



# ***FIRE & EMS NEWS***

**December 9, 2008**

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

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## ***FIREFIGHTER EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY – San Francisco (CA) Fire Department:***

**T**he **San Francisco (CA) Fire Department** will be accepting applications for the position of **Firefighter**, three days only: December 11, 12 and 13, 2008.

**HOW TO GET AN APPLICATION:** Applications will be distributed at the San Francisco Fire Department Headquarters, 698 Second Street from December 3, 2008 to December 10, 2008, weekdays only, between 8:00 AM and 5:00 PM.

**HOW TO FILE A COMPLETED APPLICATION:** Applications must be hand-delivered from December 11, 2008 through December 13, 2008, between 8:00 AM and 5:00 PM, to the San Francisco Fire Department Headquarters, 698 Second Street. Applications must be received by 5:00 PM on the final filing date of December 13, 2008. Applications will not be accepted before 8:00 AM, December 11, 2008, and applications will not be accepted by fax, mail, or email.

### **REQUIREMENTS INCLUDE:**

- 19 years of age by final filing date.
- High school diploma or G.E.D.

**F**or more information about the **City of San Francisco**, visit their website at: [www.sfgov.org](http://www.sfgov.org)

**F**or more information about the **San Francisco Fire Department**, visit their website at: [www.sfgov.org/site/sffd\\_index.asp](http://www.sfgov.org/site/sffd_index.asp)

**F**or more information about the **San Francisco Firefighters Association, I.A.F.F. Local 798**, visit their website at [www.sffdlocal798.org/index2.html](http://www.sffdlocal798.org/index2.html)

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## **FIRE SERVICE TRAINING & EDUCATION INFORMATION:**

If you have not heard of [www.firenuggets.com](http://www.firenuggets.com), you're missing out on an awesome fire service resource with a wealth of information inside each bi monthly issue, as well as the older issues. They typically produce six (6) issues every year that contain valuable info; now they are becoming a free website! For more information, read below and also go to [www.firenuggets.com](http://www.firenuggets.com)

### **FIRE NUGGETS IS A FREE ACCESS WEBSITE!**

Fire Nuggets Supporters,

As promised, Fire Nuggets transitioned to a completely FREE access fire service website on December 1, 2008. We have received many positive comments about our new offering and wish to thank everyone for their participation, which has assisted in this being a seamless process.

To our Brothers and Sisters that have re-registered, thanks very much! For those of you that have never registered before, and are interested in evaluating our content prior to registering, we invite you to access the "Preview" link on the Main Page of [www.firenuggets.com](http://www.firenuggets.com)

We are confident you will want to become a registered member after browsing through all of the invaluable content offered by some of the most credible leaders in the fire service.

Fire Nuggets wishes everyone a safe, happy and peaceful holiday season! Stay safe.....

### **Additional Information about FireNuggets.com**

Fire Nuggets is entering their 10<sup>th</sup> year of dedicated service to the emergency service community. We are proud to be considered one of the most credible and well-known Internet Publications in the world.

Fire Nuggets is viewed in 81 Countries and receives 400,000 – 500,000 page views a month. With this growth and activity, we are now in a position to share advertising opportunities with quality businesses; this advertising will support the operations of the website and increase our ability to reach more firefighters in an effort to SAVE LIVES!

From the beginning, Fire Nuggets has charged a mere \$9.95 a year for individual access to the membership area of the website. We are proud to have never raised the fee, which is one of the lowest in the industry, yet continued to offer enhanced features every year.

As you know, Fire Nuggets offers Photo Lessons, Questions and Answers, Bi-Monthly Articles and nearly 500 Archived Articles by some of the most credible fire service professionals in the country. While a couple of the other popular Fire Service Websites

continue to charge for their service, we at Fire Nuggets wish to bring all of our information to you FREE of charge. **However, in order to this, we will need your help.**

As we plan our transition to the FREE service we want to share an overview of what you can expect and how we need your assistance to make this as seamless as possible.

- The date for transition to the FREE access is scheduled for December 1, 2008
- Your current log on info will become INACTIVE on December 1st
- We ask that you re-register, using our revised registration form

The new form is very simple and will enable us to create a new database defining the demographics of our readership. The information in our new database WILL NOT be sold or shared and is intended to only establish demographics and assist us in promoting the advertising component for Fire Nuggets. Over the years, our member's e-mails have changed and resulted in hundreds becoming inaccurate. This new form will have a feature for everyone to update his or her e-mail address now and in the future should there be a change.

Fire Nuggets understands that there are several of you who have either become NEW members or have recently renewed your memberships at a cost of \$9.95. While this amount is not excessive and is always used to defray the cost of operations, we wish to extend the following offer in an effort to maintain a respectful and equitable relationship.

- Anyone who has paid \$9.95 between August 1, 2008 and December 1, 2008 will be gladly refunded, however, you MUST e-mail us at [staysafe@firenuggets.com](mailto:staysafe@firenuggets.com) indicating your request for refund and provide an address for mailing.
- Anyone who simply wishes the \$9.95 to not be refunded, we thank you in advance and as mentioned, want you to know, all membership fees have served to cover the costs associated in operating Fire Nuggets.

Again, THANK YOU for the last nine years and enjoy your opportunity to have FREE access to one of the most popular, credible and well-known Internet Publications in the world!

Stay safe,

Fire Nuggets

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## **FIRE SERVICE TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES:**

**O**n the subject of Fire Nuggets, here are a number of fire service seminars they are offering in 2009 – sign up now as they will surely sell out and be very popular! For more information, go to their website at [www.firenuggets.com](http://www.firenuggets.com) or look for the information within each of the detailed boxes below.



January 29, 2009

**Register**

**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](http://www.firenuggets.com/seminarbaypro09dunn.pdf)



March 19, 2009

**Register**

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

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

**For details on this seminar, go to:**

[www.firenuggets.com/seminarbaypro09harris.pdf](http://www.firenuggets.com/seminarbaypro09harris.pdf)



October 8, 2009

**Register**

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

This seminar will center on the concept of similarities that are found both on the Fireground and the Battleground. In both arenas strong leadership is the key to a successful operation; this leadership can be at any level of the company. Using a series of photos and personal beliefs, the presenters will instill DUTY – PRIDE and TRADITION as words to be included in the personal ethos of the audience.

**For details on this seminar, go to:**

[www.firenuggets.com/seminarbaypro09enright.pdf](http://www.firenuggets.com/seminarbaypro09enright.pdf)



December 3, 2009

**Register**

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

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

**For details on this seminar, go to:**

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



ALL FOUR 2009 SEMINARS

**Register**

**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.*

"Strategy, Tactics, and Safety" Presented by Deputy Chief Vincent Dunn (ret), Fire Department, City of New York, Thursday, January 29, 2009

"Strategy, Tactics and Survival in the Wildland/Urban Interface" Presented by Battalion Chief John P. Harris (ret), Los Angeles County Fire Department, Thursday, March 19, 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, Thursday, October 8, 2009

Truck Company Operations, Keeping Badges Off The Wall, Presented by Deputy District Chief Steve Chikerotis, Chicago Fire Department, Thursday, December 3, 2009

**For details on this four-seminar option, go to**

[www.firenuggets.com/seminarbaypro09allfour.pdf](http://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

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



### **Winter Fire Safety**

During the winter months, residential fires are more prevalent than they are in the spring or summer. This is due, in part, to an increase in the number of cooking and heating fires. With colder temperatures, many people resort to using fireplaces, wood stoves, space heaters, and alternative heating methods such as cooking stoves to keep warm.

To ensure a fire safe winter season, be sure furnaces and chimneys are professionally cleaned and smoke alarms are properly maintained and in good working condition.

For more information, go to [www.usfa.dhs.gov/citizens/focus](http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/citizens/focus)

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## **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 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> 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](http://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](mailto:cwilson@promotionalworkshops.com)

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**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.

### Chabot College Fire & EMS News

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](http://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.

### Chabot College Fire & EMS News

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.

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## **FIREFIGHTER PREPARATION INFORMATION, COURTESY OF THE DON McNEA FIRE SCHOOL!**

**S**ome more firefighter testing tips courtesy of the [www.fireprep.com](http://www.fireprep.com) - The **Don McNea Fire School!**

**P**lanning on participating in the **San Francisco Fire Department's** upcoming testing process (more information found on page 1 of this newsletter)? If so, they are offering some tools that may benefit you when taking the written examination:

[www.fireprep.com/san\\_francisco\\_firefighter\\_entr.html](http://www.fireprep.com/san_francisco_firefighter_entr.html)

**H**ere is some testing information on what to expect on a written firefighter examination:

### **THE FIREFIGHTER'S WRITTEN EXAMINATION**

Today's written examination commonly consists of approximately 150-200 multiple-choice questions. The subjects for the written examinations could include any of the testing subjects listed below:

- Reading Comprehension
- Human Relations
- Problem Solving
- Judgment
- Math
- Memory
- Charts
- Inductive Reasoning
- Deductive Reasoning
- Visualization
- Verbal & Listening Comprehension
- Spelling
- Verbal Reasoning
- Oral and Written Communication Information

**To take a FREE 50 question practice exam, go to:**

[www.fireprep.com/free\\_50\\_question\\_firefighter\\_p.html](http://www.fireprep.com/free_50_question_firefighter_p.html)

**For written exam preparation, go to:** [http://www.fireprep.com/written\\_exam\\_packages.html](http://www.fireprep.com/written_exam_packages.html)

The key to scoring well on the written examination is preparation. There are not many candidates who can walk into a written examination and score high on their first attempts without adequate preparation. You need to practice. What do we mean by practice? By taking practice examinations. It is like studying for any other test you have taken – you need to adequately study and prepare. The competition for a firefighter position is intense.

When you take a firefighter examination, you are ranked on the eligibility list from the higher score to the lowest score. Obviously, you want to be at the top to dramatically increase your chances of moving onto the other parts of the testing process. The more you study and prepare, the better your score. Like we said before, you have to want it, and wanting it means you will put the required time in to adequately studying and preparing. During your preparation, you need to fine tune the areas where you are consistently weak until you feel confident walking into an examination knowing that no one can beat you. The key to your success on this portion of the hiring process will be how much time you put into preparing for this important first step. You can do it – you just have to want it!

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Since 1950, Don McNea Fire School has prepared over 40,000 fire applicants with their entry level seminars and products. Fireprep.com has over 250 pages of FREE information and careers articles to help you reach your goal of becoming a firefighter. Go to [www.fireprep.com](http://www.fireprep.com) and register for their free fireprep e-mail newsletter that features over 22,000 career articles by the countries top entry level authors. You will also be informed at no cost of firefighter examinations be given across the country. You will also be entered in their drawing to WIN a free copy of their "Encyclopedia of Firefighter Examinations" & "Psychological Exam Preparation". Good luck!!!!

Don McNea Fire School - [dmfireschool@aol.com](mailto:dmfireschool@aol.com) - 1-800-989-FIRE

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## **FIRE SERVICE TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES:**

### **National Fire Academy (NFA) Training Opportunities**

#### ***National Fire Academy - Second Semester Application Period -***

**T**he National Fire Academy's Fiscal Year 2009 second semester application period opened on November 1 and runs through December 31. The second semester includes classes running from April 1 through September 30, 2009. Interested applicants are urged to submit their completed FEMA Form 75-5, General Admissions Application right away!

**For complete application information, please visit their website at:**

<http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/nfa/about/index.shtm>

**You will find the current course schedule at:**

<http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/applications/nfacsd/>

Additionally, there is a helpful document that you are encouraged to read prior to your completing the FEMA Form 75-5 application.

You can download ***Eight Tips for Completing a Successful NFA Application*** from the website at: <http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/nfa/about/attend/apply.shtm>

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## **FIREFIGHTER EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY – CAL FIRE:**

**T**he **California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CDF)** – now known as **CAL FIRE**, 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.

**T**o view more information about Seasonal Firefighter Hiring process and positions, go to: [http://www.fire.ca.gov/about/about\\_careers\\_fireprotection\\_seasonal.php](http://www.fire.ca.gov/about/about_careers_fireprotection_seasonal.php)

**T**here 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.

**B**ecause 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.

**I**n 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.

**T**here 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:**

**A**fter 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.

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

**T**he 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.

**W**hat 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?

**C**AL 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.

**Y**ou 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.

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

## NORTHERN REGION

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

### **Amador-El Dorado Unit**

2840 Mt. Danaher Road  
Camino, CA 95709  
(530) 644-2345

### **Lassen-Modoc Unit**

697-345 Highway 36  
Susanville, CA 96130  
(530) 257-4171

### **San Mateo-Santa Cruz Unit**

6059 Highway 9  
Felton, CA 95018  
(831) 335-5353

### **Siskiyou Unit**

1809 Fair Lane Road  
Yreka, CA 96097  
(530) 842-3516

### **Butte Unit**

176 Nelson Avenue  
Oroville, CA 95965  
(530) 538-7111

### **Mendocino Unit**

17501 N. Highway 101  
Willits, CA 95490  
(707) 459-7414

### **Santa Clara Unit**

15670 Monterey Street  
Morgan Hill, CA 95037  
(408) 779-2121

### **Sonoma-Lake-Napa Unit**

1199 Big Tree Road  
St. Helena, CA 94574  
(707) 967-1400

### **Humboldt-Del Norte Unit**

118 S. Fortuna Blvd.  
Fortuna, CA 95540  
(707) 725-4413

### **Nevada-Yuba-Placer Unit**

13760 Lincoln Way  
Auburn, CA 95603  
(530) 823-4904

### **Shasta-Trinity Unit**

875 Cypress Avenue  
Redding, CA 96001  
(530) 225-2418

### **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

**San Benito-Monterey Unit**

2221 Garden Road  
Monterey, CA 93940-5385  
(831) 647-6208

**San Luis Obispo Unit**

635 N. Santa Rosa  
San Luis Obispo, CA 93405  
(805) 543-4244

**Madera-Mariposa-Merced Unit**

5366 Highway 49 North  
Mariposa, CA 95338  
(209) 966-3622

**San Bernardino Unit**

3800 Sierra Way  
San Bernardino, CA 92405  
(909) 881-6900

**Tulare Unit**

1968 S. Lovers Lane  
Visalia, CA 93277  
(559) 732-5954

**Riverside Unit**

210 W. San Jacinto  
Perris, CA 92570  
(909) 940-6900

**San Diego Unit**

2249 Jamacha Road  
El Cajon, CA 92019  
(619) 590-3100

**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](http://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](http://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

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## **FIREFIGHTER TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES AROUND THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA :**

**G**o to [www.chabotfire.com](http://www.chabotfire.com) and click on **TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES** to find valuable information on numerous California State-certified State Fire Marshal (and other) classes currently available around the State of California, including college degree programs.

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## **FIRE SERVICE TRAINING & SAFETY INFORMATION, COURTESY OF THE U.S. FIRE ADMINISTRATION:**

### **Voice Radio Communications Guide for the Fire Service Released**

Emmitsburg, MD. – The United States Fire Administration (USFA) has completed a project with the International Association of Fire Fighters (IAFF) to study what important areas of safety and technology discussed in the USFA manual ***Fire Department Communications Manual - A Basic Guide to System Concepts and Equipment (FA-160)*** needed to be updated or revised, as well as what topics and technology related to fire department communications not discussed in the manual needed to be added since its development in 1996. This joint USFA and IAFF study was conducted with support from the Department of Homeland Security's (DHS) SAFECOM Program Office.

"The need for an understanding of today's modern communications concepts and technology for firefighter and citizen life safety and operational effectiveness remains as valid, if not more so today, than it did when this USFA document was first produced in 1996," said U.S. Fire Administrator Greg Cade. "USFA was pleased to work with DHS SAFECOM and the IAFF on this study to provide critical information to the fire service."

The new manual, ***Voice Radio Communications Guide for the Fire Service*** - ([www.usfa.dhs.gov/downloads/pdf/publications/Voice\\_Radio\\_Communications\\_Guide\\_For\\_The\\_Fire\\_Service.pdf](http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/downloads/pdf/publications/Voice_Radio_Communications_Guide_For_The_Fire_Service.pdf)) provides updated information on communications technology and discusses critical homeland security issues and concepts, such as SAFECOM, that did not exist when the original manual was first published. It also provides a wide fire service audience with a minimum level of familiarity with basic communications issues such as hardware, policy and procedures, and human interface.

"The safety of both firefighters and citizens depends on reliable, functional communication tools that work in the harshest and most hostile of environments," said IAFF General President Harold Schaitberger. "The IAFF was pleased to work with USFA on this important project."

Further information about this partnership effort may be found under the **Research section** of the USFA Web site at [www.usfa.dhs.gov/fireservice/research/safety/communication.shtm](http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/fireservice/research/safety/communication.shtm)

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## **FIRE TRAINING & EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES:**

### **TAKE FIRE TECHNOLOGY CLASSES ON THE INTERNET REGISTER FOR SPRING 2009 CLASSES NOW!**

Fire Tech classes on the internet are available from Allan Hancock College in Santa Maria, California. The following courses will be held completely on-line January 26 - May 20, 2009.

#### **Fire Technology Classes**

- Fire Protection Organization
- Fire Prevention Technology
- Fire Protection Equipment & Systems
- Building Construction for Fire Protection
- Fire Behavior & Combustion
- Fire Hydraulics
- Apparatus & Equipment

**NOW THE SPRING SEMESTER: On-line Haz Mat FRO Refresher & HAZWOPER Refresher courses.** In addition, on-line Wildland & EMS classes will also be available.

**CFSTES FIRE OFFICER CLASSES:** Pending Approval by the State Fire Marshal, these classes will be offered On-line"Hybrid in the Spring 2008 Term 4 (March 23 - May 20, 2009).

After prospective students have applied to the college, they may register for classes on the internet (WebReg), by fax, mail or in person starting December 1<sup>st</sup>.

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

Finally, if you want a head start, you can take Fire Tech classes on-line during the January Intersession January 5-29, 2009 elsewhere. Let me know if you are interested.

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## **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/](http://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/](http://www.bates.ctc.edu/firefighter/)

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**FIRE TRAINING & EDUCATION OPPORTUNITY:**

**MERCED CITY FIRE DEPARTMENT PRESENTS:**

**FIRE COMMAND 2A**

**INSTRUCTOR: STEVE RANEY**

**COLLEGE CREDIT FROM MERCED COLLEGE - OSFM STATE CERTIFICATION**

**FEBRUARY 9, 11, 13, 16, AND 18, 2008**

**\$200 PER STUDENT**

**Merced City Fire Department** - Administrative Training Room  
99 E. 16<sup>th</sup> Street  
Merced, CA 95340

*CONTACT: Division Chief. STEVE RANEY*

**209-385 8873**

[RaneyS@cityofmerced.org](mailto:RaneyS@cityofmerced.org)

CLASS WILL NOT BE HELD WITH LESS THAN 17 STUDENTS.

YOU MUST RESERVE YOUR SPOT!

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## **HOLIDAY GIFTS THAT KEEP ON GIVING:**

**W**ith the holidays coming up, here are some suggestions when people ask what they should get you:

1. **Subscription to various Fire Service related publications such as:**
  - a. Firehouse magazine – [www.firehouse.com](http://www.firehouse.com)
  - b. Fire Engineering magazine – [www.fire-eng.com](http://www.fire-eng.com)
  - c. Fire Chief magazine – [www.firechief.com](http://www.firechief.com)
  - d. Fire Rescue magazine – [www.firerescuemagazine.com](http://www.firerescuemagazine.com)
  - e. Fire Apparatus Journal – [www.fireapparatusjournal.com](http://www.fireapparatusjournal.com)
  - f. Journal of Emergency Services (JEMS) – [www.jems.com](http://www.jems.com)
2. **Subscription to one or more Firefighter testing services that notify you when fire departments are testing:**
  - a. Perfect Firefighter Candidate – [www.firecareers.com](http://www.firecareers.com)
  - b. Careers in the Fire Service – [www.firerecruit.com](http://www.firerecruit.com)
3. **Gift certificates to businesses that sell fire & EMS related books:**
  - a. [Firefighters Bookstore](#)
  - b. [FSP Books and Video](#)
4. **Association memberships:**
  - a. California Firefighters Association (CSFA) – [www.csfa.net](http://www.csfa.net)
  - b. California Conference of Arson Investigators – [www.arson.org](http://www.arson.org)
  - c. Women in the Fire Service – [www.i-women.org](http://www.i-women.org)
  - d. California Fire Prevention Officers Association – [www.firepreventionofficers.org](http://www.firepreventionofficers.org)
  - e. Northern or Southern California Training Officers Association – <http://calchiefs.org/index.cfm?Section=57&PageNum=646>

5. Gym membership:

- a. Pick a gym that provides a full compliment of work out equipment and facilities so when asked how you have prepared yourself for the position during your next oral interview, you can comment how you have joined a gym and have a workout plan in place (goes back to preparation and motivation).

6. Thomas Guide Maps:

- a. If you have never heard what about a Thomas Guide Map, then you have missed out on a valuable resource. Thomas Guide Maps produce maps of specific counties throughout California and most of the United States. Thomas Guide Maps can be found at any major book store chain or on their web site at [www.thomas.com](http://www.thomas.com) – take a look to see for yourself. If you are a Costco member, they usually have them available for a very reasonable price.

- b. Why are they so valuable?

- **Number 1** – to become a firefighter, you are probably going to be doing a great deal of driving around the area if not the state and you'll need a map anyway.
- **Number 2** – when you take a test for a fire department, you should be doing some basic research such as stopping by fire stations or determining what types of target hazards are found in a community, etc. Besides target hazards, Thomas Guide Maps list every governmental facility such as fire stations, police stations, city hall, etc. These maps can do a portion of your homework for you!
- **Number 3** – they are in a book format, thus they won't be easily damaged like regular fold-out maps will.
- **Number 4** – since many fire departments and ambulance companies use Thomas Guide Maps in their vehicles, you will be getting a leg up on learning. Reading maps is almost like a lost art in the fire service. Many of the new firefighters we are hiring cannot read a map to save their life. When someone calls 911, we don't have every address memorized in our head – 99.9% of the time, we have to use a map to find the address. Start your training now!

- c. What types of maps do they sell? They usually produce a map of a county or multiple counties, such as:

- Alameda County.
- Contra Costa County.
- Los Angeles County
- Sacramento County.
- Multiple counties, such as Alameda County and Contra Costa County or Orange County and Los Angeles County (Best value – 2 counties in one book).
- Bay Area Metropolitan Area – All bay area counties in one book (Excellent value).
- State of California (an excellent book to supplement your other county books).

**A**dditional items geared for your friends and family members to help ensure they remain safe and sound year round!

- Smoke alarms
- Fire extinguishers (car and home)
- Emergency escape ladders for the home
- Whistle and lanyard
- Carbon monoxide alarms
- Childproofing and safety latch, gate and lock items
- Earthquake and disaster supplies (food, water, self-help)
- Cordless telephone for the pool area
- New large reflective numerals for a home address
- Anti-scald and non-slip devices for the bath and shower
- First-aid kits
- CPR mini-mask (to provide a barrier instead of true mouth-to-mouth resuscitation)
- Registration for a free Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) class with the local fire department
- First aid and CPR training
- Sturdy work gloves, goggles, and face mask
- Scanner radio to listen to the fire department (and/or police department) in action
- An automotive safety check by a certified mechanic
- A chimney sweep and inspection service gift certificate

**T**hanks to my good friend **Brian Humphrey**, Public Safety Officer (Firefighter / Public Service Officer) with the Los Angeles Fire Department ([www.lafd.org](http://www.lafd.org)) for providing the above suggestions for your friends and family members (and also yourself if you are in need of the items to keep yourself safe and sound!).

**E**ven if you don't get what you want for the holidays doesn't mean you can't invest in some of the above areas to better prepare yourself for your future career as a firefighter. To make money, you have to spend money. I'm not saying you're going to get rich being a firefighter – I'm just using a phrase that has been around for a long time. It basically means success in life doesn't usually fall into your lap. You're going to have to invest some time and money to get you where you want in life.

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

**T**he Candidate Physical Ability Test (CPAT) is a must have for any person planning on becoming a firefighter. More and more departments are requiring a candidate to possess a CPAT completion card (no older than one year) just to apply for their department. If you do

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not possess a current CPAT, you do not pass go, you do not collect two hundred dollars, and you miss out on the opportunity to compete for a firefighter position at many departments. The CPAT does not guarantee that you will be a successful firefighter.

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

**CPAT TESTING CENTER LOCATIONS:**

**Southern California:**

626 N. Eckhoff Street  
Orange, CA 92868

**Northern California**

6723 Sierra Court, Suite G  
Dublin, CA 94568

**Sacramento Area: **NEW!!****

1329 N. Market Blvd., #100  
Sacramento, CA 95834

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

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**FIRE SERVICE TRAINING & SAFETY INFO:**

**National Fallen Firefighters Holiday Survivors Tree Lighting to Be Held**

- For more details, go to: <http://firehero.00b.org/ajtk/servlet/JJ?H=13arws&R=657208540>

Emmitsburg, MD - The National Fallen Firefighters Foundation staff, members of the fire service, and the community will celebrate the lives of America's fallen firefighters through the lighting of the National Fallen Firefighters Holiday Survivors Tree. A ceremony will be held on Tuesday, December 16, 2008, at 5 p.m. on the campus of the National Emergency Training Center in Emmitsburg, Maryland.

Building on the holiday tradition established in 2003, the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation will have two trees displaying ornaments and cards that family and fire service members have made in memory of their loved ones. Family members of fallen firefighters from across the country send in tributes in honor of their fallen heroes.

» Read More: About the National Fallen Firefighters Holiday Survivors Tree Lighting, go to: <http://firehero.00b.org/ajtk/servlet/JJ?H=13arws&R=657208540>

## **FIREFIGHTER EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES:**

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

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

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

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

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

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## **INFORMATION REQUEST:**

***The following information requests come from a friend of mine, who is going through the Executive Fire Officer Program at the National Fire Academy with me. If you can assist him, we would appreciate it!***

**I**f anyone has any Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) or Standard Operating Guidelines (SOGs) for hydrogen cyanide gas monitoring, could you please forward them to me? I would appreciate it. Thanks!

Lieutenant Bill Connor  
Fire Prevention Officer  
Goffstown (NH) Fire Department  
e-mail: [bconnor@goffstownnh.gov](mailto:bconnor@goffstownnh.gov)  
Station: (603) 497-3619  
Direct: (603) 497-8287  
Fax: (603) 497-5704

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## **VOLUNTEERING OPPORTUNITIES:**

**T**he **San Francisco Paramedic Association** ([www.sfparamedics.org](http://www.sfparamedics.org)) is in need of volunteers! Time to give back a little time to the San Francisco Paramedic Association, learn some new skills, meet some great people, and get more involved in the Fire and EMS services!

- **Pre-Hospital Trauma Life Support Classes** - **Volunteers Needed** -

<b>Dates / Times:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>January 15, 2009</b> from 1230 to 1700 hours – Sausalito, CA</li><li>• <b>January 16, 2009</b> from 1030 to 1630 hours – Sausalito, CA</li><li>• <b>February 11, 2009</b> from 1230 to 1700 hours – Sausalito, CA</li><li>• <b>February 12, 2009</b> from 1030 to 1630 hours – Sausalito, CA</li><li>• <b>March 11, 2009</b> from 1230 to 1700 hours – Sausalito, CA</li><li>• <b>March 12, 2009</b> from 1030 to 1630 hours – Sausalito, CA</li><li>• <b>April 22, 2009</b> from 1230 to 1700 hours – Sausalito, CA</li><li>• <b>April 23, 2009</b> from 1030 to 1630 hours – Sausalito, CA</li><li>• <b>May 13, 2009</b> from 1230 to 1700 hours – Sausalito, CA</li><li>• <b>May 14, 2009</b> from 1030 to 1630 hours – Sausalito, CA</li><li>• <b>May 18, 2009</b> from 1230 to 1700 hours – Fremont, CA</li><li>• <b>May 19, 2009</b> from 1030 to 1630 hours – Fremont, CA</li><li>• <b>June 17, 2009</b> from 1230 to 1700 hours – Sausalito, CA</li><li>• <b>June 18, 2009</b> from 1030 to 1630 hours – Sausalito, CA</li></ul> <p>**Go to their website at <a href="http://www.sfparamedics.org">www.sfparamedics.org</a> and click on Volunteer Info (under About) to confirm the above dates and times and to register, and to find out the exact locations around the S.F. Bay Area.</p>
<b>You will receive:</b>	Valuable experience watching paramedic level (or higher) students perform patient assessments. Learn from their plusses and minuses. You will also receive a free San Francisco Paramedic Association t-shirt.
<b>Your role:</b>	As a volunteer, you will be moulaged and designated to role-play a victim of a trauma emergency scenario. Please wear loose, old, comfortable clothing, as you may be on the floor for some scenarios.
<b>Contact person(s):</b>	Call the San Francisco Paramedic Association for more information or to sign-up at (415) 543-1161 (tell them Steve at Chabot sent you) or email them at <a href="mailto:director@sfparamedics.org">director@sfparamedics.org</a> or visit their website section on volunteer opportunities at <a href="http://www.sfparamedics.org/pages/about/volunteer.php">www.sfparamedics.org/pages/about/volunteer.php</a>

- **Advanced Medical Life Support Classes - Volunteers Needed**

<b>Dates / Locations / Times:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>January 27, 2009</b> from 1200 to 1700 hours</li><li>• <b>January 28, 2009</b> from 1200 to 1700 hours</li><li>• <b>April 15, 2009</b> from 1200 to 1700 hours</li><li>• <b>April 16, 2009</b> from 1200 to 1700 hours</li><li>• <b>June 8, 2009</b> from 1200 to 1700 hours</li><li>• <b>June 9, 2009</b> from 1200 to 1700 hours</li></ul> <p><b>NOTE:</b> All of the above classes will be held at the <b>San Francisco Paramedic Association</b> – 657 Mission Street, Suite 302, San Francisco, CA 94116</p> <p>**Go to their website at <a href="http://www.sfparamedics.org">www.sfparamedics.org</a> and click on Volunteer Info (under About) to confirm the above dates and times and to register.</p>
<b>You will receive:</b>	Valuable experience watching paramedic level (or higher) students perform patient assessments. Learn from their plusses and minuses. You will also receive a free San Francisco Paramedic Association t-shirt.
<b>Your role:</b>	As a volunteer, you will be moulaged and designated to role-play a victim of a medical emergency scenario. Please wear loose, old, comfortable clothing, as you may be on the floor for some scenarios.
<b>Contact person(s):</b>	Call the San Francisco Paramedic Association for more information or to sign-up at (415) 543-1161 (tell them Steve at Chabot sent you) or email them at <a href="mailto:director@sfparamedics.org">director@sfparamedics.org</a> or visit their website section on volunteer opportunities at <a href="http://www.sfparamedics.org/pages/about/volunteer.php">www.sfparamedics.org/pages/about/volunteer.php</a>

**F**or more information about the **San Francisco Paramedic Association**, visit their website at [www.sfparamedics.org](http://www.sfparamedics.org) – they offer numerous EMS continuing education classes for EMT's, Paramedics, Nurses, Doctors, and other healthcare professionals.

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**DECEMBER 2008 STATE FIRE TRAINING REPORT:**

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

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## **FIREFIGHTER FATALITY INFORMATION:**

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

Name: Robert J. Ryan, Jr.  
Rank: Lieutenant  
Age: 46  
Gender: Male  
Status: Career  
Years of Service: 17  
Date of Incident: 11/23/2008  
Time of Incident: 0028hrs  
Date of Death: 11/23/2008  
Fire Department: Fire Department City of New York  
Address: 9 Metro Tech Center, Brooklyn, New York 11201  
Chief: Fire Commissioner Nicholas Scoppetta

**Incident Description:** After responding to a two-story private residence fire, Lieutenant Ryan was working in the attic when a portion of the ceiling collapsed on him. He was transported to the Richmond University Medical Center of Staten Island where he passed away.

**Funeral Arrangements:** Visitation will be on 11/24/08 from 1900hrs to 2100hrs and 11/25/08 from 1400hrs to 1600hrs and 1900hrs to 2100hrs at Harmon Funeral Home, 571 Forest Avenue, Staten Island, New York. The funeral will be on 11/26/08 at 1100hrs at Sacred Heart Church, 981 Castleton Ave., Staten Island, New York.

**Memorial Fund Contact and Address:** Pending

**Tribute** is being paid to Lt. Robert J. Ryan at <http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/fireservice/fatalities/>

To date, 106 firefighter fatalities have been reported to USFA in 2008 as a result of incidents that occurred in 2008.

**AND:**

Name: Rick H. Borkin  
Rank: Lieutenant  
Age: 42  
Gender: Male  
Status: Volunteer  
Years of Service: 16  
Date of Incident: 12/08/2008  
Time of Incident: 2040hrs  
Date of Death: 12/08/2008

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Fire Department: Thiensville Fire Department  
Address: 250 Elm St., Thiensville, WI 53092 (USNG: 16T DN 2048 8707)  
Map:  
<http://www.fidnet.com/~jlmoore/usng/?zoom=17&usng=16TDN20488707&disp=h>  
Fire Department Chief: Brian Reiels

**Incident Description:** Lieutenant Borkin was participating in mandatory fire department training at a local community college when he collapsed from a cause still to be determined. Emergency personnel responded immediately to provide emergency medical assistance on scene to Lt. Borkin, including advanced life support, but he was unable to be revived.

**Funeral Arrangements:** Pending

**Memorial Fund Contact and Address:** In honor of Lieutenant Rick H. Borkin, C/o Thiensville Fire Department, 250 Elm St., Thiensville, WI 53092.

**Tribute** is being paid to Lieutenant Rick H. Borkin at  
<http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/fireservice/fatalities/>

To date, 107 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. 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.shtml](http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/fireservice/fatalities/statistics/ff_stats.shtml))

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 listserv do not represent the final on-duty firefighter fatality determination by USFA for such reports, nor LODD determination made by the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation (<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.

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**FIRE SERVICE SAFETY, TRAINING & NEWS**  
**STORIES TO LEARN FROM, COURTESY OF**  
**DEPUTY CHIEF BILLY GOLDFEDER & GORDON**  
**GRAHAM, HOSTS OF [www.firefighterclosecalls.com](http://www.firefighterclosecalls.com)**

Hey...

Two FDNY companies responding on a run crashed this evening, injuring the members on

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board. Initial reports are that 5 were seriously hurt (but stable and NLT) and that seven others have minor injuries. The crash happened around 1830 hours in Greenwich Village at the intersection of 7th Avenue and W. 10th Street between Squad 18 and Tower Ladder 12.

**Here are VIDEO links:**

<http://www.myfoxny.com/myfox/pages/Home/Detail?contentId=7926760&version=1&locale=EN-US&layoutCode=VSTY&pageId=1.1.1>

<http://abclocal.go.com/wabc/story?section=news/local&id=6520626>

**Here are PICTURES:**

[http://www.nypost.com/seven/11222008/news/regionalnews/12\\_firefighters\\_hurt\\_as\\_2\\_firetrucks\\_col\\_140246.htm](http://www.nypost.com/seven/11222008/news/regionalnews/12_firefighters_hurt_as_2_firetrucks_col_140246.htm)

Take Care-BE CAREFUL. **WATCH The Intersections.**

BillyG

The Secret List 11-22-08 / 2308 hours

**AND:**

**FDNY FIRE OFFICER KILLED IN THE LINE OF DUTY** (FirefighterCloseCalls.com - The Secret List)

It is with deep regret that we advise you of the Line of Duty Death of FDNY Lieutenant Robert J. Ryan, age 46, from Engine 156 on Staten Island. Lt. Ryan was operating at a fire in a 2 story single dwelling at Van Buren St. and York Avenue when, according to initial reports, there was a collapse. Reports are that a portion of the ceiling fell on him, knocking his helmet off and possibly causing problems with his SCBA as well. Lt. Ryan's engine company was first due on this run. Lt. Ryan had recently returned to work after recovering from a serious burn injury...he had been with the FDNY for 17 years. Lt. Ryan is survived by his wife and four children. As always, our sincere condolences to affected. Additional details to follow.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 11-23-08 / 0745 hours

**AND:**

Hey...

Here is an update on the FDNY LODD as well as several serious fire apparatus and vehicle close calls:

**FDNY LODD & FUNERAL DETAILS UPDATE:**

As you know, FDNY Lieutenant Robert J Ryan was killed in the Line of Duty in a fire and collapse this morning. We also mentioned that he was previously seriously injured-but didn't want to retire. Lieutenant Ryan was injured (serious burns) while fighting a fire in Brooklyn on Oct. 3, 2006. He did not return to work until 12 months later. The injury was so severe that he

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was not allowed to go out in the sun without some form of protection for his skin....and this morning, he gave his life.

MORE about Lt. Ryan and the fire here:

[http://www.nytimes.com/2008/11/24/nyregion/24fire.html?\\_r=1&hp](http://www.nytimes.com/2008/11/24/nyregion/24fire.html?_r=1&hp)  
<http://www.nytimes.com/2008/11/24/nyregion/24firefighter.html?ref=nyregion>  
[http://www.nydailynews.com/ny\\_local/2008/11/23/2008-11-23\\_veteran\\_fdny\\_lieutenant\\_robert\\_ryan\\_dies.html](http://www.nydailynews.com/ny_local/2008/11/23/2008-11-23_veteran_fdny_lieutenant_robert_ryan_dies.html)

FDNY FUNERAL DETAILS for Lt. Robert J. Ryan, Jr., of Engine Company 155. Lt. Ryan, 46, was critically injured this morning while operating at the 2nd alarm fire in the New Brighton neighborhood of Staten Island...he was transported to the hospital where he succumbed to his injuries. Lt. Ryan was a 17-year veteran of the Department.

===Viewing

WHERE:Harmon Funeral Home, 571 Forest Avenue, Staten Island, NY

WHEN:Monday, November 24, from 7 to 9 p.m. and Tuesday, November 25, from 2 to 4 p.m. and 7 to 9 p.m.

===Funeral and Procession

WHERE: Sacred Heart Church, 981 Castleton Ave, Staten Island, NY

WHEN: Wednesday, November 26, 2008, 11 a.m.

**PA FIRE CHIEF SERIOUS AFTER RESPONDING CRASH:**

Asst. Chief Richard 'Rick' Keiser of the Bannerville Volunteer Fire Company, McClure, Snyder County, PA was seriously injured in a crash responding to a structure fire this morning around 0200. He was on his way to the firehouse to respond in the engine, when his vehicle hit a patch of ice, sending him rolling into a ditch and no one found him until a PENN DOT State truck out cindering, spotted his vehicle and called it in. Rick was laying injured in his vehicle for about 2 hrs. before any help could get to him. The temperature was about 17 degrees. He is list in serious condition in the Geisinger Medical Center in Danville, PA.

**CT FIRE TANKER CRASH WHILE RESPONDING**

A Shelton (CT) fire tanker on its way to a residential fire alarm in a non-hydrant area crashed this afternoon. The eight-year-old truck was traveling to an automatic alarm at about 12:45 ours when "either mechanical failure or something happened and it rolled over." according to the department spokesperson. The 2 Firefighters inside received minor injuries. We have photos of the crash posted on our home page.

**GEORGIA APPARATUS CRASH KILLS CIVILIAN-CIVILIAN AT FAULT:**

We have posted details and pictures of this afternoons Crisp County (GA) apparatus crash on our home page. The apparatus was enroute to training. Reports are the fire apparatus driver, Crisp County Firefighter Tommy Hauesler was transported to the Medical Center of Central Georgia in Macon in guarded condition with closed head injuries, internal injuries and some fairly serious burn injuries. The semi-driver was killed and was at fault. More details on our home page.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 11-23-08 / 2140 hours

**AND:**

Hey...

On Sunday's issue of The Secret List, we advised you of the Crisp County (Georgia) crash involving a semi truck that struck a fire apparatus. That crash killed the driver of the semi and left a Crisp County Firefighter in critical condition. The semi-driver failed to yield the right of way at the intersection, which was marked with signage but also a flashing traffic light according to the cops. But in a very tragic twist, the semi-driver who lost his life, Shane Waters, was also a very active Firefighter with the New Madison Volunteer FD in New Madison, OH. In addition, Shane, who had been recognized for his service on several occasions, was also an active member of Tri-Village Rescue (also in New Madison). Our sincere condolences on the loss of Shane Waters and prayers for the fire apparatus driver, 47-year-old Firefighter Thomas Hauesler who was taken to Macon Medical Center and is in the intensive care unit.... Firefighter Hauesler suffered serious burns, 2 collapsed lungs, 2 broken shoulders & other wounds.

**FDNY LT ROBERT RYAN LODD UPDATE:** "When He Hugged...He Meant It..."

As a reminder, Lt Robert Ryan's funeral Mass will be held at Sacred Heart at 1100 hours on Wednesday on Staten Island and he will then will be laid to rest at St. Peter's Cemetery. We also wanted to pass some quotes on from the below article....about how those who knew Lt. Ryan felt about him..."When he hugged you, you knew he meant it," he said. "It's a real loss to this world not to have him in it." ..."He was the salt of the Earth, a good guy," said Gerard Harkin, 75, the father of Ryan's wife, Kathleen...."He was not only a good citizen and a good public servant, but he was a great father," said Harkin, crying. "He was wonderful to his children, wonderful to his family...."It's terrible," he said. "He was one of the good ones." Here is the entire piece as well as more local information about him:

[http://www.nydailynews.com/ny\\_local/2008/11/23/2008-11-23\\_when\\_he\\_hugged\\_you\\_you\\_knew\\_he\\_meant\\_it\\_.html](http://www.nydailynews.com/ny_local/2008/11/23/2008-11-23_when_he_hugged_you_you_knew_he_meant_it_.html)

[http://www.silive.com/news/index.ssf/2008/11/funeral\\_arrangements\\_for\\_falle.html](http://www.silive.com/news/index.ssf/2008/11/funeral_arrangements_for_falle.html)

**UPDATE: RIVERDALE FIREFIGHTERS** - Prince Georges County MD Update: F/F Johnston was once again released (after going back in) from the Washington Burn Center. They have done some minor "cutting" of dead tissue around the burn and the fear of infection has subsided. He is back at the station with limited mobility of his right arm. He will remain out of service for an extended period of time to enable the healing process to complete properly. Here are the details from the Riverdale VFD:

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

....and here is an overview of the fire itself from Dave Statter:

<http://www.wusa9.com/news/columnist/blogs/2008/11/just-24-seconds-series-of-pictures.html>

**UPDATE: MA. FIREFIGHTER TO BE ARRAIGNED IN LADDER TRUCK CRASH:**

An arraignment date of Dec. 23 is set for a Provincetown (MA) volunteer firefighter facing criminal motor vehicle charges stemming from the wreck of a ladder truck on Nov. 9. FF Elias Martinez, 21, a steward with the town's volunteer fire department ladder company, will face a

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criminal charge of operating a vehicle negligently so as to endanger. Police have also cited Martinez with speeding and failure to use caution at an intersection. An accident reconstruction report that the police received last week led them to make the charges. FF Martinez, who started with the fire department at 13 as a junior firefighter, is on unpaid administrative leave from the 75-member fire department following the one-vehicle crash and totaling of the town's only ladder truck. Police have not cited a civilian passenger in the truck, Emily Forbes, 21.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 11-25-08 / 0248 hours

**AND:**

Hey...

While not directly related to injuries from firefighting, a Fort Wayne (IN) Firefighter is on medical leave after he became involved in a "push & shove" with another firefighter at the scene of a working fire. FW Chief Pete Kelly told the media that the firefighter's actions can be linked to stress. The Firefighter does not face any disciplinary action...here is the video: [http://www.wane.com/dpp/video/player\\_page/firefighter\\_scuffle\\_caught\\_on\\_tape](http://www.wane.com/dpp/video/player_page/firefighter_scuffle_caught_on_tape)

**WORKING FIRE RESPONSE REPORT - Staffing, Command & Control:**

Poor response? Poor staffing? Who is responding? No command or control? No accountability? Poor radio communications? The following info about a fire in North Stamford (CT) is hardly the only place this could happen. The good news is that no Firefighters lost their lives-and there are plenty of "lessons learned" for any FD.

EVERY fire department, career, call or volunteer, past history shows what all of our responses and service levels will generally be or not be, who will probably turn out and what response times will be...and we need to plan for that. If we don't know who is turning out-we need to figure it out (see next paragraph) ...but odds are, past responses will provide reliable and predictable data into future responses. After all, if your FD has low staffing and no plans for command and control today, odd's are it will also be a problem tomorrow. And in so many un-staffed FD's, once the tones go off, it may be a "crap shoot" to see who turns out and when they might show up.

A common issue for un-staffed call and volunteer FD's (as well as career FD's with re-call) is that many have no idea who is responding until they turnout. We shared this link with you a while back and we think this is one of the BEST solutions, designed by firefighters: [www.iamresponding.com](http://www.iamresponding.com) ... this product provides a dirt cheap solution for un-staffed FD's. As you know, we are self funded and accept no funding from anyone-so this isn't an advertisement...we just feel that once in a while, a product (or whatever) can make a major difference in FF safety...since adequate staffing can directly lead to a safer fireground...and we pass it on.

In the case of this fire, the FD in CT would have known "immediately" who is turning out-as just one solution to the various issues. One way or the other, every FD has a responsibility to

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know "what will respond, the quality of the response and how quickly they'll arrive" when the 9-1-1 caller is reporting a bad day. We are very thankful no FF's were seriously hurt or killed in this fire...and hope we all can learn from this "close calls" example.

The consultant hired to evaluate this early October house fire in North Stamford (CT), was blunt last week in blaming the FD for their lack of response, command, control and overall leadership that led to the house burning down. The majority of things that went wrong, went wrong within the first 20 to 25 minutes...response was a big problem in this fire as it began with only 3 Firefighters responding to the first alarm: 2 on Long Ridge engines and a 3rd FF who responded POV. A request for mutual aid from other FD's didn't come until 6 minutes into the fire..and this delayed the arrival of additional companies 21 more minutes into the fire.

**AUTOMATIC AID CANCELLED - THEN RE-ESTABLISHED:**

This was the first significant fire in Long Ridge where they went without the automatic aid response of the nearby Turn of River FD. Shortly before this fire, the Turn of River Fire Chief asked that the automatic mutual response agreement with Long Ridge be limited to a "request only" agreement, so his FD could save money. Long Ridge has since signed a similar agreement with Stamford Fire & Rescue that will re-establish an auto-aid plan, but there was no automatic mutual aid agreements with any FD at the time of the October fire. What would have been best for those who dial 9-1-1? We sometimes forget about them....but they are really the only reason we exist.

The report folks found several instances where FF's failed to use proper and accepted practices adding to the potential of danger to the FF's. The report criticized the first arriving units for failing to establish command, which caused confusion on the fireground when add'l companies arrived ...not knowing who was in-charge. A reliable water supply also was not established until 21 minutes into the fire. And while hydrants in that area are rare, there was one 900 feet down the road. Instead of using this hydrant, the 2 1st due engines attacked the fire on the first and second floors using tank water. When both drivers went into the burning home by themselves to fight the fire without backup units, they violated "two in two out rule" for interior structure fires...at minimum. Lots for all of us to learn. Here is more:

<http://thestamfordtimes.com/story/460390>

[http://www.stamfordadvocate.com/ci\\_11039349?source=most\\_viewed](http://www.stamfordadvocate.com/ci_11039349?source=most_viewed)

From all of us to all of you-the BEST for a Wonderful Thanksgiving.

Nothing to be thankful for? Look again.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 11-26-08 / 2150 hours

**AND:**

**ALASKA CANCER LODD-Chief Phil Rounds**

We regret to inform you about the passing of nationally known Fire Instructor and highly respected and loved Battalion Fire Chief Philip E. Rounds, E.F.O. of the University of Alaska FD. Chief Rounds, 55, died last week from job related cancer complications...he bravely worked full-time until a week before his untimely death. Phil was extremely dedicated to the

issues of firefighter training, safety, health and survival and had a special interest in airport rescue fire operations. Chief Rounds was one of the great ones, the type of firefighter firefighters listened to, laughed with, enjoyed and emulated as they started and grew their own fire service careers. Our sincere condolences to the family and friends of Chief Phil Rounds. Here are more details:

<http://newsminer.com/news/2008/nov/25/uaf-fire-department-battalion-chief-phil-rounds-di/>

### **MISSISSIPPI LOST FIREFIGHTER RESCUE BEING REVIEWED**

As you may remember a few weeks ago, a Firefighter was lost and disoriented in a church fire in Jackson, MS and another FF outside the structure heard his call for help. That FF outside ran in, found the missing FF-and rescued the lost firefighter who was by himself inside. And while successful, the rescuing FF went in to make the grab by himself as well. And now the questions are being asked. Here is the story link as well as on our home page:

<http://www.wapt.com/whosaccountable/18154927/detail.html>

### **ANOTHER AERIAL WATERWAY "TAKES OFF"**

In what reminds us of the recent tragic LODD of Lawrence Park (PA) Asst Chief (and Erie career FF) Mike Crotty, this recent incident happened to Montreal (CAN) FD Ladder Company 423 - a 1994 Nova Quintech Sky Five (100 ft 5 section). While at a 5th alarm, their waterway "took off" flying-and landed....but thankfully no Firefighters were hurt. We have pictures and more details posted on our home page. And here again is the NIOSH Safety Bulletin..if your FD has an aerial: PASS THIS ON.

<http://www.cdc.gov/NIOSH/FIRE/SafetyAdvisory06242008.html>

### **FINAL WORD FDNY**

And lastly, here is a story by one of our favorite newspaper columnists (NY Daily News Mike Daly) about the horrible loss, this week, of FDNY Lt. Robery Ryan:

[http://www.nydailynews.com/ny\\_local/2008/11/26/2008-11-26\\_fallen\\_firefighter\\_didnt\\_talk\\_about\\_help.html](http://www.nydailynews.com/ny_local/2008/11/26/2008-11-26_fallen_firefighter_didnt_talk_about_help.html)

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 11-28-2008 / 1033 hours

### **AND:**

Hey...

Amongst the many cool things we get to do, one is to spend time with FF's throughout North America, visiting, listening and talking about firefighting. Every once in a while, a FD that we were at, has an event. Sometimes a tragic event and sometimes a CLOSE CALL. That's what happened on Thanksgiving. We spent some time late last year with the "West Enders" in Brodheadsville, PA ...and then the other day, we got a call they had a fire in a strip mall. And then later, the call was they had an explosion.

4 West End Firefighters and 2 Polk Township firefighters were inside while 2 other West End Firefighters and one from Sun Valley had entered....another Polk Township crew was getting ready to go into another area of the burning shopping area. "When we entered Chocolateers, the bulk of the fire was to the rear in the kitchen area," West End Asst Chief Eric Hoffman said...."We started with a good knockdown of the flames in that

area. We were on our knees, keeping low, with our hoses trained on the flames, which is standard procedure. Everything seemed to be going fine." That's when the explosion happened. Fortunately, everyone was OK-that's good news from our friends up in the Poconos...looks like a propane tank in one of the stores is amongst the areas being looked at...here are more details:

<http://www.poconorecord.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20081129/NEWS/811290301/-1/NEWS01>

#### **FIRE HISTORY & REMEMBERING THE OUR LADY OF ANGELS FIRE:**

In alotta cases, we speak with young Firefighters and bring up some well known (or at least they were to me) fires....from **MARSHALLS CREEK**, PA (June 24 1964: Marshalls Creek FF's responded to a tractor-trailer fire...the rear wheels of the tractor were on fire. The trailer was not placarded to warn them of the dynamite carried inside....shortly after their arrival, the trailer exploded killing three MC FF's and seriously injuring two others). Learn more here: <http://www.marshallscreekfireco.org/Explosion/Explosion.html> and also learn how that fire changed fire service history.

...and then there was the **BEVERLY HILLS SUPPER CLUB FIRE** in Northern Kentucky that killed 165 persons with over 200 injured. Take a look at what the SFPE and FIRE ENGINEERING Magazine has been doing about this fire:

<http://fefdic.ning.com/group/whatactuallycausedthebeverlyhillssupperclubfire>

as well as general details here: [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Beverly\\_Hills\\_Supper\\_Club](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Beverly_Hills_Supper_Club)

....and looking back 66 years ago last night, November 28, 1942, was the **COCOANUT GROVE FIRE** where approx 492 people died and 166 were injured. Here is a video about that fire: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9SLnznxCZY>

A recent example of how we have not always learned from our past, is the Rhode Island **STATION NIGHT CLUB FIRE**, February of 2003. Here is an interior and then exterior video as the fire started-and took off: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YcqgCnLa5lk>

For the CG fire, the 1942 Boston FD transmitted 5 alarms from Box 1521 with the response of 25 Engine Companies, 5 Ladder Companies, Water Tower 2 and all three Rescue Companies. The men who worked that night never forgot what they saw...and our thanks to long time TSL member BFD FF Bill Noonan for the reminder.

Old(er) Firefighters need to do whatever we can to educate the young Firefighters and help them understand our history-from a tactical standpoint to just general fire history interest.....

.....and then of course, there was the **OUR LADY OF ANGELS (School) FIRE**...that happened 50 years ago this coming Monday, horrifically killing 92 little kids and 3 nuns in a fire that started in a stairwell during that last hour of classes at the Our Lady of the Angels school, in Chicago on December 1, 1958. Our sincere thanks to **Dave Statter911** for his excellent coverage and videos to help remind those who might remember-and educate those who weren't even aware: <http://www.wusa9.com/news/columnist/blogs/2008/11/50-years-ago-lessons-learned-from.html>

....here are some additional links about the Our Lady of Angels Fire:

<http://www.olafire.com/> (Website actually dedicated to the fire).

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Our\\_Lady\\_of\\_the\\_Angels\\_School\\_Fire](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Our_Lady_of_the_Angels_School_Fire)

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 11-29-08 / 1506 hours

**AND:**

**FIREFIGHTER KILLED IN GERMANY, 3 CRITICAL--IN THE LINE OF DUTY**

We regret to advise you that 1 Firefighter has been killed and 7 Firefighters were injured in the Line of Duty when a malt silo exploded in western Germany. Word is that firefighters responded early this morning to a working fire at a malt factory in Worms, a town southwest of Frankfurt. While Firefighters were operating at the fire, the silo exploded. The fire and explosion killed a 24-year-old Firefighter in the Line of Duty and injured seven others. The other injured Firefighters were flown by helicopter to nearby hospitals. 3 Firefighters remain in critical condition. We'll post any additional details on our home page.

**SILO FIRES:**

While what happened in Germany has not yet been fully identified, in our Country, we have had silo fires as well where Firefighters have been killed. A fairly recent example is in New Bremen, Ohio, where FF's Kenneth Jutte, 44 and FF John Garman, 42 where were killed in the Line of Duty. Here is the report with pictures and lessons learned: <http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/fire/reports/face200332.html>

**==FIREFIGHTERS STRUCK IN OMAHA (Nebraska):**

Two Omaha Firefighters are in the hospital after being struck by oncoming traffic while operating at one of many car crashes early this morning. The original crash happened on I-80...the Firefighters were hit by an SUV that lost control and slid on to the shoulder where they were working, throwing one firefighter 40 to 60 feet down an embankment. FF's on the scene went to help the initially injured Firefighter when another vehicle lost control, rolling down the embankment nearly hitting them again. Both firefighters are in stable condition and have not been identified. The accident happened just before midnight and involved 8 to 12 vehicles.

**==FOLLOWUP: Not JUST in Stamford CT.**

The issues between Career and Volunteer Firefighters have been around for centuries-it's nothing new. Take a look at these links, such as the 1st one..."Our Firemen, The History of the NY Fire Departments".....you will LOVE these links if you are any bit of a fire service history buff:

<http://www.usgennet.org/usa/ny/state/fire/1-10/index.html>

<http://www.fasnyfiremuseum.com/ourhistory.php>

<http://chnm.gmu.edu/lostmuseum/lm/233/>

The fact is that these days, volunteer and career Firefighters can co-exist very successfully delivering phenomenal emergency service, and do in many areas. It's all depending upon how important "service" is to individuals, bosses, leaders, the community and where the organizations priorities are (as planned and in reality). While no place is perfect, we have always felt that Baltimore County (MD) has had one of the best models. Their model has all-career companies and all-volunteer companies each in their own stations, on their own apparatus, under their own station leadership, functioning under one clear unified operational

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command. It seems to work for many reasons but the one reason is that they can feel comfortable in their own "homes"..or firehouses, so to speak. Here are some links about the Baltimore County system:

<http://www.baltimorecountymd.gov/Agencies/fire/overview.html> (County FD website)  
<http://www.bcvfa.org/> (Volunteer Association)  
<http://www.iafflocal1311.org/> (Career Association)

In many "combo" FD's, career or volunteer members feel like some unwanted guests have come-and they never leave. Sorta like your Mother-In-Law coming to visit, and never leaving. Jeeez. Generally, if all "sides" focus on what's best for the 9-1-1 caller, it generally can work out. But unfortunately it becomes more complicated at varied levels, but we aren't sure it has to be. And this problem is hardly unique to Stamford, CT. We passed along info a few days ago about a bad fire in the Stamford area of CT-here is a follow-up that also covers some thoughts on the issues of career and volunteer firefighters:

[http://www.stamfordadvocate.com/localnews/ci\\_11105773](http://www.stamfordadvocate.com/localnews/ci_11105773)

**==BE CAREFUL DURING THE HOLIDAYS!**

While not on duty, a North Texas firefighter is struggling to survive after he fell while hanging Christmas lights. McKinney FF Richard Smith is in critical condition at Medical Center of Plano....and we sincerely wish for his rapid recovery. Here is more:  
<http://cbs11tv.com/local/McKinney.Fire.Department.2.876003.html>

ON OR OFF DUTY...this time of year keeps us all busy doing stuff like that. USE CAUTION so these incidents are few and far between.

**APPARATUS RIDES ?**

Additionally, this time of year finds many fire companies allowing kids, civilians and Firefighters to ride the rigs with Santa Claus-all for absolutely wonderful and great reasons...BUT make sure that your FD is truly covered to allow that to happen. Make sure the ones riding are all secure and safe, no different than we have to be riding the rig. Are we Scrooges? Don't be dumb.

This is just a simple reality check...as FD's in the past have found themselves in a legal, moral and PR jams over a kid getting hurt or someone falling off a rig...all with the BEST of intentions. We're just suggesting to simply take a moment to make sure your written policies allow it...make sure your insurance and legal folks and verifiably cool with it...and don't be naive into thinking "anyone" getting hurt (or their family) will just think that we the "good guys" doing good things...and they'll be forgiving.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 11-30-08 / 1111 hours

**AND:**

Below is a link to an editorial that was sent to me by a close friend-I hadn't seen or read it until now...we just had to share it with you. Maybe you already read it. Back from therapy yet?

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A columnist, noted for his interesting views on improving local government, shares suggestions (to save tax dollars) that if someone dials 9-1-1 to report a fire, the fire department should only send a firefighter in a car to verify that there really is a fire. If there is really a fire or emergency, that firefighter should then rapidly summon "major-scale" equipment and more firefighters ....when there's a truly a confirmed serious fire emergency.

What a great idea.

Their next proposal should include a heart attack verification unit. Because the.. "Arrrrggghh ...HELP ME.....girgle.....gasp....I am having a h-h-heart attack!!" ..9-1-1 phone call and the callers gasping words really don't prove anything until someone gets there and verifies it. No sir, it's NOT a heart attack until WE get there and VERIFY that it is. The blue "hue" of non-breathing Uncle Hugh's face means nothing. Or perhaps an un-armed citizen patrol volunteer should respond first when someone calls "claiming" that there is some dirt bag beating up a woman while a little kid watches. After all, it isn't true unless it is first verified.

Or the FIRE idea. A fire in the basement creates a little smoke in the upstairs of a home, the occupants notice it, they call 9-1-1 as the smoke detectors sound, and the FD sends "Smokey" in a nice, red, sporty, 68 Buick. Smokey gets there and sees Mom trying to get to her children that are trapped in the basement, the basement that is now well involved. Smokey calls back and verifies that there is a "major scale" fire...and knows that if he had hose lines, tools and about 20+ more firefighters, he might be able to actually give the taxpayers their moneys worth. But who are THOSE parents to actually think THEY know when their home actually needs more than ONE Firefighter. Silly taxpayers.

However, they did save money on all that apparatus fuel that otherwise "might" have been wasted. But then what about the coroners fuel? All tax dollars....seriously...WTF?!

We aren't going to get into a psss-ing contest debating the issues of waste in local, state or Federal government. It's there and everyone knows where it is. Start at the top and work your way down. Staff, Take home cars. Perks. Ridiculous salaries at many levels. You could walk in blind-folded to many City Halls and trip over waste. The City Hall dwellers live for that stuff. Look who we have been bailing out lately and how they have been spending our money ...after being "bailed" out... by "our" Federal Gov't. How's that worked out? Yeah-exactly.

But don't think for a second that some potentially un-drug tested locally elected official somewhere is reading the below commentary, thinking "Hmmm....that's not a bad idea"...." we should do that here"....

So what's the solution? One might be that perhaps some cities, counties, villages, towns, whatever...develop a plan.

A plan of priorities. Not one of blatant risks to public safety, but one of priorities for what is important to those who pay the taxes and what is less important, no matter what the economy. In other words, when the last tax dollars are available, what are the pre-planned priorities? Whatever level of fire rescue service was previously decided upon is it, which should mean then, until there is no money left, that's what gets funded. That means everything else is cut. Or maybe soccer fields are the priority with the city deciding they only

**Chabot College Fire & EMS News**

want 1 police officer on patrol and 5 Firefighters arriving in 3-4 minutes? Then that's the plan and the FD will act accordingly. After all, we cannot handle a 25 FF fire with just 5 FF's no matter how badly we may want to. Take your own garbage to the dump-there is no more collection. Mow your soccer fields-the mower people are gone. But if your kid has a medical emergency or you MIGHT have a house fire, we will be there. Or at least Smokey in the car will, and he'll then call for "not-so-mutual" aid.

It's kinda nuts that when things are great, the spending just keeps on going...but then when money is tight, like it is in almost everyplace these days, political agendas take over vs. what may be best for those who need the most critical of basic government services. And that would be those who call 9-1-1. The bad-day havers.

This isn't going to be the first "out there" brainstorm of irresponsibly dangerous ideas that will eventually cost lives. No emotion: fact. 1 FF going to verify if there is a reported fire = dead citizens. Sooner or later. That's why fire companies were created by Ben Franklin...the guy on the horse checkin' to see if there was really a fire didn't work out real well...the fire predictably got worse. When everything is sprinklered (and we do support that), then maybe our world will change, but that's not reality today.

But this is also an opportunity for fire service leadership, from the IAFC and the IAFF to the NFPA and other related national fire organizations to continue to further aggressively help their members locally and nationally deal with this kind of proposed lunacy...from the "municipal critics". Hell, we haven't even discussed the "response to terrorism" role that the very busy Smokey-In-The-Buick must also play. That should also work out real well.

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[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a\\_K-K6o5cGc](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a_K-K6o5cGc)

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Take Care,

BillyG

The Secret List 11-30-08 / 1945 hours

**AND**

Hey....

Below is a link to an editorial that was sent to me by a close friend-I hadn't seen or read it until now...we just had to share it with you. Maybe you already read it. Back from therapy yet?

A columnist, noted for his interesting views on improving local government, shares suggestions (to save tax dollars) that if someone dials 9-1-1 to report a fire, the fire department should only send a firefighter in a car to verify that there really is a fire. If there is really a fire or emergency, that firefighter should then rapidly summon "major-scale" equipment and more firefighters ....when there's a truly a confirmed serious fire emergency.

What a great idea.

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Take Care,  
BillyG

The Secret List 11-30-08 / 1945 hours

**AND**

We regret to advise you that a 10 year Veteran Volunteer Firefighter named Fu Chia-sen was killed in the Line of Duty during a search and rescue mission at a landfill construction site in Taichung City early on Sunday. FF Fu was pronounced dead after he was pulled out of the dirt at the site. 2 other Firefighters were injured in the landslides at the construction site. The first landslide occurred at around 0900, and the Taichung City Fire Department responded. While Firefighters were busy searching for the buried worker, there was a second landslide that buried FF Fu. Fu's colleagues then rushed to rescue him. At around 1300, they spotted part of Fu's clothing and tried to pull him out. However, another landslide hit, causing two others to sink into the soft dirt. They were eventually pulled out and sent to a hospital for treatment. As always, our sincere condolences.

We have also posted details related to a Tennessee Firefighter who was struck on the

highway as well as a Detroit Firefighter who was nearly electrocuted, on our home page. Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 12-2-08 / 0231 hours

**AND**

Hey...

As you will recall, the Provincetown (Cape Cod, MA) VFD's only aerial ladder was destroyed in early November when one of their members had it out for a drive with a female civilian on board. And now, local police have charged the Provincetown Firefighter with driving under the influence of alcohol, stemming from that crash on Nov. 9. FF Elias Martinez, 21, was cited today by the cops after receiving his hospital medical records from the day of the wreck. FF Martinez, a steward with the PFD's ladder company, also faces a criminal charge of operating a vehicle negligently so as to endanger and charges of speeding and failing to use caution at an intersection, based on an accident reconstruction report.

**=UPDATE: GERMAN FIREFIGHTER LODD & INJURED/PHOTOS OF RECOVERY:**  
Special services have started the recovery of the Firefighter killed in the Line of Duty in Germany last weekend. Sadly, his body is still within the debris inside the silo. The recovery is very difficult as there is significant danger of collapse and/or falling down of other concrete debris. Today, the special services (from a demolition company) are attempting to bore a hole in the wall of the silo from the outside....and they are doing it while working on a platform, hanging on a crane.

NOTE: We have posted photos of this unusual recovery on our home page. The Firefighter who was killed in the Line of Duty was 24 years old and married about 2 months ago. 3 of the 4 critically injured FF's are stable...and one of those was the Incident Commander. The 4th FF is being kept comatose by the doctors and remains in critical condition.

**=UPDATE: TENNESSEE FIREFIGHTER STRUCK-WAS WEARING VEST:**  
FF Michael McKinney was wearing his traffic vest but as we often see, the public may not notice the equipment, lights or FF's wearing vests in the roadway. While vests play a critical role, we also must manage the traffic which often can include blocking any areas where we may be working with apparatus. How to operate on roadways? Check out [www.ResponderSafety.com](http://www.ResponderSafety.com)

**=====REMEMBER THE WORCESTER 6:**

Don't let the members of your FD forget the Worcester Cold Storage building fire on Franklin Street... and their "common bond" with the 6 WFD Firefighters who were killed in the Line of Duty on December 3rd, 1999.

Here are links:

<http://www.firefighterclosecalls.com/maillist/archive.php?id=SecretList&issueID=73>

<http://www.firehouse.com/worcester/> (Complete coverage)

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 12-3-08 / 0645 hours

**AND:**

Hey...

A civilian involved in a crash with a Jacksonville Fire Rescue Battalion Chief's SUV 12 days ago had died and the cops are still investigating why the wreck occurred. Mr. Howard Corrigan was driving his pickup when it was struck by the fire department SUV that crossed an intersection. Mr. Corrigan was ejected, treated and was transported to the hospital where he died later that day, but the Jacksonville Sheriff's Office did not release his name or any information about his death until Wednesday. The Jacksonville FD vehicle had its lights and siren on at the time of the collision and the chief was responding to a fire.

**...SOMETIMES WE MUST TAKE RISKS:**

**BABY TRIPLETS RESCUED IN MONTGOMERY COUNTY (MD) ...FIREFIGHTERS HURT:**

2 1/2-year-old triplet boys are now in critical condition after being heroically rescued from a house fire by Montgomery County Firefighters. Firefighters responded to the reported fire in Bethesda around 1330 hours and when companies arrived, the triplets' Father told firefighters that he had tried to grab his children, but couldn't. 2 Firefighters suffered minor injuries while rescuing the babies from the upstairs bedroom...the Father was taken to a hospital for possible burns and smoke inhalation.

Here is more information and the communications tapes from Dave Statter911:  
<http://www.wusa9.com/news/columnist/blogs/2008/12/maryland-firefighters-rescue-triplets.html>

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 12-4-08 / 0458 hours

**AND:**

Hey...

Five days after the explosion in that malt silo in Rheindürkheim (Germany) that killed a Firefighter in the Line of Duty, his remains have finally been recovered as of late yesterday. Special forces of a demolition company drilled a hole in the wall of the silo and secured the damaged concrete ceiling from the danger of collapse. A team of high angle rescue firefighters from Mannheim Fire Brigade recovered his body which was lying under concrete debris. Other Firefighters remain in the hospital.

In the case of many Firefighter LODD's here and abroad, the questions are being asked at various levels specifically in Germany if the LODD could have been avoided? The media is covering comments from the public as well as German Firefighting experts as far as why the firefighters entered the silo despite the high danger of explosion. There is a known history of the problems with fires in the malt silos, including the predictability of explosions. One theory is that vaporized water for the firefighting caused such a high pressure within the silo that the outer wall of the silo was blown up. The LODD is under investigation of the district prosecutor of Mainz.

THANKS FOR SENDING MORE THAN JUST A CAR AND A FIREFIGHTER. The tones went off and like thousands of firefighters everyday, Capt. Kimonti Oglesby, Lt. Curtis Warfield Jr and Firefighter John Klavon went out the door...along with a couple of dozen others. After all, it was a fire call and one firefighter in a car might work if the report turned out to be nothing...but just in case, Montgomery County Fire & Rescue and it's companies sends a tad more...just in case. Just in case there are baby triplets trapped in the house. Ya neva know.

After arrival and finding it was what the caller reported, taking immediate interior actions and searching with interior and exterior support, they found the little babies. Last night, the babies Aiden, Bryson and Coleson Petrucelli remain alive, hospitalized in critical condition. The firefighters who rescued them are fine. They did their job. They took a few dollars of tax money and transformed it into priceless service...how 'bout that?

While some calls we respond to are not critical, many are...but we don't know that until we get there and determine it. That's why must send a first alarm that heavily matches the worst predictable outcome of the reported problem...and turn'm around it if it isn't needed when we get there. That's what's best for the public-and those expected to handle the emergency. The purest form of local Government. The difference between a cheap penny-pinched insurance policy and one that costs a few bucks up front, but one that protects you and yours when you have a problem.

While we received numerous e-mails agreeing on the stupidity of even the suggestion by that writer (<http://firefighterclosecalls.com/fullstory.php?75977>) of sending a Firefighter in a car to determine if the FD is needed, we also received a very small handful of e-mails from Firefighters who felt that maybe checking out reported fires might be a good idea. We aren't going to debate that other than to suggest that those who "aren't sure" swing by Washington Hospital Center and check out the Petrucelli kids. The alive Petrucelli kids due to heroic Maryland Firefighters as a part of a well staffed and heavy 1st alarm. There were no smoke detectors in the house. But thanks to the 1st, 2nd, 3rd and all due companies and officers who responded simultaneously to that call, the babies are alive. Volunteer or Career Firefighters who think less staffing, less companies and less response is a good idea to save the taxpayers some pennies need to reconsider being firefighters.

Here is an excellent account of the step by step actions taken from the moment the fire was reported:

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/story/2008/12/05/ST2008120501082.html>

Here is additional coverage from Dave Statter911 including the 9-1-1 call: <http://www.wusa9.com/news/columnist/blogs/2008/12/maryland-firefighters-rescue-triplets.html>

#### **DETROIT LODD FOLLOWUP:**

Here is an article about the recent LODD of Senior Firefighter Walter Harris. Be sure to take a few minutes to read this diverse piece:

<http://www.freep.com/article/20081204/COL10/812040426/?imw=Y>

#### **FIRE DEPARTMENT CUTS/POSSIBLE CUTS, IN THE NEWS:**

FDNY CUTS: <http://www.nyc.gov/html/fdny/insider/index.shtml>

ATLANTA CUTS:

[http://www.ajc.com/news/content/metro/atlanta/stories/2008/12/04/atlanta\\_budget\\_fire.html](http://www.ajc.com/news/content/metro/atlanta/stories/2008/12/04/atlanta_budget_fire.html)

PHOENIX CUTS:

[http://www.abc15.com/content/news/phoenixmetro/story/Police-firefighter-jobs-at-risk-in-Phoenix-budget/9sE1H71EUEuoB5Za0EU\\_0w.csp](http://www.abc15.com/content/news/phoenixmetro/story/Police-firefighter-jobs-at-risk-in-Phoenix-budget/9sE1H71EUEuoB5Za0EU_0w.csp)

MICHIGAN FIRE CHIEF LAID OFF: <http://www.wndu.com/home/headlines/35496559.html>

VIRGINIA: <http://www.whsv.com/news/headlines/34480049.html>

When fire rescue services are cut, the public needs to understand what those cuts will absolutely mean to them when they dial 9-1-1 without anyone pretending the cuts won't be a big deal.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 12-5-08 / 1003 hours

**AND:**

## **WISCONSIN FIREFIGHTER DIES IN THE LINE OF DUTY AT TRAINING**

We regret to advise you of the Line of Duty Death of Lt. Rick Borkin of the Thiensville (WI) FD. The students had just completed live fire training (exterior natural gas props) and were in the process of picking up hose and heading back inside. Lt. Borkin apparently started to not feel well and walked over to a department vehicle to sit down and take his gear off. When other FF's came around the corner of the tower, they found him crumpled on the ground pulseless and not breathing. CPR was started immediately, an ALS unit was only minutes away and they worked him for an extended amount of time...but sadly he passed away in the Line of Duty at the training grounds. Lt. Borkin was 16 year member of the Thiensville Fire Department (WI), a volunteer department, and he was attending a State Certified Firefighter 2 Class at Milwaukee Area Technical College South Campus.

This is the 107th LODD for 2008. As always, our most sincere condolences to the members of the TFD but especially the family and friends of Lt. Borkin.

## **PA FIREFIGHTER SHOCKED:**

A Pittston (PA) Firefighter was hospitalized early yesterday morning when he was shocked at the scene of a working fire. The FF was injured when an electrical line snapped off a utility pole and fell across the fire apparatus. The FF was standing near the pumps at the truck when the wire fell and draped across the rig...the FF felt a little discomfort but is in good condition and was admitted for observation last night.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 12-9-08 / 1220 hours

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

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

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

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

**A sobering reality for most fire departments – “Nations fire departments face challenges in staffing and water access:”**

<http://www.insurancejournal.com/news/national/2008/12/02/95955.htm>

**The North Lake Tahoe (NV) Fire Protection District will not be hiring for two open firefighter/paramedic positions and asking an assistant chief to go back to battalion chief to fill a recently created vacancy, due to budget challenges:**

<http://www.tahoebonanza.com/article/20081121/NEWS/811209947/1001/NONE&parentprofile%3D1050&title%3DFire%20district%20to%20cut%20back%2C%20leave%20positions%20unfilled>

**Even the Fire Department New York (FDNY) is being asked to reduce staffing – four companies will go out of service each night:**

[http://www.nytimes.com/2008/12/05/nyregion/05firehouses.html?\\_r=1&ref=nyregion](http://www.nytimes.com/2008/12/05/nyregion/05firehouses.html?_r=1&ref=nyregion)

**The city of Santa Rosa (CA) is asking it’s workers to not take raises to help balance their budget:**

[http://www1.pressdemocrat.com/article/20081124/NEWS/811240313/1033?Title=City\\_wants\\_workers\\_to\\_give\\_up\\_raises](http://www1.pressdemocrat.com/article/20081124/NEWS/811240313/1033?Title=City_wants_workers_to_give_up_raises)

**An interesting article regarding how some folks think the fire service should cut their budgets and work more efficiently:**

<http://www.daytondailynews.com/o/content/oh/story/opinions/editorial/2008/11/30/ddn113008peircexxeb.html?cxtype=rss&cxsvc=7&cxcat=22>

**The Mesa (AZ) Fire Department is really struggling trying to save money, and is looking at creative ways to keep resources available:**

<http://www.azcentral.com/community/mesa/articles/2008/12/05/20081205mr-fireplan1205.html>

**The City of Tempe (AZ) is looking at serious budget problems, which may lead to layoffs:**

<http://www.azcentral.com/community/tempe/articles/2008/11/25/20081125tr-budget1126.html>

The Barstow (CA) Fire Protection District is faced with reducing engine company staffing from three to two if personnel call in sick or are on vacation, to help save the District money: <http://cms.firehouse.com/content/article/article.jsp?id=61773&sectionId=46>

The Reno (NV) City Council is having to cut another \$7.7 million dollars from its budget; included are the browning out of truck companies to save on staffing costs: <http://www.rgj.com/article/20081204/NEWS04/812040345/1321/NEWS>

More from the City of Reno (NV) where the Reno Fire Department is being forced to look at what is perceived to be large spending on overtime, and is being asked to look at how to work with the city to make these needed cuts: <http://www.rgj.com/article/20081205/OPED01/812050407/1098/OPED>

The Phoenix (AZ) Fire Department isn't out of the water yet, and are looking at possible police and fire job cuts: [http://www.abc15.com/content/financialsurvival/azstories/story/Police-firefighter-jobs-at-risk-in-Phoenix-budget/9sE1H71EUEuoB5Za0EU\\_0w.csp](http://www.abc15.com/content/financialsurvival/azstories/story/Police-firefighter-jobs-at-risk-in-Phoenix-budget/9sE1H71EUEuoB5Za0EU_0w.csp)

The State of Oregon Public Employees Retirement System fund tumbles with the economy, something all states with similar public safety retirement systems may be facing. Word to the wise, don't rely on your retirement to be your sole source of income; save and invest as you are still in your younger, prime earning years, and take advantage of programs your department may offer such as tax deferred compensation plans. The retirement payout sounds great the first few years, but talk to those already retired and you'll see with inflation and cost of living, that retirement sum drastically goes down as time goes by: <http://www.oregonlive.com/business/index.ssf?/base/business/1228451123318180.xml&coll=7>

The city of Atlanta (GA) will cut another 222 jobs and temporarily close a fire station and several recreation centers as it wrestles an expected revenue shortfall of at least \$50 million, Mayor Shirley Franklin said Tuesday. [http://www.fireengineering.com/display\\_news/170698/25/none/Atlanta\\_budget\\_cuts\\_into\\_the\\_bone:\\_Station\\_to\\_close](http://www.fireengineering.com/display_news/170698/25/none/Atlanta_budget_cuts_into_the_bone:_Station_to_close)

While the Milwaukee (WI) Mayor was looking at reducing Ladder Company crews from five to four personnel (most departments are lucky if they can staff three personnel on a Ladder/Truck company) to save money, the City Council was thinking otherwise, determining they would rather find the money to staff the Ladder Companies with five and take the budget cuts elsewhere. An amazing story as many city councils are not so fire department friendly in tough economic times: <http://www.azcentral.com/community/tempe/articles/2008/11/25/20081125tr-budget1126.html>

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**Fire Department Consolidation / Merger Related Stories:**

The town of Fountain Hills (AZ) is weighing it's options for fire protection services as it's contract with the controversial private fire provider, Rural Metro, comes to an end:  
<http://www.fhtimes.com/times/2008/120308/fireservice.html>

Four firefighters were arrested after a wild bar brawl that erupted after they hassled a Staten Island man for wearing an **FDNY** T-shirt, law enforcement officials said Monday:  
[http://www.nydailynews.com/news/ny\\_crime/2008/12/08/2008-12-08\\_four\\_fdney\\_firefighters\\_busted\\_in\\_bar\\_bra.html](http://www.nydailynews.com/news/ny_crime/2008/12/08/2008-12-08_four_fdney_firefighters_busted_in_bar_bra.html)

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**Public Relations Nightmare Stories:**

Two Washington D.C. Firefighters are on Administrative Leave after fighting with each other while on a call:  
<http://cms.firehouse.com/content/article/article.jsp?sectionId=46&id=61821>

And a related story from Washington D.C. where the patient is quite angry that the two firefighters were fighting: [http://www.wusa9.com/rss/local\\_article.aspx?storyid=79048](http://www.wusa9.com/rss/local_article.aspx?storyid=79048)

A New York City firefighter, critically injured when a colleague hit him with a metal chair during a firehouse fight, has reached a \$3.75 million settlement with the city:  
<http://www.newsday.com/news/nationworld/nation/wire/sns-ap-firefighter-fight%2C0%2C6585208.story>

A volunteer firefighter previously sentenced on arson charges has been re-arrested and charged with four felonies, sheriff's officials said.  
<http://cms.firehouse.com/content/article/article.jsp?id=61832&sectionId=46>

A young volunteer firefighter who joined the town fire department in his early teens at his father's side will be charged with driving under the influence of alcohol in the wreck of a ladder truck Nov. 9, police said:  
<http://www.capecodonline.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20081203/NEWS/812030307/-1/SPECIAL16>

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

Henderson (NV) Firefighters make food donations to help homeless youth:  
<http://www.azcentral.com/community/tempe/articles/2008/11/25/20081125tr-budget1126.html>

A great tribute to the six firefighters who died in the line of duty in Worcester, MA – December, 3, 1999; a statue is unveiled to honor them:  
<http://www.telegram.com/article/20081203/NEWS/812030675/1008/NEWS02>

Firefighters in Salt Lake County are conducting "Operation Cover Up," their annual blanket and coat drive, throughout the entire month of December:  
<http://deseretnews.com/article/1%2C5143%2C705267944%2C00.html>

**A Battalion Chief with the Glendale (AZ) Fire Department is in the news for his going above and beyond during the holiday season – he spearheads the department’s holiday toy drive:** <http://www.glendalestar.com/articles/2008/12/04/news/news03.txt>

**To an Arizona Fire Department, cleanliness is readiness – a look at how much they are taking pride and ownership in the apparatus and equipment, things that were purchased by the citizens they serve:**  
[http://www.yumasun.com/news/spokesman\\_46313\\_article.html/respond\\_fire.html](http://www.yumasun.com/news/spokesman_46313_article.html/respond_fire.html)

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**An arbitrator has ruled against the City of Scranton (PA) and in favor of the fire department, something that doesn’t always happen, in regards to budget cuts and maintaining staffing levels:**  
[http://thetimes-tribune.com/articles/2008/11/25/news/sc\\_times\\_trib.20081125.a.pg3.tt25award\\_s1.2115378\\_top7.txt](http://thetimes-tribune.com/articles/2008/11/25/news/sc_times_trib.20081125.a.pg3.tt25award_s1.2115378_top7.txt)

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**An SUV hits a fire crew in Omaha (NE), injuring two firefighters:**  
<http://www.ketv.com/news/18173406/detail.html>

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**An inspiring article for current or aspiring company officers who may find themselves working at a slow fire station where it may provide a challenging opportunity to inspire and motivate your crews:** <http://www.firerescue1.com/labor-issues/articles/440676-Leading-at-the-Slow-Station/>

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**Springdale (CT) Firefighters agree to have cameras placed in their firehouse:**  
[http://www.stamfordadvocate.com/news/ci\\_11117501](http://www.stamfordadvocate.com/news/ci_11117501)

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**A Phoenix (AZ) area private ambulance company (Southwest Ambulance) is under fire for a variety of reasons, including the age and condition of it’s fleet as well as longer than desired response times:**  
<http://www.azcentral.com/community/tempe/articles/2008/11/25/20081125tr-budget1126.html>

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**More information on the Federal law that went into effect nationwide on November 24, 2008, that affects all first responders (fire, law, EMS), when working on Federally aided highways and requires the wearing of reflective safety vests:**  
<http://cms.firehouse.com/content/article/article.jsp?id=61773&sectionId=46>

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**Using Positive Pressure Ventilation (PPV) inside a structure, an always controversial subject, but this article from FireRescue1.com offers some interesting points of discussion when thinking about how to provide ventilation to a structure:**  
<http://www.firerescue1.com/Columnists/Charles-Bailey/articles/438924-Interior-Use-of-Positive-Pressure-Part-1/>

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The City of Sacramento (CA) is evaluating whether to let the Battalion Chiefs back into the Firefighters Union Local: <http://www.sacbee.com/city/story/1456268.html>

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A very timely article on fireground situational awareness, one of the leading contributing factors to fireground fatalities:

[http://www.firerescuemagazine.com/articles/schmidt/schmidt\\_01DEC2008.html](http://www.firerescuemagazine.com/articles/schmidt/schmidt_01DEC2008.html)

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A bandit who stole a laptop computer and other personal items belonging to firefighters at a Los Angeles County Fire Department station in Inglewood when crews were out on a service call remained at large today. A good reminder to ALL firefighters across the nation; try to secure your station and don't leave valuables around the station unless they are properly secured: [http://www.dailybreeze.com/ci\\_11146516](http://www.dailybreeze.com/ci_11146516)

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A famous strip club in Los Angeles County (West Hollywood) recently caught fire; it would have been interesting to hear the size-up and comments made by the first arriving crews:

[http://orangecounty.cox.net/ccj/newslocal/local?\\_mode=view&view=LocalNewsArticleView&articleId=3914140&\\_action=validatearticle](http://orangecounty.cox.net/ccj/newslocal/local?_mode=view&view=LocalNewsArticleView&articleId=3914140&_action=validatearticle)

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The death of Detroit (MI) Fire Department firefighter Walter Harris in an abandoned building fire has made three things clear:

1. Detroit must treat its empty houses like the unsafe firetraps they are, even as it works to help keep Detroiters in Detroit.
2. Detroit firefighters must have the equipment and increased numbers they need to combat a problem that, unlike Detroit's population, is not declining.
3. The Detroit City Council must vote to change its charter, not just to clarify language that rendered the council impotent during the mayoral scandal, but to ensure that future councils are elected by district rather than at large.

Read more at: <http://www.freep.com/article/20081209/COL10/812090376/1081>

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

- ***Happy Holidays to you and your families!***

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

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

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

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

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