Updates to follow. As always, our sincere condolences to all affected-especially the Wesley FD and the Myers Family.

Take care-BE CAREFUL. SEAT BELTS.

BillyG

The Secret List 1-4-08 / 0755 hours

AND:

MEDICAL EMERGENCY TAKES THE LIFE OF A MISSISSIPPI FIREFIGHTER WHILE OPERATING AT A HOUSE FIRE

We regret to advise you that Captain Richard Lee Montgomery of the Pisgah VFD and also member of the Hobo VFD died in the Line of Duty on New Year's Eve while fighting a house fire in Marietta, Mississippi. Captain Montgomery lost his life on Wednesday at a structural fire just north of Marietta in southwest Prentiss County. After exiting the burning home, Captain Montgomery collapsed and died from a possible heart attack. **Captain Montgomery's Line of Duty death makes the 2008 LODD # at 114.**

In MICHIGAN (Crash-no seat belt, Apparatus Driver cited)

...a Lawton FD tanker lost control and flipped over while responding to a barn fire this morning around 0830 hours. The driver, a 26-year-old Lawton Firefighter lost control and the tanker went off the road, hit an embankment, and then overturned. The passenger, a 21-year-old Lawton Firefighter, was thrown from the fire apparatus. Both were taken the Bronson Hospital for their injuries.

**==The driver, who was wearing his seat belt, was treated and released.
==The passenger, who was not wearing his seat belt (NSB), is in serious condition.
==The driver of the fire apparatus was cited for traveling to fast for road conditions.**

Police blame both his speed and the icy road conditions for the accident.

In NORTH CAROLINA (Teen driver strikes 2 FF's)

2 Greensboro Firefighters were injured early this morning when a 16-year-old hit them. The 16 year-old female, who was driving the car ignored emergency lights, road flares and cops. Firefighters J.N. Harvey and L.D. Boone were already on the scene of a crash. Both tried to jump out of the way to avoid direct impact of the car but were still struck. FF's Harvey and Boone were treated and released. After hitting the firefighters, the girl also hit another vehicle and did not stop. Police caught her a short distance away. Investigators have not released the name or charges against the teenager. They did test her for drugs or alcohol.

In GEORGIA (Delayed Funeral details)

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As we previously advised, Walker County Firefighter Jarrett Little, 24, of Ringgold died in the Line of Duty Wednesday night after the fire apparatus he was driving wrecked on the way to a fire. He is the first Walker County firefighter to die in the line of duty. We couldn't provide you with any details on his funeral until now, as it is being held this afternoon. RIP FF Little. Take Care-BE CAREFUL. SLOW DOWN. SEAT BELTS.

BillyG

The Secret List 1-4-09 / 1627 hours

AND:

Hey...

Earlier this morning, in **Miami Township/Yellow Springs (Greene County east of Dayton)** a mayday was declared while companies were operating at a basement fire. The fire was reported at 0457 hours, a MAYDAY was declared at 0521 hours, a radio transmission of "We have a working code" was sent at 0523 hours. At 0527 there was a transmission of "Firefighter is back on air" and at 0533 hours the medic unit was transporting a Firefighter high priority emergency to the hospital. Additional reports are that the crews were able to get pulses back on the Firefighter. We will have updates later.

FDNY DEUTSCHE BANK FIRE D.A. REPORT:

Below is a link to the Manhattan District Attorney's officer regarding the results of the investigation into the August 18, 2007, fire at the Deutsche Bank building when Firefighters Robert Beddia and Joseph Graffagnino were killed in the Line of Duty. 3 individuals and 1 company have been indicted for manslaughter, criminally negligent homicide and reckless endangerment in the Line of Duty deaths of the Firefighters.

<http://www.manhattanda.org/whatsnew/press/2008-12-22.shtml>

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 1-5-09 / 0650 hours

AND:

FREEPORT (Long Island, New York) ASSISTANT FIRE CHIEF DIES IN THE LINE OF DUTY FOLLOWING A MUTUAL AID STRUCTURAL FIRE RESPONSE

We regret to advise you that 1st Assistant Chief Richard J. Layton of the Freeport (NY) FD died this morning following a mutual aid fire response into another community. Chief Layton had operated at the commercial building fire in the neighboring community of Baldwin and returned home after that. At approximately 0700 hours this morning, following the fire, Chief Layton had been scheduled for routine surgery, where he very sadly passed away due to a medical emergency prior to the procedure. Our sincere condolences to all affected, especially his wife Jaime, their family members and the members of the Freeport FD. Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 1-5-09 / 1330 hours

AND:

Hey....

Below is a report of interest that you may not have yet seen. We are trying our new Secret

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List format to see how well it "sends" in the body of this e-mail as we do not send attachments. See below on how to view the report if this doesn't show up well for you. During a 3-month period, volunteer firefighters serving Nassau and Suffolk counties in Long Island, NY, were asked to complete a non validated, 19-item questionnaire regarding their health habits, medical history, and demographics. 730 surveys were returned among a potential study population of 20,590 volunteer firefighters. More than three-quarters of respondents met the criteria for being overweight or obese, and nearly 40% reported having high blood pressure, high cholesterol, or both. Most respondents expressed at least some interest in attending a fire service sponsored health lecture and participating in a fitness program. Interesting stuff of interest to any Firefighter-volunteer and career. Take a look below for all the details. NOTE: If this report doesn't come thru well for you, we have also posted a PDF version of it on our home page, news and updates area.

BillyG

The Secret List 1-6-08 / 0844 hours

Self-Reported Cardiac Risks and Interest in Risk Modification Among Volunteer Firefighters: A Survey-Based Study

Patrick Scanlon, PA-C, DO; Elizabeth Ablah, PhD, MPH

From the Department of Preventive Medicine and Public Health at the University of Kansas School of Medicine-Wichita (Dr Ablah) and the New York College of Osteopathic Medicine of New York Institute of Technology in Old Westbury (Dr Scanlon), where Dr Scanlon was a student at the time of the study.

Context:

Coronary heart disease causes approximately 45% of firefighter deaths annually. Although firefighters have clinically significant cardiac risks, a paucity of research and data exists. Objective: To evaluate firefighters' cardiac risk factors as well as their motivation to resolve these risk factors.

Methods: During a 3-month period, volunteer firefighters representing the 79 fire departments serving Nassau and Suffolk counties in Long Island, NY, were asked to complete a non- validated, 19-item questionnaire regarding their health habits, medical history, and demographics.

Results: A total of 730 surveys were returned among a potential study population of 20,590 volunteer firefighters. More than three-quarters of respondents met the criteria for being overweight or obese, and nearly 40% reported having high blood pressure, high cholesterol, or both. Most respondents expressed at least some interest in attending a fire department-sponsored health lecture and participating in a fitness program.

Conclusion: Firefighters expressed desire to learn more about risk factor modifications and have fire departments take a more active role in helping firefighters improve their health. The effectiveness of resources and intervention programs should be assessed. There are more than 1 million firefighters in the United States today, 72% of whom are volunteers.¹ Firefighting-by career and volunteer firefighters alike-is physically demanding

and necessitates good physical and cardiovascular fitness.²⁻⁴ Although all firefighters tend to be selected based on applicants' physical fitness, cardiovascular health does not necessarily play a dominant role in defining fitness, especially over time. Approximately 100 firefighter deaths occur every year-excluding those that occurred on September 11, 2001-and about 45% of these deaths are caused by coronary heart disease.² At a moment's notice, firefighters are called to respond to various alarms that require considerable demands on their bodies, some of which require working at near maximal heart rates for an extended time.⁵ These physiologic changes, the increased physical load from their protective equipment, and psychological stressors can cause severe strain on a firefighter who is not physically fit to perform his or her duties.⁶ One study⁷ indicated that specific duties (e.g., fire suppression, alarm response) were associated with statistically significant risks of coronary heart disease.

Even among firefighters who are apparently fit, the extreme physical demands of firefighting are still evident, especially in hot and smoky conditions.⁸ Firefighters' cardiovascular fitness is important not only to their own health and safety, but also the lives of other firefighters and victims in need of assistance or rescue.

In considering cardiovascular fitness, modifiable and non modifiable cardiac risk factors exist. Non modifiable risk factors include age, family history, and sex.⁹ Modifiable risk factors include cigarette smoking, high blood pressure, high cholesterol levels, obesity, physical inactivity, and diabetes mellitus. Individuals with these risk factors are predisposed to increased morbidity and mortality.⁹ Firefighters can control their modifiable risk factors through diet, exercise, physician follow-up, and proper education about heart disease and its associated risk factors.

The National Fire Protection Agency (NFPA) sets standards regulating appropriate health and wellness programs and medical requirements for paid and volunteer fire departments. For example, NFPA 1582 Section 2-4.1.3 dictates that fire departments require firefighters to have medical evaluations within a specific time frame: every 3 years for persons aged 29 years or younger, every 2 years for persons aged 30 to 39 years, and every year for persons aged 40 years or older.^{10,11} These medical evaluations are designed to screen for and evaluate conditions that potentially could compromise an individual's ability to function as a firefighter.¹² Individual fire departments can impose more stringent requirements for their firefighters and require more frequent physical examinations than those outlined by the NFPA. In addition, firefighters have the option of visiting their personal physicians for a physical examination under their own insurance. For example, a firefighter may be required by the NFPA and their department to have a physical examination once every 3 years, but he or she may choose to have an annual examination with his or her personal physician.

The NFPA Section 3-7.110 outlines various cardiovascular medical conditions that could compromise a person's ability to function effectively as a firefighter (Figure). Category A conditions are deemed clinically significant risks to the safety and health of the individual firefighter or others. Category B conditions, based on severity, could disqualify a person from firefighting duties. For category B conditions, the evaluating physician-whether a firefighter's private physician or a fire department physician-determines the severity of the condition and whether or not it would hinder a firefighter's performance. Although it has been suggested that firefighters have clinically significant cardiovascular risks, a dearth of available research

and data on the topic exists. The present study was designed to evaluate firefighters' health, knowledge of cardiac risk factors, and motivation to resolve these risk factors and improve their healthcare maintenance.

Methods

Long Island, NY, comprises two counties: Nassau and Suffolk. The volunteer fire service of Nassau and Suffolk consists of approximately 20,590 volunteer firefighters from 79 departments. During routine physical examinations at Long Island firehouses between September 2006 and December 2006, the primary investigator (P.S.) distributed and collected surveys from firefighters as they waited to be examined. The Institutional Review Board at Kansas University School of Medicine-Wichita approved the use of human subjects. Although the 19-item volunteer firefighter survey was not validated, it was developed based on methods and findings produced from a literature review.¹³⁻¹⁶ It included six demographic questions: sex, age, weight (in pounds), height (in feet and inches), years in the fire service, and type of firefighter (interior, exterior, emergency medical services, or fire police). Other items focused on medical history, current medications, physician follow-up, personal health insurance, cigarette use, alcohol consumption, and exercise. The firefighters were asked to express their level of interest (i.e., "definitely interested," "somewhat interested," or "definitely not interested") and current behaviors regarding fitness programs, proper diet, and reduction of heart attack risk. They were also asked to identify from four choices the major cause of death among firefighters nationwide: automobile accidents, burns, heart attacks, or smoke inhalation.

Results

We received 730 surveys within the 3-month period. Although there were approximately 20,590 volunteer firefighters in Long Island at that time, the total number of firefighters who had the opportunity to complete the survey but chose not to is unknown as a result of the "snowball" and convenience sampling technique used in the present study. In the present study, 87.8% of respondents were men, 69.7% were interior firefighters, and 56.7% were aged 40 years or older (Table 1). Respondents reported length of service with a fire department ranging from a few months to 57 years (mean [SD], 15 [13] years; median, 13 years; mode, 1 year). Respondents' self-reported weights and heights were used to calculate body mass indexes (BMIs). Although 136 respondents (18.6%) had a BMI that put them in the "healthy" range, 301 (41.2%) had a BMI that classified them as overweight, and 259 (35.5%) had a BMI that identified them as obese.

In responding to the question, "Have you ever been diagnosed with or are you currently being treated for any of the following medical conditions," 145 respondents (19.9%) indicated having high blood pressure and 135 (18.5%) reported having high cholesterol levels (Table 2). Of these respondents, 62 reported having both high blood pressure and high cholesterol levels. In addition, 390 respondents (53.4%) had received an echocardiogram or cardiac stress test at least once.

Although most respondents (69.2%) did not indicate that they were currently taking any medications, 225 (30.8%) did, of whom 218 listed specific medications (Table 3). One respondent reported taking eight different medications. As self-reported among respondents,

115 took miscellaneous medications (e.g., for depression, gout, allergies), 114 took medication for high blood pressure, and 80 took medication for high cholesterol levels. Of the 327 (44.8%) respondents who reported participating in an exercise program, the mean (SD) number of hours each week of self-reported exercise was 5.92 (4.119). Of the 129 respondents (17.7%) who reported that they currently smoke, the mean (SD) number of packs smoked per day was 1.06 (0.364). Of the 452 respondents (61.9%) who reported consuming alcoholic beverages, the mean (SD) number of drinks per week were 4.69 (4.659).

Most respondents (637 [87.3%]) had their own health insurance, and nearly as many (602 [82.5%]) reported receiving "an annual physical from a physician." Moreover, most firefighters (375 [51.4%]) reported "following up with a physician" once a year, 143 (19.6%) reported doing so every 6 months, and 98 (13.4%) reported following up every 3 months or sooner. As previously described, NFPA-required physical examinations are distinct from those conducted by firefighters' private physicians. In the survey, respondents were asked to report how often they "follow-up with a physician." If the NFPA guidelines for the frequency of medical evaluations (e.g., every 1, 2, or 3 years, according to age group) were applicable to firefighters "following up with a physician," 44 respondents (6%) in the 17-to-29-year age group, 73 (10%) of the 30-to-39-year age group, and 88 (12%) of the group aged 40 years or older would not have been in compliance with the NFPA guidelines. To address knowledge of heart disease among firefighters, the questionnaire directed respondents to select the major cause of line-of-duty deaths among firefighters across the United States. Three-fourths (554 [75.9%]) of respondents selected heart attacks; 78 (10.7%), smoke inhalation; 70 (9.6%), auto accidents; and 18 (2.5%), burns. The survey prompted respondents to address the roles of fire departments in firefighters' health. More than half of the respondents (423 [57.9%]) "strongly agreed" and 255 (34.9%) "somewhat agreed" that fire departments should take a more active role in informing their members about the increased medical risks associated with their jobs. In fact, 325 respondents (44.5%) were "definitely interested" and 333 (45.6%) were "somewhat interested" in attending "a lecture regarding proper diet and exercise and reducing heart attack risk" if their departments would provide it. Moreover, 415 (56.8%) and 292 (40.0%) reported being "definitely interested" and "somewhat interested," respectively, in participating in a fitness program if their departments provided it.

Comment

The findings of the current study suggest that firefighters know they are at high risk for cardiovascular disease. Although only 10 firefighters reported having had a heart attack, more than three-fourths of respondents had a BMI classification—a useful screening measure for the health and fitness of firefighters—of overweight or obese. In fact, nearly 40% of the respondents reported having high blood pressure, high cholesterol, or both, and nearly one-third of the firefighters reported taking medications, most of which were to manage cardiovascular disease risks.

Our study yielded conclusions similar to those of other studies.^{17,18} In the present study, at least 90% of respondents favored fire departments' taking a more active role in informing its members about the increased medical risks associated with their jobs, would attend a department-organized lecture regarding proper diet and exercise and reduction of their risks

of heart attack, and were interested in participating in a department-sponsored fitness program. Many respondents had cardiovascular disease risk factors, and a few even had previous cardiovascular incidents. Moreover, when returning their surveys, many firefighters reported to the survey collector (P.S.) that they had difficulty decreasing their risk factors because of a lack of education about cardiovascular disease or difficulty in receiving appropriate healthcare.

Although firefighters are required to have a regular physical examination, fire departments may not pay for the examination. Even if the fire department covers the cost of the physical examination, the individual firefighter is responsible for paying for any further tests or follow-up care, making it particularly difficult for firefighters without health insurance. The present study substantiates the need for further health education as most (657 [90%]) of the respondents reported having at least some interest in learning more about how to decrease their cardiac risk factors. Firefighters' reported desire to learn presents an exciting opportunity for healthcare providers and public health advocates to partner with fire departments to improve access to resources, identify cardiac risk factors, and assist in modifying these risk factors.

In addition, fire departments must take a more proactive approach to ensure that their firefighters are healthy.¹⁴ They could provide lectures, seminars, and counseling to begin or enhance firefighters' education about cardiovascular disease. A physical fitness program at a local health club or a firehouse gymnasium could allow firefighters to improve their physical fitness. The NFPA does recommend that fire departments have a fitness program, which may vary from having a gym on the firehouse premises or reimbursing for personal trainers or weight loss programs. Although some fire departments included in the current study had some form of fitness program in place, specific information was not collected because of the amount of variance among programs.

Resources are available; including those provided by Predictive Advanced Cardiovascular Evaluation (<http://www.pacecardio.com>), the American Heart Association (<http://www.americanheart.org>), and WebMD (<http://www.webmd.com>) to address cardiovascular disease among a number of populations and can be applied to the fire service. Moreover, although 635 (87%) of the firefighters in this study reported having health insurance, fire departments could contact local government officials about health insurance supplementation for those without insurance. Fire department officers could also contact local physicians to establish a referral base for firefighters who do not have a primary care physician.

Certain limitations to the present study exist. For example, all data collected in the current study were self-reported. No objective data, such as blood pressure readings or levels of high-density lipoprotein, low-density lipoprotein, total cholesterol, triglycerides, or glucose, were collected. However, because of the number of respondents in the current study, which was considerably higher than those in similar studies,^{16, 17, 19} collecting objective data might be more difficult. Also, although objective data would be useful, self-reported data have value, especially regarding interest in department-sponsored education or exercise initiatives. In addition to including objective data, the survey instrument would benefit from further clarification, such as a clear definition of how much alcohol constitutes one drink. Respondents may or may not have had an accurate understanding of alcohol content, so

further explanation would increase the accuracy of the answer to this question. However, even with these limitations, the survey provides important data on the lifestyles and risk factors of firefighters.

Another potential limitation of the present study is that the findings cannot be generalized beyond the Long Island geographic region. Even so, our study has identified a relatively large population interested in receiving educational resources, and this in itself is valuable.

Conclusion

The findings of this study suggest that coronary heart disease and its associated risk factors are prevalent in the fire service. Moreover, volunteer firefighters are generally aware of the potential risk of cardiovascular disease in their occupation and are interested in learning more about risk factor modification. Future research should evaluate firefighters' knowledge, behaviors, and intentions regarding risk factors after a lecture or intervention. It is important for the health and safety of firefighters and the communities they serve for fire district commissioners or fire chiefs to provide resources and interventions for their employees and volunteers. Effectiveness of resources and intervention programs among this population should also be evaluated for future use and potential guidelines.

AND:

Hey....

The USFA reports there were 114 on-duty Firefighter fatalities in the United States as a result of incidents that occurred in 2008. During this period, there were Firefighters lost from 34 states and one from the Virgin Islands.

Each of the following states suffered more than 5 on-duty losses:

North Carolina (11) LODD's

Oregon (9) LODD's

Pennsylvania (9) LODD's

California (8) LODD's

New York (7) LODD's

Illinois (6) LODD's

Missouri (6) LODD's

Ohio (6) LODD's

"The tragic losses of on-duty Firefighters in 2008 are a reminder of the necessary commitment and efforts by all Firefighters to focus on and improve our operational safety," U.S. Fire Administrator Greg Cade said...and further stated... **"We understand all too well that many of these losses are preventable"**

As the USFA continues to collect and evaluate information regarding the 2008 on-duty firefighter deaths, here are some of the early known facts: Preliminary estimates indicate that heart attacks and strokes were responsible for the deaths of 50 firefighters (43.8%) in 2008. This shows a decrease from 54 of the 118 (45.7%) firefighters in 2007. In 2008, 26 on-duty firefighters died in association with wildland fires. This loss is more than double the 11

wildland firefighter fatalities in 2007. The 2008 toll is also above the annual average of 21 wildland fire-associated fatalities over the past 10 years, 1999-2008.

For 2008, 64.9% of all firefighter fatalities occurred while performing emergency duties:

=Twenty-nine firefighters died in 2008 as the result of vehicle crashes.

=Fourteen of these deaths involved aircraft crashes.

=Fifteen firefighters died in motor vehicle crashes.

=Six firefighters were killed in crashes involving their personal vehicles and three died in water tender (tanker) crashes. These two vehicle types have historically been most often involved in crashes that take the lives of firefighters.

Speed and a lack of seat belt use historically contribute to these incidents.....

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

REMEMBERING A PA. FIRE CAPTAIN LODD - ELECTROCUTED:

One year ago, Scranton (PA) Fire Captain James Robeson died in the Line of Duty. Captain Robeson was on his tower ladder operating at a working house fire when the tower ladder, close to power lines, was charged by arcing electricity. Captain Robeson was tragically electrocuted and 2 civilians in the home also died. Captain Robeson and Firefighter Jennifer Hawker were in the tower ladder when electricity from the lines actually jumped to the truck, electrocuting Robeson, shocking Hawker and two other Firefighters near the truck. Captain Robeson left behind a wife and teenage son.

HONOR Captain Robeson's life by taking time to review aerial and ground ladder safety SOP's, particularly related to rig positioning, set up, operating near electrical lines, potential arcing and related "danger near by" issues.....and pass it on.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 1-7-09 / 1315 hours

AND:

Hey....

Regularly, "stuff" floats around the Internet that is less than technically accurate. Surprise. But it happens. Look, we aren't talking about the mayor who said this week, that since they haven't lost anyone in his town in a fire, he could drastically reduce services and staffing...which is what we call "**soon to be inaccurate.**" Nope, this time it is about solar panels and firefighting operations.

While we didn't originally send anything about this on The Secret List, we did have some information that was sent to us as a submission that we posted on the website-and the info was inaccurate. Many of you probably saw the e-mail "floating around" on the "solar panel" issue as well. Due to the amount of submissions that come into www.FireFighterCloseCalls.com, it is impossible to not have something slip through once in a while, albeit rarely. We have always taken technical accuracy extremely seriously since we started The Secret List and the FFCC website 11+ years ago and we do our best.

We are fortunate and appreciative to have alotta readers. One of them is a San Jose (CA) FF. A FF who teaches classes on FF Safety related to PV (photovoltaic) systems, who

has a degree in Solar Technology, and is also a member of the California State Fire Marshals PV Task Force. While we heard from many in the manufacturing community about this issue, we were very glad to hear from Fire Engineer Matt Paiss of the San Jose FD who wanted to offer some "firefighter" clarity to this discussion. It is an area we all need to be aware of, but as is often the case; a few misconceptions can create miscommunication.

We will turn this over to Matt so he can provide his training and knowledge to address the issues one by one so you can develop your own FD SOP:

1. Panels are only energized in daylight. Overcast days too, but NEVER at night. Scene lights will NOT energize the panels.
2. If the panels, or the roof are on fire, you will not get shocked by spraying water on them. Put the fire out.
3. The voltages of panels are anywhere from 24-48 volts each and generate from 125 to 200 watts in optimal conditions.

These panels are "strung" together in series to increase the voltages to 120 vdc to 400 vdc. While 600 vdc is possible, it is pushing the UL ratings of the enclosures, etc.. The current of these strings is usually from 5-9 amps. And that is only when there is a load (or put more simply, the inverter is sending the power back into the grid). If the inverter is off, there is no current only voltage, i.e. open circuit.

4. The inverters that change the power from DC to AC, are powered by AC. If you shut off the main service breakers, the inverter is OFF and there is NO AC power being sent into the structure. There are capacitors in the inverters that can hold a charge for about 5 min, but in the daytime the panels are producing power anyway. When the sun goes down....everything is de-energized.

FIREFIGHTER WARNING:

There is ALWAYS energized DC power in the conduit from the panels to the inverter IN THE DAYTIME. So, secure all utilities (per SOP's) and stay away from the panels and the conduit in the daytime. That is the danger.

5. Do not break a panel with your axe or related forcible entry tools. Each panel in the string could be carrying the FULL VOLTAGE of that string (120-400 VDC), not just one panel, so if you put a tool through it, you will very likely be getting the rest of the shift off....so don't do it....there is no need to do it, vent somewhere else, and kill the utilities at the main panel based upon your SOP's.
6. There are often junction boxes on the roofs (residential systems). If they do have fuses (not all do), and you pull a fuse while under load, you will very likely cause a fire. Not to mention the time it will take to open the box and do this. Bad idea-leave it alone.
7. In California, we will not let a house burn because it has PV Panels on the roof. I may not be able to put my hole in the best place, but I will put one in where I can when required.

Thanks Matt. If you have any questions or comments for Matt, he can be reached thru our submissions page: <http://firefighterclosecalls.com/submit.php>

Firefighters and Officers should do their best within their own FD SOP's, to know where in their 1st due area they have these panels...thru pre-planning. Once they are identified, determine the plan before the fire and do follow up thru the installer/mfg of the panels. We will also have links to a video and related info posted soon so you can further learn and follow up. Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 1-7-09 / 2246 hours

AND:

BOSTON FIRE LIEUTENANT KILLED IN THE LINE OF DUTY-APPARATUS CRASH

We regret to advise you that Boston Ladder 26 struck a building just a little while ago resulting in the Line of Duty Death of their Officer and others being transported to the hospital. The rear mount aerial was returning from an emergency call when it, for an unknown reason, struck two other vehicles before going through a brick wall in front of an apartment building. The truck appeared to have come down a steep hill before it plowed through the cars, a brick wall and the building. As always, our sincere condolences to all affected-more details to follow.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 1-9-09 / 1700 hours

AND:

UPDATE: BOSTON FIRE LIEUTENANT KILLED IN APPARATUS CRASH: A HERO AND A WELL KNOWN TV STAR.

As previously posted, very tragically yesterday, **Boston Fire Lt. Kevin Kelley** of Ladder Co.26 was killed in the Line of Duty in an apparatus crash involving Ladder 26. Ladder 26 is one of 23 ladders in the BFD and 1 of 8 that are 13 years or older. It is a 1995 E-One, 110' rig. Reports are that it passed its last annual safety inspection in March 2008 and an aerial inspection in September 2008. A panel will be investigating to determine how this tragedy could happen. The apparatus went out of control on a steep side street yesterday afternoon...it went across four lanes of traffic, then through a gate and smashed into a high-rise building, killing a Lt Kelley, critically injuring another Firefighter as well as causing minor injury to the 2 FF's in the rear. As soon as the wake and funeral arrangements are made, they will be posted here: <http://www.bostonfirelocal718.org>

LT. KEVIN KELLEY WAS WELL KNOWN AS A HERO FIRE OFFICER....AND TV STAR:

Lt. Kelley, with 30 years on BFD was married and a Dad of 3 daughters. He was a devoted family man and a reality television star (see below). Boston Firefighters Local 718 VP Richard Paris describes Lt. Kelley as a "great firefighter" and a "great father....he loved taking trips with his family....Kevin always enjoyed coming in to do his job and then going home - but not today," said Paris, who came on the job with Kelley 30 years ago. "He's not going home."

The TV Show "Firehouse USA: Boston," prominently featured Lt. Kelley...and he played

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a "starring" role as seen in the video clips below. The filming crew became close to Kelley and he invited them to film a backyard barbeque at his home. You can see them below. Lt Kelley was a second-generation firefighter and one of the longest-serving firefighters in BFD...he was promoted to lieutenant in 1988. In 1997, he and other FF's received the Commissioner's Unit Citation for rescuing several adults and children from a burning building, including some rescued by ladder from balconies.

Thanks to Dave Statter911 for providing the video clips....odd's are, MANY of us have seen the program and knew Lt Kelley at least through the TV.....and sadly, we all know him now: www.wusa9.com/news/columnist/blogs/2009/01/lt-kevin-m-kelley-boston-fire.html

Here are related links:

http://www.boston.com/news/local/massachusetts/articles/2009/01/10/horrific_crash_kills_fire_fighter/

http://www.boston.com/news/local/massachusetts/articles/2009/01/10/a_hard_working_helluv_a_guy/

http://wbz.com/topic/play_window.php?audioType=Episode&audioId=3308055

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NISnX_OqOVI

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZIm5SPE0AJY>

sincere condolences to the BFD...but especially to his friends, family and his wife and 3 daughters.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 1-10-09 / 0732 hours

AND:

Hey...

Emotions are understandably very heavy in Boston, with Firefighters from all over the world arriving to grieve the loss of a well known veteran Fire Officer in Friday's horrific crash. The wake for Lieutenant Kevin M. Kelley, who was killed in the Line of Duty when Ladder 26 "flew" out of control and crashed on Friday is at 1600 hours this afternoon. Lt. Kelley's funeral will be tomorrow morning in Quincy.

The justifiable anger in Boston over Lt Kelley's death takes on several forms. From the Firefighters standpoint, IAFF Local 718 President Ed Kelly pointed the blame for Lt. Kevin Kelley's death 100% on Boston's Mayor Menino. The buck does have to stop somewhere and when you run a city or country-you own it...directly or indirectly-but as Mayor, it is yours, shared with others-such as your Fire Chief or Commissioner. In Boston, it is Fire Comm Roderick, who stated: **"The BFD lacks a rigorous schedule for routine maintenance on its fire trucks, relying on a bare minimum of annual inspections that falls short of the regimen of safety checks and repairs recommended by manufacturers."** WTF!? That's coming from the boss. The Fire Commissioner. Read more for yourself:http://www.boston.com/news/local/massachusetts/articles/2009/01/13/chief_says_routine_for_firetrucks_falls_short?s_campaign=8315

While it is hard to find anyone in Beantown (or anywhere) who is not deeply saddened by Lt Kelleys death-the line gets drawn there. There is A LOT of anger in Boston both within and

outside their FD, but all about their FD. Issues of the contract, apparatus maintenance, drug testing, chiefs aides, public image and much more keeps the political fires burning. Read what some folks are saying...and there is no shortage of nastiness, anger, attitude, emotion...both right and wrong:

http://www.boston.com/news/local/massachusetts/articles/2009/01/13/chief_says_routine_for_firetrucks_falls_short/

The devastated daughters and widow of Lt. Kelley get no peace from knowing her husband (and their Dad) died in the line of duty the way he did...they know the crash (likely due to faulty brakes) was preventable. Another reminder of "if its predictable, its preventable". As his Wife stated, **"If he died saving somebody's life in a fire, that would be different - but he died in a crash which should not have happened"** ...her angry family will never be the same. ..and then yesterday, another ladder company was pulled from service because of brake problems.

YOU KNEW LT. KELLEY AND YOU KNOW TRUST:

Outside of the BFD, the horrific loss of Lieutenant Kelley is felt personally because he was known to many of us through the TV. There was a clear "oh no, it was THAT guy"...connection, when we saw who was killed. We all had a cool opportunity to get to know him as a wonderful man, a loving Dad and husband, a real firehouse character and clearly, an old school modern Fire Officer who did things his way. The fact that he was on TV makes his death even more heartfelt far beyond Boston because "you" got to know him. Here is Lt Kelley on TV...playing his famous "role": www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZIm5SPE0AJY

There is little trust in Boston between the FF's and the Mayors office on so many issues. And now, the issue of determining WHY Lt Kelley was killed is at the top. One newspaper says it is NOT necessary to have the State Police or an outsider handle the investigation. **Wrong answer.** Absolutely and without question, non-local experts should be doing the crystal clear investigation.

The fully accurate investigation and disclosure of all Firefighter deaths is a top priority of the IAFC and the IAFF. Last year, a team of highly qualified national firefighting experts developed a set of proposed improvements and changes to the NIOSH Fire Fighter Fatality Investigation and Prevention Program. This document will be reviewed at the Federal level this year for funding and implementation.

Here is that document:

http://www.iafcsafety.org/Safety%20PDFs/Final%20FFFIPP%20TF%20Report_7.11.07.pdf

HONOR:

Many won't be able to make it to Boston today and tomorrow, but we'll all be mourning. And as a part of mourning and honoring Lt Kelley, one of the 1st priorities has to be to prevent it from happening again at any of OUR FD's. How is your apparatus? What's the maintenance program? What are the qualifications of those who maintain your apparatus at ANY level-be it battery checking, oil checks or brakes. HONOR Lt Kelley's life by taking a "stand down" attitude related to your FD's apparatus and make sure it is all fully ready. Fire call ready....to honor the life of Lt Kevin Kelley.

THE BEST program in the Country on this issue is the FDSOA Apparatus Symposium...and it starts this weekend. This is money well spent that gets fire folks at all levels to understand the critical importance of fire apparatus safety. Check it out:

http://www.fdsOA.org/pdfs/2009_app_symp_prelim_prog.pdf

While time is tight, it is very well worth your while. And well maintained fire apparatus by qualified personnel not only saves lives, but adds measurable and genuine trust between the bosses and the Firefighters.

THE DANGERS OF FIRE SPRINKLERS:

A Fort Lauderdale Firefighter was injured at a fire last night on the 16th floor of a condo. The building's sprinkler system helped extinguish the fire...but it also made the floor slippery, causing the Firefighter to fall and get a hip injury....he was treated and released from the hospital. We expect to hear, at any time, a slippery Homebuilders Association press release exclaiming "**FIRE SPRINKLERS MAKE FLOORS HAZARDOUS TO FIREFIGHTERS**"on their slick list of lame and profit motivated excuses on why NOT to install residential fire sprinklers.

REMEMBERING FIREFIGHTER KENNY HEDRICK...who you also probably know.

17 years ago yesterday morning, in Prince George's County (Maryland) 18-year-old Morningside Volunteer Firefighter Kenny Hedrick died in the Line of Duty in a house fire. As Dave Statter stated from www.Statter911.com, adding to the tragedy is that the Firefighter was the son of two of the nicest people he had come to know in his time with PGFD. Odd's are, YOU KNOW the Hedrick Family. Cathy and Les Hedrick's work (Les was the Fire Chief at the time) at the **National Fallen Firefighters Foundation** is well known. Cathy is the 110 mph red-headed ball of energy who has made it her life mission to REDUCE FIREFIGHTER DEATH....and she shares her very personal story 52 weeks a year to any Firefighter that will listen. We remember **Firefighter Kenny Hedrick:**

<http://www.morningsidevfd.com/Memorialpage.html>

and honor the wonderful work that Cathy and Les carry on each and every day. Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 1-13-09 / 1111 hours

AND:

Hey...

We regret to advise you that Army Staff Sgt. Bauer was killed in Iraq last Saturday when a bomb went off near his vehicle in Iraq. Staff Sgt. Justin L. Bauer, 24, of Loveland had interned at the Berthoud Fire Protection District, where his dad worked as a firefighter, earning a citation in 2003 for rescuing a woman from a car and using CPR to resuscitate her. "I couldn't be a more fortunate father," Greg Bauer told the Greeley Tribune on Monday from his home in La Salle. "He was such a good son and a good mentor to his two younger brothers." Ssgt Bauer, whose father Greg was an assistant fire chief in the Berthoud (Colorado) Fire Protection District, passed the rigorous Firefighting 1 course before he was old enough to drive...at age 14. He followed his Father's and Grandfather's footsteps not only

as a Firefighter, but as a soldier as well. Three months ago, Bauer had recently married his high school sweetheart, now Kari Bauer. Our sincere condolences to all.

NOTE-WATCH THIS:

TODAYS FUNERAL SERVICE FOR LT KEVIN KELLEY IN BOSTON IS BEING COVERED LIVE ON WWW.NECN.COM THIS MORNING. They have also had some interviews with family members as well as the DRIVER of the apparatus who explains what happened during last Fridays crash.

NC CLOSE CALL-COLLAPSE:

A firefighter was sent to the hospital after an early morning fire in Kernersville (NC) when the roof came down at a single family dwelling fire. While FF's were operating interior, the roof later collapsed while a crew was still inside the house. All of the firefighters made it out okay, but one was transported to the hospital as a precautionary measure.

FLA CLOSE CALL: RESPONDING AMBULANCE vs RESPONDING FIRE APPARATUS

CRASH: There was a crash between an ambulance and an Orange County (FL) fire apparatus on Monday. Both vehicles had their lights and sirens on when they collided at the intersection of Silver Star and Apopka Vineland roads. A paramedic and the patient inside the ambulance suffered minor injuries and were taken to the hospital in another ambulance. A mother and her young child in another car also sustained minor injuries.

A DIFFERENT FIREFIGHTER STAFFING BATTLE-THIS TIME, IN ALASKA:

The Fairbanks FD will add 3 new FF's to its staff with the help of a \$325,140 grant from the DHS. After a heated discussion Monday night, the Fairbanks City Council voted 4-2 to accept the grant - for now. FFD Chief Warren Cummings has advocated for an increase in staff every year since 1994 and told the council the FD has seen an increase in service calls in 2008, particularly those involving medical emergencies and simultaneous calls. Take a look at the story... be sure to see the readers comments:

<http://newsminer.com/news/2009/jan/13/after-heated-debate-fairbanks-adds-three-firefight/>

NO SCBA's?!?! HERE WE GO:

As Mel Brooks would write: "SCBA's? SCBA's?....HA!....we don't need no stinking SCBA's" Our ol' Pal (and fellow Western Swing music buff) Bill "The Firegeezer" Schumm has a story (linked below) that more than deserves the WTF!? response. This is about a fire call in Hopkinton, Rhode Island, Monday afternoon. The alarm came from an old-age home where one of the residents had forgotten to remove her portable radio from inside the oven....naturally, that's where she stored it, of course...just before turning the oven on. No, that's NOT the WTF!? Although.....

Anyway, it caused a lot of smoke and when that happens, they call us. The problem is that this incident became one that would tax even the most ardent NIMSNUTS....because eventually there were at least 40 ambulances on the scene treating more than 70 people and transporting **31 of them to hospitals....**

....MOST OF THE VICTIMS WERE FIREFIGHTERS.

Of the 31 people transported, 8 were residents, 3 were EMT's and 20 were Firefighters. What we feel will get your "WTF!?" meter up and cranking is the videos, as well as the comments that: **"... not all those firefighters had on the proper breathing gear because their first concern was to get in and save those residents."**

Good intent but if the goal of any FD is to help people with a problem without becoming a PART of the problem....then.....

Look-when any of us are dispatched to something that MIGHT be a fire-we need to operate and act like there actually might be one until we get there and determine that it is not. We are well aware that most automatic alarms are false. Fix the problem if its a repeat offender, but when we do have to roll, **the only reason we don't pack-up is laziness to what "probably" won't be a fire.** This isn't tough: Get off the rig with the pack on...put the mask on when you think you have smoke. Why breathe that cancer causing crap? If it doesn't get us now...it will probably get us later.

Here are the links from FireGeezer...and when you watch this, please watch your verbal exclaiming language so no one is offended by **your** WTF comments. Thank You. The Management - <http://www.firegeezer.com/2009/01/14/morning-lineup-january-14-2/>
Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 1-14-09/ 0915 hours

AND:

Hey...

We have been advised that **FF Dave Campbell**, a well known and nationally recognized fire investigator and Volunteer FF with the **Wallace VFD (Hanover County, N.C.)** was operating at the scene of a crash when he was struck by a car today. He is reported to be in serious condition. We'll provide more information as we can either here or on our home page.

UPDATE: FIREFIGHTER CLOSE CALL IN NORTH CAROLINA:

Yesterday mornings house fire and explosion in Kernersville (NC) was caught on tape. One Firefighter who was inside the house when it blew was taken to the hospital but has been released. Reports are that the FF and crew were doing an interior attack through the front door...they were on scene less than 15 minutes and the house exploded. Here is the link and the local story:

http://www.wxii12.com/news/18477452/detail.html?treets=gws&tid=2659936169813&tml=gws_12pm&tmi=gws_12pm_1_11000101142009&ts=H

FDNY DOUBLE LODD TESTIMONY AT TRIAL:

As you will remember, on "Black Sunday", January 23, 2005, 3 FDNY Firefighters lost their lives in the Line of Duty. The fire in Brooklyn took the life of FF Richard T. Scalfani, 37 when he become entangled in a dwelling fire. A fire the same day, in The Bronx, took the lives of Lt. Curtis Meyran, 46, of Battalion 26, and Firefighter John Bellew, 37, of Ladder 27, both who died in the Line of Duty at the East 178th Street fire. The critically injured were Firefighters Jeffery Cool and Joey DiBernardo, of Rescue 3, Eugene Stolorski and Brendan Cawley,

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both of Ladder 27. FF Cawley's brother, Michael Cawley, a Firefighter with Ladder 136 in Queens, died in the Line of Duty at the World Trade Center on Sept. 11, 2001.

Below are links to a media stories you will want to read/watch related to this weeks intense testimony by some of the Firefighters who were injured and survived Black Sunday...who are now reliving their nightmare:

<http://www.nytimes.com/2009/01/14/nyregion/14fire.html?em>

<http://wcbstv.com/topstories/fdny.black.sunday.2.908545.html>

http://www.nydailynews.com/news/2009/01/14/2009-01-14_warren_of_illegal_rooms_like_pouring_gas.html

FF DUI WHILE DRIVING RESPONDING FIRE APPARATUS IN MICHIGAN:

A Missaukee County (MI) Firefighter has been suspended...charged with driving a fire apparatus while drunk. FF Doug Shaw, 49, a 20 year member of the Lake Missaukee FD's drunk driving charges follow a December 27 incident when cops say FF Shaw showed up intoxicated to the scene of a fire. The FD says Shaw will remain suspended until his case is resolved.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 1-15-09 / 0124 hours

AND:

Hey...

THIS JUST IN:

A commercial airplane has crashed in the Hudson River in NYC. Check your TV news and related websites.

FIREFIGHTER SHOVES TROOPER IN NORTH CAROLINA...and the Cop is thankful!

As an update to the FF struck we reported to you earlier, a truck rocketed toward Wallace Firefighter Henry Dave Campbell and state trooper Allen Dezso on Interstate 40 yesterday....with tragic results. But as the truck hit the median, FF Campbell immediately shoved Trpr Dezso out of the way and he was then struck by a rebounding guide rail cable and thrown into the side of the fire apparatus so hard that he crushed the door. FF Campbell and Trpr Dezso were checking on the drivers of the first two vehicles when a pickup truck lost control on the ice and crashed into the parked highway patrol cruiser, then went on the median toward the two men. The driver of the Dodge truck, Myra Guzman, 52, of Hampstead, was charged with exceeding a safe speed. Trpr Dezso was transported where he was treated for shoulder injuries and released. FF Campbell remains in serious condition. Campbell is a retired State Bureau of Investigation agent and nationally recognized arson fire investigator.

UPDATE: THAT Fire in Rhode Island This Week:

When we have the opportunity to provide you with additional details, we always do. Such is the case of the fire in Hopkinton, Rhode Island we passed on earlier this week when numerous firefighters were transported due to smoke inhalation....sort of.

We took time today to speak with long time friend Chief Fred Stanley of the Hope Valley

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Wyoming (Hopkinton) FD, who had the jurisdiction at this fire call. The initial dispatch was reporting a box (automatic) alarm at the location. It was a well known wood frame structure, retro-sprinklered with handicapped and elderly occupants. The first personnel on the scene found the building to be evacuated and nothing showing from the exterior. The first 2 officers proceeded to the alarm panel and Knox box (without SCBA) in the front entryway to investigate further. During that time, none of the estimated 30 occupants who were outside the building reported fire or smoke in the building. The two fire officers had no visual smoke or fire from their location. They then proceeded to the fire door leading to the corridor where the alarm was activatedand were met by an occupant coming through the doorway....with a moderate smoke condition showing in that corridor.

The occupant was now reporting a fire in a room and people trapped.

The 2 fire officers could also hear someone yelling from the end of the hallway which was approximately 150 ft long. One of the officers immediately reported their finding by radio to the Deputy Chief. At this time the 2 interior officers had to make a decision: either exit the building and leave the occupant calling for help, to don their SCBA's....or attempt to locate the person yelling at the end of the hall. This is where they decided to attempt a rescue due to their proximity to the victim. And while they should not have been in there without all their SCBA, these were the ONLY two fire personnel to enter the building without their packs.

As additional Firefighters arrived on the scene, a search of all apartments was completed in order to account for all occupants of the building. The Firefighters encountered a smoke condition in the first floor of the south wing and a light smoke condition on the second floor of the south wing. All firefighters that entered were wearing the appropriate PPE, SCBA and related equipment.

Once the fire was out and determined to be contained to the oven (it was a radio in the oven, burning) ventilation operations and the process of air monitoring had begun. Some of the Firefighters on other floors and wings of the building had removed their regulators from the mask to conserve air supplies due to no smoke conditions in other areas of the building. Which, in many cases, is something that most Firefighters have done.

But...this is where things got a little out of hand.

The Firefighters monitoring air conditions encountered readings of 1.6 to 1.9 ppm on their meters in the fire room as well as in the corridor directly outside the room. All other areas of the building were clear of any readings of HCN or CO. These findings were reported back to command and passed along to the EMS officer in charge. EMS is a 3rd service, separate from the FD. The EMS officer in charge, not being familiar with HCN, called medical control at the hospital for advice. It was determined by EMS personnel that all personnel in any part of the building without SCBA's would be transported as a precaution.

Not one of the firefighters that were transported had any complaints or even wanted to go but because a well intentioned Doctor had gotten involved there was some concern as far as liability so it was agreed that they would go. That is why that many Firefighters were transported. The intent was to make sure all the Firefighters were ok, looking out for their well being by fire command.

LESSONS LEARNED:

Clearly, the first arriving officers are well aware to the fact that they should have had their SCBAs on as they are well trained and have many of years of experience. Unfortunately complacency had set in due to the amount of alarms received at this facility in the past. While wrong, it happens to the best of us. The internet is not short of "seasoned" veteran fire officers doing things we shouldn't. We can all learn from this. As we stated yesterday, we have to act as if "a fire is a fire until we get there and determine that it is not".

The department has, just recently, adopted an HCN guideline and most Firefighters are not yet totally up to date on the entire protocol as the department is all volunteer. Since this incident, just a few days ago, there have already been changes and amendments made to address some of the issues that were encountered that day.

Unfortunately, the Chief was out of town at the funeral of the wife of another friend of ours, long time Secret List member, Retired Chief Dave Bibber from Dover, N.H. Our condolences on the passing of his wife. Chief Stanley was not on the scene for the first hour, as may have been reported, but they had qualified command officers on the scene. Our sincere thanks to Chief Stanley for the updates and details.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 1-15-09 / 1545 hours

AND:

Hey...

While the media can provide about as much news as we will need related to yesterdays incredible plane landing in New York's Hudson River, there is an aspect that is of great interest to us as **Firefighters and Fire Officers**.

There can be several comparisons between what we do and what airline pilots do, and then there are also few. Specifically, though, like us, airline pilots work hard to remain focused on "managing" risk when possible ...and when realistic. Now, I know there are some who blow that off and just feel that most of our injuries and deaths are just "part of the job". While some are-and sometimes we must get hurt or even lose our lives in the performance of our duties, most are not-a proven fact-no need to argue. And while what we do is respond to fires and related emergencies that have happened for a variety of reasons, pilots clearly do not do that. We go to known reported bad stuff-they try to avoid bad stuff. But, because pilots are operating multi-ton vehicles that fight gravity the whole time, and because pilots are responsible for their own and those with them (crew and passengers) lives, there is pretty good reason for some serious "risk management" in their business as well. Analyzing exposure to risk (before, during and after a run for us, a flight for them) and determining how to best handle that exposure is what we both do. **Predictable/preventable stuff.**

When you look at the airline industry and firefighter safety, health and survival, you don't have to look very far to see **how we have learned from them**. Probably the best recent example is the National FF Near Miss Reporting System www.firefighternearmiss.com. When that program was put together, led by retired FDNY Firefighter and well known author, **Dennis**

Smith, some of the key players helping the fire service develop it are also some of the best known airline industry safety experts. Prominent airline safety experts such as Dr. Robert Helmreich: University of Texas-Austin, NASA's Linda Connell: Director of the Aviation Safety Reporting System (<http://asrs.arc.nasa.gov/>), Chris Hart: Ass't Administrator of FAA Safety & Tom Phillips of the Air Line Pilots Assoc...all provide their expertise to the fire service.

Yesterday, US Airways Pilot Chesley B. "Sully" Sullenberger was the man who landed that plane on the river in New York. But what you may not know about him is that his "side job" is a consultant in risk management focused on the risks he-and all pilots, co-pilots and flight attendants have daily-on each "run" they go on. Preventing bad stuff from happening when at all possible. A similar job that Firefighters, Fire Officers and Chief Fire Officers have at varied levels but deal with daily. Interestingly, Captain Sullenberger was a USAF fighter pilot, has served as an instructor and Air Line Pilots Association safety chairman, accident investigator and national technical committee member. He has participated in several USAF and NTSB accident investigations. His safety work has led to the development of FAA policies. He coauthored a paper on error inducing contexts in aviation. He is "ate up" with risk management-and it paid off for many-including those on the ground who could have been where that plane might have ended up.

Very interestingly, and this will sound familiar, Captain Sullenberger was a leader in the development and implementation of the Crew Resource Management (CRM) course used by the airlines...and now used by many in the fire service as presented in the last several years. Here ya go: http://www.iafc.org/associations/4685/files/pubs_CRMmanual.pdf

Captain "Sully" Sullenberger is and has been focused on what might go wrong and what policies, training and leadership can be applied to minimize the risk. He is focused on minimizing the unnecessary "bad stuff" that could happen to him, his crew and those he is responsible to and for.

Sounds just like a good Fire Officer.

CHICAGO FIREFIGHTERS INJURED IN FLASHOVER:

An elderly woman was killed and three firefighters were seriously hurt after a Thursday night house fire in Chicago. CFD Firefighters rescued the woman after finding her unconscious in the kitchen of her home and took her to the hospital with smoke inhalation, 3 Firefighters were also injured and were in serious condition. Preliminary reports indicate the firefighters were injured in a "flashover." All the firefighters remained in "stable" condition this morning. Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 1-16-09 / 0935 hours

AND:

Hey...

This weekend in **Nashville (TN)**, several **Firefighters** were burned while operating at a 2 story duplex fire-but fortunately all are NLT (non life threatening. The worst were some 2nd degree facial burns.

And in **Rocky Mount (NC) a Firefighter** is waiting to hear from doctors if he'll need surgery after he was burned while operating at a house fire Saturday. FF Kerry Dennis, 25, is being treated in a burn unit in Chapel Hill for 2nd- and 3rd-degree burn injuries to his left foot and ankle. FF Dennis was injured during the salvage and overhaul operations when his leg fell through the floor of the manufactured home and something burning got into his boot....we wish all FF's in both these stories a rapid recovery.

VIDEO: WET AND ICY ROADS...SLOW DOWN!!! (WWSD?)

This southwestern Ohio EMS Crew (and the unit following them) got lucky...**REAL lucky**-it could have been really bad for them as well as civilians. Sooo.....**WWSD?**

What Would Sully Do?

How do you think US Airways Capt "Sully" would drive his car on wet or icy roads? **Exactly.**
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-dkNXabcSfw&feature=related>

By the way, speaking of the good US Airways Capt. Chesley B. "Sully" Sullenberger, a Secret List team of readers who also work for some other "secret" agency have confirmed that President-elect Obama has invited Capt. Sully, his family and crew to attend the inauguration tomorrow.....**in case you needed to know that.**

STAFFING ISSUES?

We would run out of space if we forwarded you every recent article sent to us where some city is looking at reducing staffing, shutting down companies or reducing responses. As we have stated...cut your insurance and you will cut the benefit received when you have a claim- and you will eventually have a "claim"...simple math. But that's up to them. We have to remember though that we cannot act in any other way than equal to the resources and training we have based upon the size-up-otherwise we are stepping way beyond reasonable risk other than in rare rescue related conditions.

But for those in "battle" right now, here are some video links that can help:

<http://video.google.com/videoplay?docid=1975040321393374985&hl=en>
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8MCZoZ3baaY>
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a_K-K6o5cGc

HUDSON PLANE CRASH UPDATES:

Dave Statter/911 has some excellent coverage for those who may have missed it including some new "before and after" videos as well as FDNY radio traffic:

<http://www.wusa9.com/news/columnist/blogs/2009/01/two-new-videos-of-flight-1549.html>

ALSO.....you may remember **another crash** that did NOT have as positive an outcome:

<http://www.wusa9.com/news/columnist/blogs/2009/01/look-back-to-another-river-crash-of.html>

VIDEOS: OLD SCHOOL FIRE FIGHTING:

I'm not young and I am not real old, yet, but as much as we shouldn't live in the past-sometimes I do. And I often LOVE taking a "vacation" in that part ...of my mind, from time to time. While much of what we did years ago wasn't the smartest, it is still a part of where we came from. And sometimes I feel that, in some cases, if we "did it" the way we used to "do

Chabot College Fire & EMS News

it"...we would be better off such as remembering the basics of firefightingand the staffing we had back in the day, both career and volunteer. I started as a FF on Long Island and still consider it "going home" (such as this coming weekend-heading to the Long Island Fire "Mega" Show at the Nassau Coliseum). The Long Island fire service is unique in many ways and its where many of us got started.

So that not everything we write here is too serious...here are some videos (thanks to Dave Statter for the FFD one, a classic!) that will take you back into the "old school" ways...and yeah, they still do have the fire "racing" tournaments as well. Check out these outstanding videos of how it used to be done-and in many cases, why we DON'T do it that way anymore, ...TRUST us on these, you will enjoy them:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Jas0EjOV0Gs> (Overview of a FD response & Tournament Teams)

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=B8mFYJoC7oq&feature=related> (FD Turning out for a fire call)

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 1-19-09 / 1111 hours

AND:

Hey...

Understandably, the our Nation and the world is intensely focused on the events in Washington related to the inauguration of President Elect Barack Obama. Just in case you need a break from those events, especially the news media fluff generally added when there is nothing else for commentators talk about....below is a video from FEMA Director, Chief Dave Paulison....it's his departure message. Chief Paulison took an agency filled with some good folks but that was clearly leaderless at the top...and turned it around. It took a 30+ year veteran Firefighter-Fire Officer to do it...no surprise. Like nearly all Firefighters, we certainly hope that President Elect Obama and Ms. Napolitano, his nominee to head DHS, keep in mind the need for someone who has done and understands the job of responding to **emergencies** to lead the nations top **emergency** job. It just makes sense. We also sincerely thank Chief Greg Cade for his brief but important tenure as the US Fire Administrator. Greg's work on behalf of Firefighter (and civilian) fire safety and survival is well documented and sincerely appreciated.

We had a chance to again interview Chief Paulison last week for "Thru The Smoke" ...and "Part 2" of that interview will be posted on Firehouse.com later today or tomorrow for those interested in hearing Dave's continued fire service directed departure thoughts.

Below is Dave's message. And here is ours: Thanks Dave, Greg and the folks at FEMA, USFA and the NFA. Good stuff. Here is Dave's message: <http://www.youtube.com/fema>

Take Care-BE CAREFUL,

BillyG

The Secret List 1-19-09 / 1700 hours

AND:

Hey...

2 Firefighter friends of the website and the Secret List have sadly lost their lives to cancer.

January 25, 2009

www.chabotfire.com

86

Fire Chief Warren "Skip" Highwood of the Chesterton (IN) FD passed away today around noon after a long and courageous battle with cancer. Additionally, this week, **Baltimore County's Tom "T.R." Rice** (Captain of Co. 29, career FADO at Baltimore County Station 1 and MFRI Instructor) has passed away after a long, painful and heroic battle with cancer as well....TR's details are here: <http://www.pvfc29.com/>

More reminders of the very real issues of FIREFIGHTING CANCERS. RIP Skip and T.R.....

More Information on FF Cancer:

www.FireFighterCancerSupport.org

<http://www.magazine.uc.edu/0408/firefighters.htm>

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

IT'S THE BRAKES:

We've been busy in the last few days so you may already know this, but an inspection of Boston Ladder 26, after it crashed into an apartment building and killed a Lt Kevin Kelley in the Line of Duty this month, appears to confirm what most suspected: The brakes failed as the truck flew down a street in Mission Hill. The findings were made by a mechanical specialist hired by the Suffolk district attorney's office. Last week, the mayor ordered the hiring of four licensed mechanics to service fire apparatus, including a professional fleet manager, following the Jan. 9 crash. Ladder 26 was returning from a routine medical call when the driver apparently lost control on a steep hill and the truck careered through a busy intersection and into a Mission Hill apartment building. Lieutenant Kevin M. Kelley, who was sitting in the front passenger seat, died instantly. Commissioner Roderick Fraser told the Globe last week that the BFD does not have a routine preventive maintenance program for their apparatus. The last time the brakes on Ladder 26 were inspected was 10 months ago, though the truck's manufacturer recommends inspections every three months.

Here is more and updated info:

http://www.boston.com/news/local/massachusetts/articles/2009/01/22/fire_panel_includes_no_n_union_member/ **And check this site as well:** <http://www.evtcc.org/>

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 1-22-09 / 1650 hours

AND:

Hey...

Remember that line in "Godfather III" where the comment is made "I have a stone in my shoe, Mr. Corleone"In our case, the stone is in our firefighting boots.... The fire service, representing a genuine interest in saving public lives, property and firefighters lives as well, continues to have a stone in our "boots". Once again Homebuilders Associations have "quietly" started initiatives to prevent local adoption of national standards that require residential sprinklers. They are trying by introducing state legislation that would block new code adoptions mandating residential fire-sprinkler requirements. Surprised?

According to the IRC Fire Sprinkler Coalition, www.IRCFireSprinkler.org these bills have just been filed in Arizona (HB2267) and North Dakota (SB2354). The Coalition reports that fire service groups in Arizona are already engaged to fight their state's bill, and the Coalition is preparing to initiate a similar response in North Dakota. Along with other members of the

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Coalition, the IAFC's Fire & Life Safety Section is monitoring any additional anti-residential sprinkler legislation.

A couple of years ago we were pulled into "the principals office" because during a TV interview following a multi-firefighter LODD fatality fire, we publicly accused the National Association of Home Builders of being aggressively against fire service initiatives for sprinklers. The "principals" intent was to establish "positive lines of communications" with the NAHB. Not a chance. The stone remains in the boot. The anti-firefighter effort by the association and some of their members is clearly documented. They have no interest in supporting mandatory residential sprinklers and are doing all they can to stop it. They are very angry at what happened following "the vote" last year. The actions of homebuilders associations is nothing more than profit driven anger. It's a different kind of anger than the "**house burned down**" anger, or "**if it was sprinklered, they wouldn't have been killed in that fire**" anger.

Fire officials who have good relationships with their elected officials should educate them-again-on why support of residential sprinklers matters to them-and those who vote for them, Firefighters and Fire Officers should also contact Joelle Fishkin at the IAFC (703-537-4843, jfishkin@iafc.org) if this kind of legislation emerges in your region, so FLSS can share the information with the Coalition, which is coordinating opposition to these homebuilder association serving, anti-life saving and profit motivated bills.

As Chief Larry Grorud, President of the IAFC stated: "We have spent considerable time working to help save lives by voting in favor of including residential sprinklers in the model codes," "We know there is significant work to be completed to ensure sprinkler requirements are adopted across the country, and we will not let this anti-residential sprinkler legislation deter our efforts to reduce fire loss in America. I urge all fire service members to commit to defeating such legislation. Fire sprinklers save lives, and the public needs to know how important this is for their families, communities and the fire service." For more information or if you need help in your area with "stone" removal, go to www.IRCFireSprinkler.org or contact the IAFC above.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 1-24-08 / 1345 hours

AND:

FLORIDA FIREFIGHTER KILLED IN THE LINE OF DUTY-ELECTROCUTED AT CRASH SCENE

Crawfordsville (FL) Fire Captain Richard Rhea, 60, very tragically died today in the Line of Duty after slipping on wet grass and falling on a downed power line at the scene of a car crash. He is the only Firefighter to have died in the line of duty in Wakulla in 35 years. Captain Rhea leaves behind a wife, four children and four grandchildren. Crawfordsville is located in Wakulla County. More details to follow. Our most sincere condolences as always.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 1-24-09 / 1703 hours

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

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

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

The budget woes continue, in various forms and fashions:

The Tucson (AZ) City Council ok's 31 million dollars in cuts, which includes canceling three upcoming firefighter recruit academies: <http://www.azstarnet.com/metro/271039>

Philadelphia (PA) Firefighters march in protest of proposed cuts in staffing. But, if the money isn't there, where is it going to come from? I want to keep our staffing up just like the next firefighter does, but since when are we better than all of the other divisions within a city?

http://www.philly.com/inquirer/local/philadelphia/20081216_Philadelphia_firefighters_march_to_protest_cuts.html

The Fire Department New York (FDNY) has to initiate a hiring freeze:

http://www.ny1.com/content/top_stories/90365/fdny-forced-to-initiate-hiring-freeze/Default.aspx

The city of Redding (CA) is faced with the potential layoff of three firefighters:

<http://www.redding.com/news/2008/dec/11/redding-proposes-cuts-to-programs-police-and/>

Cal Fire is cutting \$10 million from its budget in Southern California, forcing its San Diego unit chief to cut 16 jobs and spread his remaining resources thin for the winter season: <http://www.signonsandiego.com/news/metro/20081211-9999-1m11calfire.html>

The Mesa (AZ) Fire Department is expected to cut \$7.5 million out of their \$62 million dollar budget for next fiscal year:

<http://www.azcentral.com/community/mesa/articles/2008/12/12/20081212mesafire.html>

The Mesa (AZ) Fire Department's volunteer program is expected to save the city \$800,000:

<http://www.azcentral.com/news/articles/2008/12/11/20081211mr-firevolunteers1212.html>

More on the Mesa (AZ) Fire Department volunteer program and how the department and its community are benefiting: <http://www.eastvalleytribune.com/story/133721>

The Sacramento Metropolitan Fire District's union voted to forgo a scheduled pay increase this year, hoping the move would stave off station closures and layoffs as the district reels from the recession. How many other fire departments (besides Stockton who recently did the same) would do something similar????):

<http://www.sacbee.com/101/story/1468846.html>

North Whidbey Fire and Rescue (WA) District Chief Marv Koorn presented a laundry list of proposed budget cuts to commissioners Tuesday evening that would need a heavy-duty washer to handle. Rural fire stations could be shuttered, personnel decreased and equipment purchases axed:

<http://www.pnwlocalnews.com/whidbey/wnt/news/36266579.html>

An end-of-the-year look at the Vallejo (CA) Fire Department after their city has filed for bankruptcy: http://www.timesheraldonline.com/news/ci_11334986

The Phoenix (AZ) Fire Department is having to put upcoming recruit academies on hold due to a \$20 million dollar reduction in just the fire department budget:

<http://www.azcentral.com/community/phoenix/articles/2008/12/17/20081217firerecruits1217.html>

El Dorado County (CA) Fire Districts facing funding reductions:

<http://www.sacbee.com/eldorado/story/1496400.html>

Financial downturn hurts Oregon state retirees hard; something to remember – even if you are retired and enjoying your retirement benefits, it does not mean those benefits won't be touched or reduced at some point (just a suggestion to have a back-up plan on not rely solely on your retirement benefits):

http://www.oregonlive.com/business/index.ssf/2009/01/financial_downturn_hurts_orego.html

A drop in fire-related deaths in Milwaukee should assuage critics of cuts implemented in recent years at the Milwaukee Fire Department, Mayor Tom Barrett said Monday. Barrett and Fire Chief Doug Holton held a news conference to discuss the sharp drop in fire deaths, from 14 in 2007 to six in 2008. Last year's figure tied with the numbers in 2002 and 1995 for the second-lowest number of fire deaths in 51 years of records provided by the department. Only 1998 had fewer deaths - four - during that period. In response to a reporter's questions after the news conference, Barrett said critics of moves in recent years to cut the budget can look to those numbers:

<http://www.jsonline.com/news/milwaukee/37119924.html>

Philadelphia (PA) expects to save \$10.5 million a year by eliminating 148 unfilled firefighter positions without layoffs. Citing a decline in structure fires and a shrinking population, Nutter announced in November that he hoped to realize savings by decommissioning the five engine companies and two ladder companies. Nutter has forecast a \$108 million budget shortfall this year, and more than \$1 billion over five years:

http://www.philly.com/inquirer/home_region/20090106_City_fire_department_shutdowns_beg_in.html

Carson City (NV) employees are struggling and realizing that pay cuts may just save jobs and prevent layoffs, a concept not universally accepted by all employee labor groups: <http://www.lvrj.com/news/37559939.html>

The City of Chico (CA) has laid off five firefighters due to their budget crisis: <http://www.khs1tv.com/content/topstories/story/Five-Chico-Firefighters-Laid-Off/p5rCPei7Fkuot86y9lQkpw.csp>

The Sparks (NV) Fire Department announced this week that it will cut staff to 23 firefighters per shift instead of the usual 29, a move that is expected to save \$400,000 in overtime costs: <http://www.krnv.com/Global/story.asp?S=9550433>

The City of Sacramento (CA) is about 10 million short on it's budget, and the Fire Department is expected to cut an additional 1 million dollars even after taking a 4% cut: <http://www.sacbee.com/ourregion/story/1560605.html>

Grasping for ways to trim its budget, the Phoenix City Council plans to ask police and fire departments to cut civilian jobs and trim other costs without weakening their abilities to provide emergency services. The Phoenix police and fire departments could be asked to cut 60 civilian positions and slash \$54.5 million in expenses: <http://www.azcentral.com/news/articles/2009/01/01/20090101budget0101side2.html>

Vancouver firefighters, acknowledging the city and community face tough economic times, will forgo a potential 4 percent pay increase for 2009. The Vancouver Firefighters Union announced Tuesday that its 164 members voted overwhelmingly to give up a salary increase, a decision expected to save the city an estimated \$700,000 next year: <http://www.columbian.com/article/20081231/NEWS02/712319948/-1/NEWS>

Phoenix's \$270 million in proposed budget cuts are the largest in city history: <http://www.azcentral.com/12news/news/articles/2009/01/13/20090113severity0113-CP.html>

The City of Manteca (CA) is faced with possibly going back to having just two person staff an engine company, something they did for a long time, due to budget problems: <http://mantecabulletin.com/news/article/880/>

Public Relations Nightmare Stories:

A former Burnsville firefighter with multiple sclerosis has settled a gender and disability discrimination lawsuit against the city: http://www.twincities.com/washington/ci_11291636?nclick_check=1

Over the past 18 months, over 129 EMTs and Paramedics working on ambulances across the United States have been accused of sex-related crimes on duty or off duty: <http://www.emsresponder.com/article/article.jsp?id=8647&siteSection=1>

Conflict of interest against a Fire Chief is alleged in bidding for a fire truck in Stratford, Connecticut:

<http://www.firerescue1.com/fire-products/fire-apparatus/articles/442719-Conflict-of-interest-alleged-in-Conn-fire-truck-bidding/>

A former La Habra Heights (CA) paramedic has sued the city, alleging that former Fire Chief John Nielsen sexually harassed her and later forced her to resign:
http://www.whittierdailynews.com/ci_11367042

Four firefighters and two others have been arrested on suspicion of igniting between 15 and 20 fires in western Arizona to make money by fighting the very blazes they lit, officials said Tuesday:
http://www.azdailysun.com/articles/2009/01/14/news/state/20090114_arizo_188908.txt

A Los Angeles Fire Department inspector was arrested Monday for allegedly accepting a bribe during a sting operation, Los Angeles Police Department officials said:
<http://www.firerescue1.com/fire-news/447053-la-fire-inspector-allegedly-took-bribe/>

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

It only took one hour for 18 firefighters to spend \$6,000 on Christmas gifts at Wal-Mart on Monday. But the generosity of the Carson City Firefighters Association could touch more than 400 children in Carson, Storey and Douglas counties when families in need take part in the Salvation Army's Toys for Joys program Thursday:
<http://www.nevadaappeal.com/article/20081216/NEWS/812169994/1001/NONE&parentprofile%3D1058&title%3DShopping%20carts%20chock%20full%20of%20generosity>

The nearly 30 kids at Debra Jefferson's child care center have gotten toys and clothes for Christmas, thanks to the Glendale (AZ) Fire Department. Firefighters have been collecting items all month and distributing the goods to needy families in Glendale and surrounding communities:
<http://www.azcentral.com/community/glendale/articles/2008/12/23/20081223gl-toys1223-ON.html>

An outspoken Kern County (CA) Probationary firefighter has been terminated from his employment: <http://www.kget.com/mostpopular/story/Outspoken-firefighter-dismissed-from-KCFD-job/Av5sRdEnmEmS1-xodJNkzw.csp>

Police shot and killed a retired Sacramento (CA) County firefighter who allegedly aimed a pellet rifle at them after a robbery and car chase that ended in Lincoln early Thursday: <http://www.sacbee.com/ourregion/story/1511689.html>

Yes, our salaries as firefighters are available to the public. Take a look at this article that shows the names and salaries of Portland (OR) area firefighters, all the way up to the rank of Fire Chief. There is nothing illegal about this, and the public has the right to

know how much we make. Also, newspapers love doing stories like this, especially in tough economic times:

http://www.oregonlive.com/news/index.ssf/2009/01/which_local_government_employe.html

Firefighters' cars at several Denver (CO) fire stations had their tires slashed, another reason to have secured parking at fire stations:

<http://www.thedenverchannel.com/news/18515601/detail.html>

Fire chiefs in tinder-dry Southern California, faced with lean budgets while more people squeeze into the region, are starting to rethink long-standing policies on ordering mass evacuations in a wildfire, debating whether it may be wiser in some situations to let residents stay and defend their homes. "We don't have enough resources to put an engine at every house in harm's way," said Ventura County Fire Chief Bob Roper. "We figure, if people are going to stay, maybe they can become part of the solution." <http://www.latimes.com/news/printedition/front/la-me-firefighting13-2009jan13%2C0%2C4760175.story>

A fire truck and MTA bus collided in the Brownsville section of Brooklyn injuring six firefighters and 19 people on the bus:

[http://cms.firehouse.com/web/online/News/FDNY-Fire-Truck-Collides-with-Bus/46\\$61982](http://cms.firehouse.com/web/online/News/FDNY-Fire-Truck-Collides-with-Bus/46$61982)

A Houston (TX) Fire Captain who was terminated for her actions (or non-actions) at an emergency scene is attempting to appeal her firing. Another great reminder for all of those current or future fire officers: when you are in charge of the scene, there is a tremendous amount of liability, accountability and responsibility in your hands. Making the wrong decision may lead to termination, or other forms of discipline or even lawsuits, not to mention jail time. Be the best you can be – the public and your personnel are demanding you to be, and deserve you to be:

<http://cms.firehouse.com/content/article/article.jsp?id=62423§ionId=46>

An article on time management in the fire service, something all of us (myself included) can learn to do a better job at: <http://www.firerescue1.com/cod-company-officer-development/articles/445725-Being-a-Time-Management-Leader-Part-1/>

An inspiring piece for all current and future company officers – “As a company officer, don't pass up opportunities to let future leaders shine”:

http://www.firerescuemagazine.com/magazine_content/gayk_31DEC2008.html

Rural fire districts in Idaho are hurting for volunteer firefighters, but while this situation seems unique, it is not. Communities across the United States are challenged trying to find volunteer firefighters willing to complete all of the necessary initial and

on-going training and education to stay up-to-date with what is expected of a firefighter: <http://www.idahostatesman.com/273/story/604300.html>

Fire Rescue 1.com (www.firerescue1.com) provides a great year ending collage of stories, pictures, articles, etc., relating to the fire service – the 2008 Year in Review, some great information to share with others and learn from:
<http://www.firerescue1.com/Year-in-Review-2008>

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

- ***Happy New Year to you and your family, may 2009 be a very good year to you and your family, both personally and professionally!***

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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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 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 and I will place them on the mailing list.
- If you want to take your name off of the mailing list, just send me an email at sprziborowski@aol.com and in the subject heading, and type in "unsubscribe from mailing list" and I will remove your name.
- If you are subscribed to my email mailing list and you are not receiving anything (a problem some earthlink, aol, hotmail and yahoo users have at times), make sure you add my name – Steve Prziborowski and the email address I use to send this newsletter and other fire and EMS related news items out – sprziborowski@aol.com to your address book, safe list, white list, etc. Since I mass mail items to thousands of people, some email providers may think these items are spam or junk mail, even though they are not. If you have not received anything from me in over two weeks, email me to let me know so that I can attempt to troubleshoot the issue.