



FIRE & EMS NEWS

November 22, 2008

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

FIRE SERVICE SAFETY & TRAINING **INFORMATION:**

The following information affects all fire service, law enforcement, and emergency services personnel, and goes into effect Monday November 24, 2008. All emergency service workers (Fire, law, EMS) working on a federally aided highway (which could probably be argued as every road in the nation, minus private roads) must wear a reflective vest to ensure they are being seen by vehicles passing by.

Why does the Federal government have to regulate how we do business? Because we continue to injure and kill first responders on the highways, that's why. Yes, it may take an extra few seconds to put on that stupid vest, but that stupid vest may just save your life. And if it takes a few extra seconds, so be it. Also, remember – we didn't cause the emergency.

We are here to mitigate the emergency and the last thing we want to do is become patients our peers will have to also be treating at the scene. While there will probably not be any penalties or fines for personnel not wearing the vests, how would you like to be the supervisor (Captain, Battalion Chief, etc.) getting grilled by an attorney as to why you did not require your personnel to comply with the law, and as a result of your failure to have them wear the vests, they were seriously injured or killed? The "vest police" will more than likely not be fining or scolding us if we don't wear them....but if something bad happens to our personnel, all fingers will be pointing at us, and can you blame them?

Here is one article discussing the law:

[http://cms.firehouse.com/web/online/News/Federal-Law-to-Require-High-Visibility-Vests/46\\$61683](http://cms.firehouse.com/web/online/News/Federal-Law-to-Require-High-Visibility-Vests/46$61683)

Here is some information from the United States Fire Administration to hopefully answer some of the burning questions still out there:

Safety Concerns Raised by the Firefighting Community Regarding High-Visibility Safety Apparel Result in Modification to Vest Rule

November 21, 2008 -- The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) today issued an Interim Final Rule to address safety concerns raised by the firefighting community regarding high-visibility safety apparel (see **Worker Visibility Final Rule - 23 CFR Part 634**, below).

The Interim Final Rule:

- Revises the definition of "worker" to exclude firefighters when they are exposed to flame, fire, high heat or hazardous materials.
- Exempts firefighters from the requirement to use high-visibility safety apparel, as defined in this rule, when they are exposed to hazardous conditions where the use of such apparel may increase the risk of injury to firefighter personnel.

The Interim Final Rule is available at <http://edocket.access.gpo.gov/2008/E8-27671.htm>

Worker Visibility Final Rule - 23 CFR Part 634

A new FHWA regulation ([Worker Visibility Final Rule - 23 CFR Part 634](#)) that goes into effect on November 24, 2008 requires firefighters and other first responders responding to or working at an incident on federally funded highways to wear a retro reflective safety vest that meets the Class II or III standards of the **American National Standards Institute/International Safety Equipment Association (ANSI/ISEA) 107-2004** publication. The **ANSI/ISEA 207-2006 Public Safety Vest** standard has also been interpreted as meeting this requirement. For more information, visit [ResponderSafety.com](#) or discuss this on the [USFA Blog](#).

FIRE SERVICE TRAINING & EDUCATION INFORMATION:

If you have not heard of 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

FIRE NUGGETS TO BECOME A FREE ACCESS WEBSITE!

Fire Nuggets Supporters,

Fire Nuggets is entering their 10th 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.

Chabot College Fire & EMS News

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 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

CALIFORNIA STATE FIRE MARSHAL'S MONTHLY REPORT:

- **Download your monthly report from the California State Fire Marshal at <http://calchiefs.org/items/SFMReportNovember2008.pdf>**

FIRE SERVICE EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES:

FIREHIRE is going to be accepting applications for Firefighter / EMT and Firefighter / Paramedic positions until November 30, 2008. For a list of departments that will be hiring off of this list, take a look at the list on the following pages.

- **OVER 20 DIFFERENT FIRE DEPARTMENTS WILL BE HIRING OFF THIS LIST!!!**

If you don't make this application cut-off date, you'll have to wait for future application filing deadlines:

- May 31, 2009
 - November 30, 2009
 - May 31, 2010
 - November 30, 2010
- **TO SEE THE HUNDREDS OF NAMES OF CANDIDATES HIRED OFF OF PAST FIREHIRE LISTS, GO TO: HTTP://FIREHIRE.COM/CANDIDATES_HIRED.HTM**

Benefits of taking this test include:

- You're only taking one test (as opposed to separate tests for each fire department)
- The hiring list will be in effect for one year
- There is a chance other fire departments will hire off of this list

You may be wondering, is any fire department going to be hiring? Of course! While the California budget crisis has impacted a number of their clients, and there are some agencies that do not have or do not anticipate any openings in the next year, there are always going to be some departments that will be hiring.

Why then would a department participate if they were not planning on hiring? Well, number one, things can and do change. Just because a department does not have any openings as of this moment, does not mean that situation cannot change over night. Firefighters retire,

firefighters get injured, firefighters quit (usually to go to other departments), many times without any advance notice to the department. Number two, many fire departments are required to keep a current, active hiring list because of their civil service rules or union contract. Even if they do not anticipate hiring, many departments still have to have a current list. Why is that so? Well, just like number one, things can and do change. Additionally, it allows them to get the most current “best-of-the-best” candidates out there. Even though fire departments are facing severe (or potentially severe) budget shortfalls, it does not mean they won’t ever hire again. Departments will have to hire at some time in the future to fill vacancies from retirements, permanent injuries, etc. The question is when, and **the bottom line is that if you are not actively testing and on the current hiring list, you do not stand a chance at getting a badge!**

The financial situation in the State is very dynamic and it is just a matter of time when it gets better (when exactly is anyone’s guess). If you decide not to test because of the budget problems, that is your choice. Many departments **ONLY** hire candidates from the [Firehire](http://www.firehire.com) testing process. So, if you don’t take the test, you don’t stand a chance.

Some of the fire departments might have other requirements (view the Firehire web site at www.firehire.com for more specific information) such as:

- EMT
- Paramedic
- Firefighter – 1 Academy
- Firefighter – 1 Certificate

For application materials or more information, visit their website at www.firehire.com or if you do not have internet access, call them at 1-800-755-5891.

The following fire departments are expected to be participating (based on the information I had available at the time I printed this document) in this recruitment and will be using the list that is established to hire for open positions:

<u>Fire Department</u>	<u>Positions available</u>
• Albany Fire Department –	Firefighter/Paramedic
• American Canyon F.P.D. –	Firefighter/EMT
• Big Bear Lake F.P.D. –	Firefighter/Paramedic
• Central County Fire Department –	Firefighter/EMT & Firefighter/Paramedic
• Cosumnes Community Services F.P.D.	Firefighter/EMT & Firefighter/Paramedic
• El Cerrito Fire Department –	Firefighter/Paramedic
• Kentfield Fire Protection District –	Firefighter/EMT
• Larkspur Fire Protection District –	Firefighter/EMT
• Millbrae Fire Department –	Firefighter/EMT & Firefighter/Paramedic
• Mill Valley Fire Department –	Firefighter/EMT & Firefighter/Paramedic
• Mountain View Fire Department –	Firefighter/EMT & Firefighter/Paramedic
• North County Fire Authority -	Firefighter/EMT & Firefighter/Paramedic
• Novato Fire Protection District –	Firefighter/Paramedic

- [Petaluma Fire Department](#) – Firefighter/EMT & Firefighter/Paramedic
- [Piedmont Fire Department](#) – Firefighter/EMT & Firefighter/Paramedic
- [Redwood City Fire Department](#) – Firefighter/EMT & Firefighter/Paramedic
- [Rio Vista Fire Department](#) – Firefighter/Paramedic
- [Ross Valley Fire Authority](#) – Firefighter/EMT & Firefighter/Paramedic
- [San Bruno Fire Department](#) – Firefighter/EMT
- [San Mateo Fire Department](#) – Firefighter/EMT & Firefighter/Paramedic
- [South Lake Tahoe Fire Department](#) – Firefighter/Paramedic
- [Vallejo Fire Department](#) – Firefighter/Paramedic
- [Woodside Fire District](#) – Firefighter/EMT & Firefighter/Paramedic

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

U.S. Fire Administration Seeks a Safer “Home Fire Season” *Fatal Home Fires Jumped Nearly 68% during Cooler Months*

Release Date: November 13, 2008

WASHINGTON, D.C. – “Home fire season” starts now, and the U.S. Fire Administration (USFA) is working to make this year’s cold months safer than last years—when there was a dramatic increase in home fire deaths. According to the USFA, during the “home fire season” of October 2007 to March 2008, there was a 68% increase in the number of fatal home fires and a 67% increase in the number of people killed in home fires, compared to the warmer months.

Not including arson-related deaths, from April 2007 through September 2007 at least 589 people were killed in home fires. When it became cooler, from October 2007 through March 2008, at least 982 people were killed in home fires.

Through its **Smoking & Home Fires Campaign** - www.usfa.dhs.gov/campaigns/smoking/, the USFA wants to make this season safer, especially as it relates to the number one cause of preventable home fire deaths in the nation -- fires caused by smoking materials.

“Every year, about 1,000 people are killed in smoking-related home fires,” says U.S. Fire Administrator Gregory B. Cade. “Smokers tend to smoke inside their homes more often because it’s cooler outside, so what’s important to remember is that smoking home fires can easily be prevented.” He added, “It just takes a few seconds to light up – and a few seconds to make sure that cigarette is really out.”

During this time of the year, the use of holiday lighting, ornamental candles and space heaters also raises the risk of home fires.

Here’s what you can do to prevent a smoking home fire:

November 22, 2008

www.chabotfire.com

Chabot College Fire & EMS News

- If you feel you must smoke, it's better to smoke outside.
- Inside the home, use big ashtrays with a stable base.
- Really put the cigarette out, don't just tap it into the ashtray.
- It's not a good idea to smoke if you are drowsy, and never smoke in bed.
- If people smoke while at your home, check for cigarette butts near the furniture and under sofa cushions before you call it a night.
- Douse butts and ashes with water before you toss them into the trash.
- If you or someone in your family smokes, **Put It Out. All the Way. Every Time.**

The USFA has **materials for consumers, firefighters, and the media** – www.usfa.dhs.gov/campaigns/smoking/materials/index.shtm including a video demonstrating how fast a smoldering cigarette can ignite and consume a room.

Through its *Smoking & Home Fires Campaign*, the USFA is reminding smokers and those who live with smokers to make sure smoking materials are properly extinguished and that they “Put It Out. All the Way. Every Time.”

USFA data show that one-in-four people killed in home fires is not the smoker whose cigarette caused the fire. In fact, 34% were children of the smokers and 25% were neighbors or friends of the smokers. Most smoking-related home fires happen on beds, furniture, or in trash when smokers do not put cigarettes all the way out, toss hot ashes in the trash or fall asleep while smoking. Launched in January 2008, the USFA's *Smoking & Home Fires Campaign* is working in partnership with 16 national organizations to spread the message about fire safety including the:

- American Fire Sprinkler Association
- Business and Institutional Furniture Manufacturer's Association International (BIFMA)
- Burn Foundation
- Center for Campus Fire Safety
- International Association of Fire Chiefs (IAFC)
- Fire and Life Safety Section (part of IAFC)
- Florida Association of Fire and Life Safety Educators
- Home Safety Council
- International Association of Black Professional Firefighters
- National Association of Hispanic Firefighters
- National Fallen Firefighters Foundation
- National Fire Protection Association
- National Volunteer Fire Council
- Polyurethane Foam Association
- Residential Fire Safety Institute
- SAFE KIDS Worldwide

The free campaign materials include a CD Toolkit with English and Spanish posters, brochures, fact sheets, public service announcements, PowerPoint presentations, an engaging video of a smoking-home fire demonstration, and more. The USFA also has video and radio PSAs available. The materials are available online and can be ordered or downloaded by visiting www.usfa.dhs.gov/campaigns/smoking/. Fire departments and community organizations are encouraged to use these free materials.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY – FIRE CHIEF:

The [Sedona Fire District](http://www.sedonafire.org) is currently looking to fill the position of **Fire Chief**, as seen in the job announcement - www.sedonafire.org/CurrentOpeningsFireChief.html

For more information about the **Sedona Fire District**, go to: www.sedonafire.org

For more information about the **Community of Sedona**, visit: www.visitsedona.com

NATIONAL FIRE ACADEMY 2ND SEMESTER APPLICATION PERIOD IS NOW OPEN!

National Fire Academy Second Semester Application Period

The 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:
www.usfa.dhs.gov/nfa/about/index.shtm

You will find the current course schedule at: 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:
www.usfa.dhs.gov/nfa/about/attend/apply.shtm

If you have specific questions, please contact the person listed for the course you are interested in or submit a question through the comment form by clicking on the 'Contact Us' link at the top of any of the above mentioned pages.

FIRE SERVICE TRAINING INFORMATION, COURTESY OF THE NATIONAL FALLEN FIREFIGHTERS FOUNDATION:

Prince William Co., Virginia Report: LODD Procedures Review and Recommendations

The purpose of this special report, prepared by the [National Fallen Firefighters Foundation \(NFFF\)](http://www.nfff.org), was to determine if there were viable options or improvements to Prince William County, Virginia Department of Fire & Rescue's current Line-of-Duty Death (LODD) procedures. Those same options would also be incorporated into the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation (NFFF) policies and/or procedures for sharing with all fire/rescue departments.

- To download the report, go to:
<http://firehero.00b.org/ajtk/servlet/JJ?H=13arpg&R=657208540>

FIRE SERVICE TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES:

National Fire Academy (NFA) Training Opportunities

(As of November 20, 2008)

Vacancies exist in the following NFA courses at the National Emergency Training Center in Emmitsburg, Maryland. You may refer to the internet at www.usfa.dhs.gov/nfa for more information, or contact the Admissions Office via email netc-admissions@dhs.gov or by phone at (301) 447-1035. Completed FEMA Form 75-5 applications may be faxed to (301) 447-1441.

If interested, apply immediately!

Note: The NFA policy of only 1 stipend-supported trip per fiscal year remains. However, a qualified individual may seek to participate without stipend assistance. PLEASE INDICATE with your application that you are aware of this restriction when you apply for the course.

FAQ – NFA Vacancy Lists

Q: Why are there vacancies at the National Fire Academy? Are enrollments down?

A: Enrollments in the National Fire Academy (NFA) are actually up. Last year, in cooperation with our State training partners, our on-line training at NFAOnline, and in our resident and off-campus delivery program, the NFA reached 108,000 fire service professionals. In 1995 we

trained just 15,000. Like every college, we plan our academic year based on last year's enrollments, the number of new courses on the schedule, waiting lists for current courses and the calendar and our best estimate of the demand for courses the following year. It's not an exact science.

Vacancies occur for any number of reasons – some classes have low demand because the number of fire department members doing that job is low (e.g. public educators, data analysts, training, plans review, budget), but these courses are in many ways critical to the success of fire and life safety and the administration of the fire department. Other times we may overestimate the demand. When that happens, we cancel a low-demand course, move the enrolled students into another delivery of that course and use the funds to run an additional high-demand course.

Q: It seems that I'm hearing more about vacancies than I ever have in the past. Why is that?

A: Well, you are. Before widespread communication using web sites and email, the NFA relied on last minute telephone calls to fill seats. We couldn't announce the vacancies in sufficient time to get the students here to campus. Now, with improved communications, the increased membership and support of the Alumni Association and the participation of many of the fire service organizations, we distribute vacancy announcements in a matter of minutes. It is working very well.

What you are seeing, though, is only the vacancies. We never send out the list of classes that are already filled and have a waiting list. The lists show only the few vacancies we have.

Q: I don't apply during the application period, I like to wait to see what classes have vacancies before I apply, is that a good idea?

A: NO! The first requirement for a student's eligibility to attend the NFA is their current job responsibility (Box #16). If you wait, it is likely that the courses you qualify for will be filled by others in the normal application process. When that happens, you lose the best chance you had to attend the NFA. Worse, if applications are low, the class you seek may be cancelled. The most useful and valuable course for you may never show up on a vacancy list. The better strategy is to apply during the normal application periods (May 1- June 30 and Nov 1 to Dec 30). Remember, if you qualify, you may apply for two different courses in the same semester (using a separate application for each); however, you will only receive a stipend for one trip per fiscal year (Oct 1 through Sept 30)

Q: Why are there waiting lists and vacancy lists at the same time?

A: Our courses are academically rigorous, and every class is considered mid- to upper-level college course work. It is important to ensure that each student is capable of success in the course before being admitted.

Students are accepted to the NFA based on the 'target audience' criteria listed in the catalog. We want to make sure that the course is a benefit to both the fire department and the students when they return; and is of sufficient complexity to advance the student's

knowledge to improve local service delivery. Students who do not meet the 'target' criteria would slow the class down, and expose the student to possible failure.

It is more important to fill a seat with a qualified student than it is to simply fill a vacancy. This ensures success for the department, the student and the rest of the class.

Q: What is the most frequent cause of application rejection?

1. Used the wrong application. For resident courses, applicants should submit the long form (75-5) application which requires the chief's signature
2. Didn't fill out the application completely
3. Didn't sign the application, or have the Fire Chief sign the application
4. Failure to describe your activities/responsibilities as they relate to the course for which you are applying and identify how you will use the information obtained from the course. (Box 16).

Q: Any suggestions to increase my chances of success?

A: On our website, there is a document that provides eight "tips" for completing a successful application. It only takes a minute – but will dramatically improve your chances for success:

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

All vacancies are filled on a first come, first served basis and qualified by using the Student Selection Criteria listed on our Website: www.usfa.dhs.gov/nfa

1st Semester FY2009:

R149	EMS: Mgmt of Community Health Risk 2/2/09-2/13/09	8 vacancies
R335	Administration of Public Assistance For Community Recovery 1/25/09-1/30/09	2 vacancies
R359	Discovering the Road to High-Risk Audiences 2/1/09-2/6/09	5 vacancies
R491	NFIRS: Program Manager 2/1/09-2/6/09	10 vacancies

FIREFIGHTER EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY – CAL FIRE:

The **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.



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The hiring process:

After submitting an application, it is reviewed and given a preliminary score based on your education, training and experience. The more boxes you can check the more points you can get. By mid March you should receive a letter indicating weather you passed the preliminary evaluation. If a passing score is given you may then be invited to an interview. The interview is 100 percent of you score. Because each unit must follow the same guidelines for hiring you can expect to hear the same, or close to the same questions at each interview. This can be a big help when trying to improve your interviewing skills. So the more units that you apply to the better chance you have to interview and improve.

Typically an interview panel is made up of an engineer and a captain. In some cases at the completion of your interview you are given your score, in other cases it is mailed to you. Your score is based from 0 to 100 points. Typically you need to get a score in the upper 90's to be considered for employment. By mid May you should have received a letter indicating 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.

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

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

What CAL FIRE can offer you?

CAL FIRE is an all risk fire department. They respond to an average of 6,400 wildland fires annually and more than 275,000 non-wildfire emergencies each year. As a firefighter I you will gain experience in working on an engine as part of an engine company. You will get

Chabot College Fire & EMS News

experience working at emergencies under stressful situation. You will learn what station life is like and how to work with people of different backgrounds in that environment.

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

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

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

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

Minimum Qualifications for Seasonal Firefighter positions:

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

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

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

FIREFIGHTER TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES
AROUND THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA :

Go to 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.

L.A.F.D. INFORMATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES:

Some opportunities to get to know more about the Los Angeles Fire Department, courtesy of my friend Brian Humphrey:

Dear Friend of the LAFD:

We've got some exciting Los Angeles Fire Department events planned in the coming weeks - to which you are cordially invited. Please save the dates, and plan on joining us for these special events:

November 23 & December 5, 2008

- Metrolink Holiday Toy Express (San Fernando Valley locations)

<http://metrolinktrains.com>

November 28, 2008 - December 24, 2008

- 'Spark of Love' Holiday Toy Program

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

Here are some LAFD articles of interest...

- Is Danger Lurking in Your Clothes Dryer?

<http://snipurl.com/58z9o>

- A City Council Farewell to the 'Most Powerful Man in Hollywood'

<http://snipurl.com/59z37>

- 12 Point Checklist for Portable Heater Safety

<http://snipurl.com/59z3h>

- Daily News and USA Today highlight LAFD Widgets:

<http://snipurl.com/59z12>

- LAFD Mailbag: A Testament To Engine & Rescue 78

<http://snipurl.com/59z2a>

- Does the Miracle of Mark Tomita Live in You?

<http://snipurl.com/59z5k>

- A Firefighter's Challenge... Often a Floor Above

<http://snipurl.com/59z2m>

- LAFD Mailbag: High Flying Praise For Los Angeles Firefighters

<http://snipurl.com/59z2x>

Chabot College Fire & EMS News

- LAFD Partners With The Allstate Foundation for Disaster Preparedness
<http://snipurl.com/59z3u>

- LAFD Paramedics: An Art Guided By Science
<http://snipurl.com/59z62>

- LAFD Fire Station Construction Update
<http://snipurl.com/59z4e>

- Metrolink Holiday Toy Express Arrives in the San Fernando Valley!
<http://snipurl.com/662nt>

- LAFD's Promise: You Will Never Walk Alone:
<http://snipurl.com/662p6>

- Protecting Your Home From Wildfire (Video):
<http://snipurl.com/63822>

- 3 Steps to Safe Wildfire Evacuation (Video):
<http://snipurl.com/662s5>

- What Do Fire Officials Mean When They Say 'Containment'?:
<http://snipurl.com/662td>

- Help Sought in Identifying Cause of Sayre Fire:
<http://snipurl.com/662ug>

- LAFD Needs Elves:
<http://snipurl.com/662ux>

- LAFD Toy Safety Widget Arrives for the Holidays
<http://snipurl.com/662vp>

- The Day That Wasn't... Yet!
<http://snipurl.com/662xe>

Do you know someone who would like to join (or leave) our e-mail list? Simply have them visit: <http://lafd.org/info.htm>

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

Respectfully Yours in Safety and Service,

Brian Humphrey, Firefighter/Specialist - Public Service Officer
Los Angeles Fire Department

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

FIRE & EMS VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES:

Go to www.chabotfire.com and click on **VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES** to find valuable information on numerous volunteer opportunities. Having some form of volunteer experience on your resume is a **must** for every firefighter candidate as many departments ask questions in their oral interview relating to how much volunteer experience do you have. Do something, and it's never too late to start building your resume and more importantly, giving something back to your community or someone in need.

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

NIOSH Supports Seat Belt Use by Firefighters

Emmitsburg, MD - The U.S. Fire Administration (USFA) is pleased to announce that the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) has added its logo to the National Fire Service Seat Belt Pledge 100% Participation Certificate. This endorsement of the seat belt campaign, by NIOSH Acting Director Dr. Christine Branche, reinforces the importance of wearing these safety devices to the American Fire Service.

U.S. Fire Administrator Greg Cade said, "We are grateful to NIOSH for adding their logo to the Seat Belt Pledge 100% Certificate. We welcome their participation to further support our efforts to encourage and remind firefighters to buckle up."

The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health joins the U.S. Fire Administration, the International Association of Fire Chiefs, the National Volunteer Fire Council, the National Fire Protection Association, and the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation as leading supporters of the Fire Service Seat Belt Pledge Campaign. To date, over 70,000 firefighters have taken the pledge and approximately 300 fire departments have received a 100% Certificate for their accomplishment in getting all personnel to sign the pledge. The goal of this program is 1,000,000 firefighter signatures and 30,000 fire departments with 100% participation.

Dr. Christine Branche of NIOSH said, "Motor vehicle-related crashes are the second leading cause of death for firefighters, and reducing this toll on our nation's firefighters is a priority for NIOSH. Wearing seat belts is an essential component of efforts to ensure the safety of firefighters in fire apparatus and vehicles."

For further information regarding this effort and to see which fire departments in your State have achieved 100% participation in the Fire Service Seat Belt Pledge Campaign, visit www.trainingdivision.com/seatbeltpledge.asp. There you can access and download the pledge signature form, learn how to receive a 100% Certificate for your organization, read success stories, identify supporters, and receive additional campaign material.

FIRE PHOTOS FROM SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA:

Many of you may not have seen some of the most spectacular pictures taken from the most recent devastating California fires.

You may want to check this link out:

http://www.boston.com/bigpicture/2008/11/california_wildfires_yet_again.html

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: <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: <http://www.bates.ctc.edu/firefighter/>

FIRE SERVICE TRAINING & SAFETY INFO:

FIREFIGHTER LIFE SAFETY**Media CENTER**

LEARNING

Everyone Goes Home® Learning Media Center E-Alert - November 13, 2008



This Month's Feature
[Peer Pressure Touches All of Us](#)
This presentation looks at the effects of peer pressure on firefighter life safety.
» [Click Here to View This Media Clip](#)

» Archive: [More Learning Media](#)

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



www.everyonegoeshome.com

HOLIDAY GIFTS THAT KEEP ON GIVING:

With 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
 - b. Fire Engineering magazine – www.fire-eng.com
 - c. Fire Chief magazine – www.firechief.com
 - d. Fire Rescue magazine – www.firerescuemagazine.com
 - e. Fire Apparatus Journal – www.fireapparatusjournal.com
 - f. Journal of Emergency Services (JEMS) – 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
 - b. Careers in the Fire Service – 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
 - b. California Conference of Arson Investigators – www.arson.org
 - c. Women in the Fire Service – www.i-women.org
 - d. California Fire Prevention Officers Association – 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 – 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

Chabot College Fire & EMS News

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).

Additional 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

Thanks to my good friend **Brian Humphrey**, Public Safety Officer (Firefighter / Public Service Officer) with the [Los Angeles Fire Department](#) 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!).

Even 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.

FIRE SERVICE EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY:

Some information I was asked to pass on by Chief Dillon of the North Tahoe Fire Protection District!

Just a note to let you know the [North Tahoe Fire Protection District](#) has a Part-Time Paid Firefighter program. We encourage those with an academy certificate to contact us to complete their FF-I training record and gain valuable experience. We also offer a 2 year Apprentice Firefighter program for those who already have their FF-I cert and EMT-Basic. This program assigns them to a shift (48/96) to build their resume and earn a paycheck.

We are in Placer County and our mailing address is NTFPD; P.O.Box 5879; 300 North Lake Blvd., Tahoe City CA. 96145; 530-546-8514

Thanks!

Pat Dillon
Battalion Chief, Training Division
North Tahoe Fire Protection District
P.O.Box 5879
Tahoe City, CA. 96145
530-546-8514
Visit our website at: www.ntfire.net

CANDIDATE PHYSICAL ABILITY TEST (CPAT) INFORMATION:

The Candidate Physical Ability Test (CPAT) is a must have for any person planning on becoming a firefighter. More and more departments are requiring a candidate to possess a CPAT completion card (no older than one year) just to apply for their department. If you do not possess a current CPAT, you do not pass go, you do not collect two hundred dollars, and you miss out on the opportunity to compete for a firefighter position at many departments. The CPAT does not guarantee that you will be a successful firefighter. Successfully passing the CPAT means that you should be able to enter a firefighter academy at a reasonable level of fitness appropriate to the job. I encourage you to learn more about the CPAT, and also

look into having this certificate on your resume. Trust me, this may be an eye-opener for some – many of you will not pass it the first time. Make sure you take advantage of the orientation and practice sessions and learn where your weak spots are so you can focus on those areas.

Basic Information For The CPAT Test

QUALIFICATIONS:

Applicants must be 18 years of age and must show government issued photo identification (i.e. drivers license, school or military ID; or a passport or visa). Candidates without a photo ID will not be allowed to take the CPAT.

APPLY EARLY

Applications are accepted in the order they are received. Applications are not accepted until the fee has been paid.

PAYMENT:

The fee to take your first test at their site is \$150.00. Your fee must be paid for your application to be accepted. This fee is non-refundable. Payment can be made with check, money order, Visa, or MasterCard. If you are paying by check, the check must clear your bank before you can take the CPAT. Make payments to “CFFJAC.” Your fee includes participation in an orientation session, related printed materials and test.

ORIENTATION SESSION:

Working with experienced CPAT proctors, you will be given the opportunity to try each of the 8 events and determine where you may need to strengthen yourself. You will be given a set of exercises to physically prepare yourself for the CPAT. If you elect not to participate in the orientation, you will be required to sign a waiver acknowledging that the orientation was offered. There are no discounts if you elect not to participate in an orientation. The CPAT dress code is enforced for all candidates who attend an orientation.

TEST:

The registration form has a place for you to choose a preferred and second orientation day as well as a preferred and second test day. You will be notified by mail of the confirmation of your orientation and test dates. A group of candidates are scheduled every half hour to report to the CPAT center. Please be on time, but not excessively early. Space for waiting is limited. If for some reason you cannot attend your scheduled test day, please notify us as soon as possible. Every effort will be made to reschedule you to a test day that will fit your schedule.

RETESTS:

If you have taken the CPAT at a CFFJAC monitored venue in the past and would like to retest, the fee is \$100.00.

PRACTICE SESSIONS:

For \$25.00, you can schedule a supervised practice on the CPAT course with a proctor. Your session is designed to meet your individual needs. A session may include: Training on the CPAT equipment, watching the instructional video, going through the course in its entirety. You also receive the benefit of mentoring: techniques, expert evaluation and conditioning

Chabot College Fire & EMS News

advice from our CPAT proctors. Refunds for cancelled or rescheduled practice days will not be given if requested after 10:00 am the day before your scheduled practice day.

WHAT TO WEAR:

The dress code is strictly enforced for safety. The CPAT dress code for the orientation, practice sessions and test is: Long Pants (no shorts), T-shirt or sweatshirt, footwear with no open heel or toe, and no loose or restrictive jewelry. Candidates must be in proper CPAT attire before being allowed to participate in the orientation, practice sessions and test.

PARKING:

When you arrive at the CPAT center, please park to the rear of the building and enter the front door.

NO SPECTATORS PLEASE:

There is limited space at the CPAT center. In order to accommodate a fair and standard testing process for all candidates, we will not be able to allow spectators on the CPAT course or in the facility.

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

Dublin (CA) – 2008 / 2009 Schedule:

ORIENTATION DATES:

- December 8
- January 3, 20
- February 7, 24
- March 7, 23

PRACTICE DATES:

- December 8, 9
- January 3, 6, 20, 21
- February 7, 10, 24, 25
- March 7, 10, 23, 24

TEST DATES:

- December 11
- January 8, 22
- February 14, 27
- March 14, 26

Orange (CA) – 2008 / 2009 Schedule:

ORIENTATION DATES:

- December 6
- January 3, 26
- February 7, 23
- March 7, 23

PRACTICE DATES:

- December 2, 9, 16
- January 6, 13, 20, 27
- February 10, 17, 24
- March 10, 17, 24

TEST DATES:

- December 4, 13, 18
- January 8, 15, 24, 29
- February 12, 21, 26
- March 12, 21, 26

Sacramento (CA) - 2008 / 2009 Schedule:

ORIENTATION DATES:

- December 13
- January 26
- February 17
- March 16

PRACTICE DATES:

- December 13
- January 26
- February 17
- March 16

TEST DATES:

- December 18
- January 29
- February 21
- March 19

Additional test dates will be scheduled as needed. Allow up to 1 hour to complete the process. Note, the above dates are subject to change, please check www.cpatonline.org for the most up-to-date information.

For more information about the above orientation, practice sessions and tests, including how to sign up and find out more about the 8 events, visit their website at www.cpatonline.org

FIRE SERVICE TRAINING & SAFETY INFO:

Below you will find the **November 2008** Everyone Goes Home Newsletter – Great information for all of us in the fire service:



The banner features a circular logo on the left with a Maltese cross. The cross has 'FIRE' at the top, 'FIGHTER' at the bottom, and 'EVERYONE GOES HOME' in the center. The outer ring of the logo contains the text 'LIFE SAFETY INITIATIVES' at the top and 'LIFE SAFETY INITIATIVES' at the bottom. To the right of the logo is the website address 'www.EveryoneGoesHome.com'. The main text of the banner reads 'EVERYONE GOES HOME' in large, bold, red letters, with 'FIREFIGHTER LIFE SAFETY INITIATIVES' in smaller, white letters below it.

November 2008
E-Newsletter

[Helping Everyone Get Home: Firefighter Near-Miss Reporting System](#)

Imagine this scenario: Two firefighters in a fire department somewhere in America are doing the morning check on their pumper. As the driver squats down to check the air in the rear wheels, his partner opens the compartment over the driver's head to check out the inventory. The compartment door springs open and a Gated Wye falls out, hitting the floor with a thud just to the left of the surprised driver.
» [Click Here to Read the Full Article](#)

[Hydrogen Cyanide - What Every Responder Needs to Know](#)

Let me ask you a question. How often after a fire do you hear a firefighter complain of headaches, dizziness, or achiness? How often do you see a fellow firefighter stagger around incoherently after they leave the structure and not think twice about it? These symptoms are typical after a long, strenuous physical activity such as fighting a fire. Recent research indicates, however, that these symptoms could indicate cyanide poisoning which occurs in firefighters more often than previously recognized.
» [Click Here to Read the Full Article](#)

[Federal Safety Vest Requirement Goes Into Effect on November 24](#)

On November 24, 2008, a provision in the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control (MUTCD), administered by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), goes into effect requiring public safety officers, including volunteer firefighters and EMS personnel responding to an incident on the side of a federal aid highway, to wear a safety vest that meets the Performance Class II or III requirements of the American National Standards Institute/International Safety Equipment Association (ANSI/ISEA) 107-2004 publication.
» [Click Here to Read the Full Article](#)

More November 2008 Articles:



The logo is a blue Maltese cross with a red rose in the center. The text 'NATIONAL FALLEN FIREFIGHTERS' is written in a circle around the top, and 'FOUNDATION' is at the bottom.


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



The logo features the Department of Homeland Security seal on the left and the text 'Homeland Security' on the right.



The logo features a red fire helmet icon on the left and the text 'Fireman's Fund Insurance Company' on the right.

A company of  Allianz

- [Focus on Fire Safety: Holiday Fire Safety](#)
- [NVFC Releases Updated Health and Wellness Guide](#)
- [Near-Miss System Receives 2,000th Report](#)
- [Everyone Goes Home® Announces the Save a Life, Tell the Story Contest](#)

» More: [View the Complete November 2008 Newsletter](#)
» Archives: [Everyone Goes Home® Newsletters](#)

» For More Information Visit: www.everyonegoeshome.com

FIRE SERVICE TRAINING OPPORTUNITY:

- Mastering the Fire Service Assessment Center -

4 -day promotional preparation workshop

Anaheim, CA – December 2 through 5, 2008

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

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

Students will participate in the following assessment center exercises: written essay, in-basket, modified in-basket, oral presentation, supervisory exercise, counseling/role-play, and emergency simulations. Students are evaluated by each other and the instructor. By sitting on both sides of the table, students see effective and poor behavior first hand. The approach to this class is unlike any other, by truly helping the student prepare for both the test and the position. Personal counseling and coaching takes place during the exercises to give the aspiring officers as much potential for success as possible. This is not a canned class! They cater to the dynamic of the group each time.

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

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

FIREFIGHTER EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES:

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

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

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

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

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

VOLUNTEERING OPPORTUNITIES:

The [San Francisco Paramedic Association](http://www.sanfranciscoparamedic.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 -

<p>Dates / Times:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • January 15, 2009 from 1230 to 1700 hours – Sausalito, CA • January 16, 2009 from 1030 to 1630 hours – Sausalito, CA • February 11, 2009 from 1230 to 1700 hours – Sausalito, CA • February 12, 2009 from 1030 to 1630 hours – Sausalito, CA • March 11, 2009 from 1230 to 1700 hours – Sausalito, CA • March 12, 2009 from 1030 to 1630 hours – Sausalito, CA • April 22, 2009 from 1230 to 1700 hours – Sausalito, CA • April 23, 2009 from 1030 to 1630 hours – Sausalito, CA • May 13, 2009 from 1230 to 1700 hours – Sausalito, CA • May 14, 2009 from 1030 to 1630 hours – Sausalito, CA • May 18, 2009 from 1230 to 1700 hours – Fremont, CA • May 19, 2009 from 1030 to 1630 hours – Fremont, CA • June 17, 2009 from 1230 to 1700 hours – Sausalito, CA • June 18, 2009 from 1030 to 1630 hours – Sausalito, CA <p>**Go to their website at www.sfparamedics.org 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>
<p>You will receive:</p>	<p>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.</p>
<p>Your role:</p>	<p>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.</p>
<p>Contact person(s):</p>	<p>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 director@sfparamedics.org or visit their website section on volunteer opportunities at www.sfparamedics.org/pages/about/volunteer.php</p>

- Advanced Medical Life Support Classes - Volunteers Needed

<p>Dates / Locations / Times:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • January 27, 2009 from 1200 to 1700 hours • January 28, 2009 from 1200 to 1700 hours • April 15, 2009 from 1200 to 1700 hours • April 16, 2009 from 1200 to 1700 hours • June 8, 2009 from 1200 to 1700 hours • June 9, 2009 from 1200 to 1700 hours <p>NOTE: All of the above classes will be held at the San Francisco Paramedic Association – 657 Mission Street, Suite 302, San Francisco, CA 94116</p> <p>**Go to their website at www.sfparamedics.org and click on Volunteer Info (under About) to confirm the above dates and times and to register.</p>
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You will receive:	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.
Your role:	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.
Contact person(s):	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 director@sparamedics.org or visit their website section on volunteer opportunities at www.sparamedics.org/pages/about/volunteer.php

For more information about the **San Francisco Paramedic Association**, visit their website at www.sparamedics.org – they offer numerous EMS continuing education classes for EMT's, Paramedics, Nurses, Doctors, and other healthcare professionals.

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

Water-Based Fire Protection System Plan Review (P136) Pilot Course Scheduled at NFA

The United States Fire Administration (USFA), Department of Homeland Security, is recruiting students and instructor candidates to attend an on-campus pilot class for its new six-day off-campus or State enfranchised course ***Water-Based Fire Protection System Plan Review***.

The course will enable students to perform a plan review to evaluate the suitability of the fire sprinkler, pump, and standpipe plans and calculations in accordance with nationally recognized standards for design and installation. Course content covers fire protection standards, plan reading, water supplies, building envelope features, fire protection hydraulics mathematics, fire pumps, sprinkler systems, and standpipe systems.

The pilot will be delivered at the National Emergency Training Center (NETC) in Emmitsburg, Maryland March 29 to April 3, 2009. Students will arrive Saturday March 28 and depart Saturday, April 4. Other than this pilot, there are no plans to offer this on campus at the National Fire Academy.

Pilots are highly participatory among the instructors, course developers, and students. Attendees are expected to contribute their ideas and expertise to improve course content and delivery.

Target Audience

The target audience for this course is the student who is responsible for the review and approval of plans for water-based fire protection systems in his/her jurisdiction.

Student Selection Criteria:

Individuals who have code enforcement responsibilities for the review and approval of plans for water-based fire protection systems in his/her jurisdiction.

Priority selection will be given to **those applicants who express interest in and meet minimum qualifications to become course instructors**. For minimum qualifications, please visit the USFA website at <http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/applications/nfacid/> select "Become an Instructor" and follow the hyperlink to "qualification criteria."

Prerequisites:

- Students should have completed the NFA course: **Fire and Life Safety Plan Review** or **Plan Review for Inspectors**, or, possess ICC or NFPA Plan Examiner certifications, or, have attended an American Fire Sprinkler Association/National Fire Sprinkler Association design school, **and**,
- Completed **Testing and Evaluation of Water Supplies for Fire Protection (Q218)** at www.nfaonline.dhs.gov **and**,
- Two online prerequisite activities at <http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/ax/staff/anderson/p136/>:
 - History of Automatic Sprinklers
 - Use of Windows® Scientific Calculator

Material Requirements:

Students will be required to bring to class:

- NFPA Standards 13, 14, and 20
- Scientific calculator or access to the Windows® scientific calculator
- Architect and engineering scale tools

How to Apply:

- Students must complete a separate FEMA General Admissions application (Form 75-5a). An electronic application is available on our website at: <http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/nfa/about/attend/apply.shtm>
- Completed applications for the pilot (P136) must be postmarked by December 31, 2008 to:

NETC Admissions Office
Building I, Room 216
16825 S. Seton Avenue
Emmitsburg, MD 21727

Chabot College Fire & EMS News

- Completed course applications also may be faxed to the Admissions Office at (301) 447-1441.
- Applicants should not make plans to attend the pilot course until notified in writing by the Admissions Office.
- Stipends are available for eligible students to attend the pilot course. Attendance at the pilot course does not prevent an eligible student from obtaining another stipend within the same fiscal year.

Instructor Candidates:

- Applicants who wish to be considered as potential instructors should submit a letter of interest and provide a summary of their interest and qualifications to become an instructor.

The letter should be addressed to:
Training Specialist James B. Anderson
NETC
16825 S. Seton Avenue
Emmitsburg, MD 21727

- Minimum instructor qualifications can be found on the USFA website at <http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/applications/nfacid/> select "Become an Instructor" and follow the hyperlink to "qualification criteria."

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



With the onset of the holiday season, it is important to focus on fire safety and prevention. The celebration of the season brings with it increased usage of electric lights, decorations, candles, and the ever popular Christmas tree, all of which can be potential fire hazards. Additionally, cooking fires increase during the holidays as families and friends gather to celebrate. By following general fire safety precautions, potential fires, deaths, and injuries remain preventable. For more information, go to: <http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/citizens/focus>

FIREFIGHTER FATALITY INFORMATION:

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

Name: Wayne Brown
Rank: Fire Police Officer
Age: 63
Gender: Male
Status: Volunteer
Years of Service: 30+
Date of Incident: 11/3/2008
Time of Incident: Unk – Early morning
Date of Death: 11/3/2008
Fire Department: Bristol Fire and Rescue Department
Address: 72 Church Street, PO Box 775, Bristol, RI 02809
Telephone: (401) 253-6912
Fire Department Chief: Robert J. Martin

Incident Description: Firefighter Brown was preparing to respond to a call from his home. He became ill and called for emergency medical services for himself. When emergency assistance arrived, Firefighter Brown was found unresponsive near his door with his gear on. To date, the cause of death has not been determined.

Funeral Arrangements: Pending

Memorial Fund Contact and Address: Pending

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

To date, 97 firefighter fatalities have been reported to USFA in 2007 as a result of incidents that occurred in 2007.

AND:

Name: Roy Smith
Rank: Firefighter
Age: 17
Gender: Male
Status: Volunteer
Years of Service: 1
Date of Incident: 11/7/2008
Time of Incident: 1:00AM
Date of Death: 11/7/2008

Chabot College Fire & EMS News

Fire Department: McGaheysville Volunteer Fire Department
Address: 80 Stover Drive, McGaheysville, Virginia 22840
Fire Department Chief: Earl Hensley

Incident Description: Firefighter Smith was responding to a structure fire in his personal vehicle when he lost control and the vehicle rolled over. He passed away from injuries sustained from the accident.

Funeral Arrangements: Pending

Memorial Fund Contact and Address: Pending

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

To date, 98 firefighter fatalities have been reported to USFA in 2008 as a result of incidents that occurred in 2008.

AND:

Name: Cecilia Turnbough
Rank: EMT/Firefighter Trainee
Age: 42
Gender: Female
Status: Volunteer
Years of Service: 8
Date of Incident: 11/9/2008
Time of Incident: 15:00hrs
Date of Death: 11/9/2008
Fire Department: Dale City Volunteer Fire Department
Address: 3171 Prince William Parkway, Dale City, Virginia 22193
Fire Department Chief: Chris Hool

Incident Description: Emergency Medical Technician (EMT)/Firefighter Trainee Turnbough of the Dale City Volunteer Fire Department passed away during a routine training exercise as part of an entry level Firefighter certification class. The training involved maneuvering through a maze with no smoke or fire. This training took place at the Prince William County Public Safety Training Center in Nokesville, Virginia. EMT/Firefighter Trainee Turnbough was found unresponsive and was transported by the Prince William County Department of Fire and Rescue to the Prince William Hospital. Despite all resuscitative efforts, Turnbough did not survive.

Ms. Turnbough was a certified EMT and had served as a volunteer for the past eight years with the Dale City Volunteer Fire Department. She had recently begun training to expand her capabilities to include firefighting.

Funeral Arrangements: Pending

Memorial Fund Contact and Address: Pending

Chabot College Fire & EMS News

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

To date, 99 firefighter fatalities have been reported to USFA in 2008 as a result of incidents that occurred in 2008.

AND:

Name: Jamel M. Sears
Rank: Probationary Firefighter
Age: 33
Gender: Male
Status: Recruit
Years of Service: <1
Date of Incident: 11/10/2008
Time of Incident: 1130hrs
Date of Death: 11/11/2008
Fire Department: Fire Department City of New York
Address: 9 Metro Tech Center, Brooklyn, NY 11201
Telephone: 718-999-2000
Fire Department Commissioner: Nicholas Scoppetta
Department Website: <http://home2.nyc.gov/html/fdny/html/home2.shtml>

Incident Description: Probationary Firefighter Sears joined the FDNY in July 2008 as part of a 23-week probationary firefighter training program. After completing an 18-minute training evolution at the department's training academy in Randall's Island, Sears collapsed and was unresponsive. Firefighters at the scene attempted to revive him. Sears was then transported to the Mt. Sinai Medical Center, where he passed away Tuesday, November 11, 2008.

Funeral Arrangements: Pending

Memorial Fund Contact and Address: Pending

Tribute is being paid to Probationary Firefighter Jamel M. Sears at <http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/fireservice/fatalities/>

To date, 100 firefighter fatalities have been reported to USFA in 2008 as a result of incidents that occurred in 2008.

AND:

Name: John Clasby
Rank: Firefighter
Age: 45
Gender: Male
Status: Career
Years of Service: 10

Chabot College Fire & EMS News

Date of Incident: 06/29/1999
Time of Incident: 1346hrs
Date of Death: 11/11/2008
Fire Department: Hull Fire Department
Address: 671 Nantasket Ave., Hull, MA 02045 (USNG: 19T CG 4506 8393)
Map:
<http://www.fidnet.com/~jlmoore/usng/?zoom=17&usng=19TCG45068393&disp=h>
Fire Department Chief: Robert A. Hollingshead

Incident Description: Firefighter Clasby, while operating under heavy fire conditions, was struck and paralyzed by a stray bullet. He succumbed to his related traumatic injuries on November 11, 2008.

Funeral Arrangements: 11/17/2008 @ 1000hrs, Saint Ann's Church, 200 Samoset Ave, Hull, MA (USNG: 19T CG 4525 8383).

Map:

<http://www.fidnet.com/~jlmoore/usng/?zoom=17&usng=19TCG45258383&disp=h>

Memorial Fund Contact and Address: John Clasby Children's Fund, C/o Hull Fire Department, 671 Nantasket Ave., Hull, MA 020345

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

To date, 100 firefighter fatalities have been reported to USFA in 2008 as a result of incidents that occurred in 2008 and one from a prior year incident.

AND:

Name: Walter P. Harris
Rank: Firefighter
Age: 38
Gender: Male
Status: Career
Years of Service: 17
Date of Incident: 11/15/2008
Time of Incident: 0530hrs
Date of Death: 11/15/2008
Fire Department: Detroit Fire Department
Address: 250 W. Larned, Detroit, MI 48226 (USNG: 17T LG 3126 8825)
Map:
<http://www.fidnet.com/~jlmoore/usng/?zoom=17&usng=17TLG31268825&disp=h>
Fire Department Executive Commissioner: Tyrone C. Scott

Incident Description: Firefighter Harris responded to an abandoned house fire (reported to have been intentionally set) early Saturday morning on Kirby Street in Detroit. He and several other firefighters were putting out hot spots in the attic. The roof collapsed trapping

Chabot College Fire & EMS News

the firefighters. Firefighter Harris was crushed by the debris. He was rushed to the hospital but succumbed to his injuries. The other firefighters managed to escape with minor injuries. Incident Location: East of Sheridan St. on Kirby Street (USNG: 17T LG 3376 9365)

Map View:

<http://www.fidnet.com/~jlmoore/usng/?zoom=15&usng=17TLG33769365&disp=h>

Funeral Arrangements: Visitation will be on 11/20/08 from 1600hrs to 2100hrs at the Community Christian Fellowship, 1831 E. Outer Drive, Detroit. The funeral will be held 1000hrs, 11/21/08, at the Second Ebenezer Church, 14601 Dequindre, Detroit.

Memorial Fund Contact and Address: Walter P. Harris Memorial Fund, Detroit Firemen's Fund Association, 250 W. Larned, Suite #202, Detroit, MI 48226, www.detroitfiremensfund.org, Tele - (313) 961-2988

Tribute is being paid to Firefighter Walter P. Harris at:

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

To date, 101 firefighter fatalities have been reported to USFA in 2008 as a result of incidents that occurred in 2008 and one from a prior year incident.

AND:

Name:	Michael D. Snowman
Rank:	Firefighter
Age:	49
Gender:	Male
Status:	Volunteer
Years of Service:	25
Date of Incident:	11/17/08
Time of Incident:	0836hrs
Date of Death:	11/17/08
Fire Department:	Hartland Volunteer Fire Department
Address:	43 Canaan Road, Hartland, ME 04943
Fire Department Chief:	Donald Neal

Incident Description: Firefighter Michael Snowman was operating at the site of a mutual aid structure fire in Detroit, ME when he collapsed. Emergency medical care was initiated on scene. He was then transported to Eastern Maine Medical Center where he passed away from an apparent heart attack.

Funeral Arrangements: Pending

Memorial Fund Contact and Address: Pending

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

Chabot College Fire & EMS News

To date, 103 firefighter fatalities have been reported to USFA in 2008 as a result of incidents that occurred in 2008 and one from a prior year incident.

AND:

Name: Carol Irene Taylor
Rank: Firefighter
Age: 41
Gender: Female
Status: Career
Years of Service: 11
Date of Incident: 11/14/2008
Time of Incident: 02:14AM
Date of Death: 11/14/2008
Fire Department: Goldsboro Fire Department
Address: 204 South Center Street, Goldsboro, NC 27530
Telephone: (919) 580-4262
Fire Department Chief: Gary Whaley
POC Email Address: GWhaley@ci.Goldsboro.nc.us
Fire Department Website: http://www.ci.goldsboro.nc.us/fire_default.aspx

Incident Description: Firefighter Taylor had responded to an electrical short fire call early Friday morning, 11/14/2008. She returned to the station and at 08:00AM, 11/14/2008, she finished her tour of duty and returned home. She was found later Friday night deceased from an apparent heart attack.

Funeral Arrangements: Pending

Memorial Fund Contact and Address: Pending

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

To date, 104 firefighter fatalities have been reported to USFA in 2008 as a result of incidents that occurred in 2008 and one from a prior year incident.

AND:

Name: Leonard Riggins
Rank: Firefighter
Age: 52
Gender: Male
Status: Career
Years of Service: 15
Date of Incident: 11/05/2008
Time of Incident: 1700hrs
Date of Death: 11/05/2008
Fire Department: St. Louis Fire Department
Address: 1421 N. Jefferson, St. Louis, MO 63106 (USNG: 15S YC 4256 8102)

Chabot College Fire & EMS News

Map:

<http://www.fidnet.com/~jlmoore/usng/?zoom=16&usng=15SYC42568102&disp=h>

Fire Department Chief: Dennis M. Jenkerson

Fire Department Website: <http://stlouis.missouri.org/citygov/fire/>

Incident Description: While still in uniform, Firefighter Riggins was on his way home in his department vehicle when he reportedly witnessed a vehicle crash. Per written department 'Duty to Act' policy, Riggins pulled to the side of the road, activated his emergency lights, and exited his vehicle to assist. As Firefighter Riggins approached the other vehicle, the occupant shot Firefighter Riggins in the chest. The occupant had apparently carjacked the crashed vehicle and after shooting Firefighter Riggins, stole his department vehicle. Assistance was requested and Firefighter Riggins was transported to the hospital where he succumbed to his injuries. The suspect eventually crashed Riggins' vehicle and was attempting to carjack a third vehicle when police approached and, in an exchange of gunfire, killed him.

Incident Location: Vicinity of Shepley and Spring Garden drives (USNG: 15S YC 4381 9323)

Map View:

<http://www.fidnet.com/~jlmoore/usng/?zoom=17&usng=15SYC43819323&disp=h>

Funeral Arrangements: 10/13/2008 @ 1100hrs at Harris Stowe College.

Memorial Fund Contact and Address: <http://www.backstoppers.org/>

Tribute is being paid to Firefighter Leonard Riggins at

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

To date, 102 firefighter fatalities have been reported to USFA in 2008 as a result of incidents that occurred in 2008 and one from a prior year incident.

AND:

Name:	Steve D. Kline
Rank:	Firefighter/Paramedic
Age:	37
Gender:	Male
Status:	Part-Time/Paid
Years of Service:	13
Date of Incident:	11/18/08
Time of Incident:	1115hrs
Date of Death:	11/18/08
Fire Department:	Stone Park Fire Department
Address:	1745 North 35th Avenue, Stone Park, IL 60165
Fire Department Chief:	Chief Michael Paige
Fire Department POC:	Chief Michael Paige

Incident Description: On 11/18/08, Firefighter/Paramedic Kline collapsed during his shift while at the station. He was transported to the local hospital where he passed away a short time later. An autopsy is being performed to determine exact cause of death.

Funeral Arrangements: Pending

Memorial Fund Contact and Address: Pending

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

To date, 105 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.shtm)

Firefighter fatalities in USFA reports are summarized by date/year-of-incident. Initial notices posted online (<http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/fireservice/fatalities/>) and distributed via USFA 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.

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

Hey....

It is with sincere and deep regret that we advise you of the passing of 2 well known fire service leaders. **Retired Chief Clark Martin, of Monroe County (FL)** and retired Chief Fire Officer of **Fairfax County (VA)** passed away yesterday after a very tough but brave battle with cancer. No memorial details as of yet. **Former Chief Fire Officer Paul Spurlin, Wayne Township (IN)** passed away suddenly on Friday. The viewing will be at Wayne Township Fire ESEC Conference Center 2 - 8 on Wednesday and the funeral services will be at the conference center at 11:00 on Thursday. Paul was a lifetime member of Wayne Twp FD, was well known by so many for his coordinating their fire service training seminar series and was very active locally and nationally within the fire service. These two good men, both long time
November 22, 2008 www.chabotfire.com 41

Chabot College Fire & EMS News

friends of ours here at TSL and FFCC, made a major difference and will be sorely missed. Our condolences to their family and friends.

ALABAMA LINE OF DUTY DEATH UPDATE:

More preliminary information is coming out related to the tragic **LODD of Crossville (AL) Firefighter Adam Cody Renfroe** who is being laid to rest, today. This info, while preliminary, helps us all further understand what may have lead up to this loss and is of great value by discussing what is known and applying it to our own local scenarios.

Asbury Volunteer Fire Chief Albert Childress, who was at the scene Wednesday, said he understands that Firefighters Renfroe and Andy Brown were the first to arrive at the working house fire...neighbors already had helped the home's elderly owner escape the dwelling, unharmed. It is Chief Childress' understanding that FF Renfroe said, "Let's go check it out."

FF's Renfroe and Brown, wearing turnout gear, air packs and stretching a hose line, approached the house. With heavy smoke and fire showing, the two volunteer Firefighters, according to Chief Childress' information, approached the door when FF Renfroe asked Brown to return to the truck and get a light. When FF Brown returned, FF Renfroe was not there but the hose line was still there lying on the ground...causing concern about FF Renfroe's whereabouts. Fire conditions continued to worsen at the same time, making entry into the dwelling tough...and with no hose leading to Renfroe's possible location, information and help for the trapped Firefighter was delayed. Chief Childress said other area firefighters, waiting on standby at other fire stations were said to have heard over their radio FF Renfroe's pleas of "**Y'all come get me.**"

Based on statements of witnesses at the scene, because of the intense heat, it took about 45 minutes before Firefighters were able to reach FF Renfroe who had by that time, gave his life. In a tragic irony, Renfroe's dream of being a firefighter with a larger FD would have been realized Friday. He had applied and been accepted by the Irondale FD and was scheduled to begin his rookie training with them. May FF Renfore rest in Peace.

TIC SURVEY:

Quick note: www.SConFire.com is doing a TIC survey, check it out here:
http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=KSEXO0ft_2bgOC057FtCQ4mg_3d_3d
take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 11-2-08 / 1313 hours

AND:

Hey...

Unfortunately there have been 2 more **fatalities involving responding apparatus**. In what appears to be an unavoidable situation for the Firefighters in Bethlehem, PA, where a 60-year-old man whose car collided with BFD apparatus Oct. 24 died Saturday night in the hospital.

William Samer was pronounced dead at 9:48 p.m. and died of multiple traumatic injuries. Bethlehem police Capt. David Kravatz on the day of the accident said the ladder truck had its lights and sirens activated at the time of the crash. The car did not yield as the engine

headed north on Eighth Avenue in Bethlehem....Samer passed several cars that yielded the right of way to the fire apparatus, then swerved, spun and struck the fire apparatus just north of the Route 378 overpass. The apparatus, responding to an alarm call, was driving in the opposite travel lanes in order to bypass traffic in the northbound lanes, according to police. The apparatus driver, FF Frank Dashner, 50, of Bethlehem, was treated and released that same day.

And across the pond in England, **a civilian died after his car collided with a responding fire apparatus** last night. The driver was pronounced dead at the scene while a Firefighter injured in the crash was taken to the hospital. East Sussex Fire and Rescue Service confirmed the fire engine was on an emergency call when it was involved in the accident. Sussex Police Road Policing Unit is investigating.

WORCESTER SEMINAR-YOUR HELP IS NEEDED:

To help raise funds for the memorial at the new fire station (which will be located on the site of the Cold Storage Warehouse where 6 WFD Firefighters were killed in the line of Duty), a seminar is being held with some outstanding "not to miss" speakers. The date of the seminar is December 3rd, 2008 -- 8a-4p featuring FDNY's Battalion Chief John Salka, Capt Mike Duggan, Lt Mickey Conboy, L.A. County Dep. Chief John Tripp and Jersey City Dep. Chief Butch Cobb. Cost: \$100.00 includes lunch and a shirt. This trip to Worcester is WELL worth your time, money and honor...details here:

http://www.fireengineering.com/articles/article_display.html?id=342589

We also realize that some of you who are the very youngest Firefighters MAY NOT know about "The Worcester Cold Storage Warehouse Fire"...take a moment and go to these sites to learn:

<http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/fire/reports/face9947.html>

<http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/downloads/pdf/publications/tr-134.pdf>

<http://www.firehouse.com/worcester/esquire.html>

NEW SCBA's: We have posted some additional pictures that we took at F.R.I. in Denver this summer of the new IAFF/DHS design SCBA. Check them out here:

<http://firefighterclosecalls.com/fullstory.php?74473>

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 11-3-08 / 0647 hours

AND:

Hey...

RHODE ISLAND LODD: A Firefighter in Bristol (R.I.) died in the Line of Duty early Monday. Volunteer FF Wayne Brown called for EMS for himself while getting ready to respond to a call. FF Brown, 63, was found near his door with his gear on. The cause of his death was not immediately known. FF Brown was a longtime volunteer at the Hydraulion fire station as a member of the fire police. FF Brown was responding to a fire call for a car fire....a man's body was found in the car...the fire is under investigation. Our condolences to all affected.

HOUSTON FIREFIGHTERS INJURED, 1 CRITICAL, both burned.

Earlier this evening, while operating at a dwelling fire, a portion of a roof reportedly came down on 2 Houston (Texas) Firefighters. Reports are that at least 1 FF was in cardiac/trauma arrest, was rescued/revived but was critically injured with burns over his upper body and head. The 2nd Firefighter suffered burns to his hands. Both are being treated. The event and subsequent injuries may have been received during a flashover. Details will follow.

PA FIREFIGHTER CRITICAL:

A teenager (home on school suspension!) watching a working fire from her home porch, noticed a Firefighter down at a corner who had been pumping an engine. The 17-year-old jumped off the porch of her Middletown house across the street from the burning home and hustled toward the firefighters who were battling the blaze and had not noticed the pump operators collapse. Firefighters responded and started performing CPR and used an AED on Steve Weaver, a Lower Swatara Twp. Firefighter....saving his life. He is in critical but stable condition at Milton Hershey Hospital.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 10-4-08 / 0130 hours

AND:

Hey...

An off-duty **Firefighter** working his regular job as a **Police Officer** was killed in a crash on Interstate 70 in Western Pennsylvania yesterday afternoon...reminding us of the serious dangers when operating on roadways. **Nathaniel Burnfield, 27, a South Strabane Township police officer who was also a local Firefighter, was tragically killed in the Line of Duty.** Officer Burnfield was also a Firefighter for the Canton Township Fire Department. A civilian truck driver was also killed. A pickup truck apparently lost a tire...and it appears a UPS tandem tractor trailer hit that tire....Officer Burnfield pulled over to help, seeing the debris in the road...when a gravel truck lost control and hit the back of the UPS truck. P.O. Burnfield had been returning from training in a marked police car and stopped to help remove the tire from the road. Officer Burnfield activated the lights on the cruiser and was attempting to move the tire when he was hit. The truck had been traveling west on Interstate 70 and attempted to go around the right side of the police cruiser when his vehicle struck and killed Burnfield.

HOUSTON UPDATE: Captain Darin Unruh remains in serious but stable condition after he was injured while operating at a 2 alarm fire that destroyed a house Monday. Capt. Unruh suffered third-degree burns and smoke inhalation in the fire. Firefighter Dennis Valencia, who suffered 1st and 2nd degree burns, was released from the hospital. Reports now are that it appears a section of the roof collapsed, sending a wave of flames and superheated gases toward the less-damaged back portion of the home where Unruh and Valencia were. Unruh and Valencia went in through the back door after receiving reports that someone may have been trapped inside the dwelling.

FALLEN FIREFIGHTER HAD EXPRESSED CONCERNS:

Chabot College Fire & EMS News

An experienced Irish Firefighter, who was killed in the Line of Duty with his partner, had warned superiors weeks before they died, of his concerns related to the practices of the local fire service. FF Brian Murray, 46, died with FF Mark O'Shaughnessy, 26, in September 2007 after they became trapped inside a vacant factory fire in Bray, Wicklow County. The Firefighters families claim there was a delay in responding to the fire and believe this was a major factor in the two men's deaths. FF Murray had written to the county's Assistant Chief Fire Officer 3 weeks before he died after office workers were asked to check a fire themselves before Firefighters were dispatched-creating concerning delays. Authorities continue to investigate the deaths.

FIREFIGHTER INJURY REPORT:

The NFPA has released their 2007 Firefighter **INJURY** report. Over 80,000 Firefighters were injured last year but there has been a **measurable decrease**. The report points out loads of interesting and valuable facts such as 38,340 or 47.9 percent of all firefighter injuries occurred during fireground operations. An estimated 15,435 occurred at non-fire emergencies, while 13,665 occurred during other on-duty activities

Check out the details here:

<http://www.nfpa.org/publicJournalDetail.asp?categoryID=1692&itemID=40969&src=NFPAJournal>

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 11-5-08 / 0745 hours

AND:

Hey...

In another example of a Firefighter attempting to do good, there was a fatal shooting in St Louis County (MO) involving an off-duty Fire Captain, 52 year old Leonard Riggins, of St. Louis Fire Department tonight. The Captain Riggins died at a local hospital, the suspect died at the scene. Cops believe there were as many as four car jackings over a 15-minute period. The first carjacking occurred in a person's driveway...the bad guy took off but eventually crashed the vehicle.

The Fire Captain came upon the crash scene and attempted to help the carjacker...the carjacker then shot the Fire Captain in the chest and took his car. The murderer then crashed again and attempted to carjack another person. He then got involved in a shootout with police and was shot dead in the middle of the street.

Tragically, Captain Riggins gave his life trying to help, in what he thought, was someone genuinely needing help...but thankfully, the murderer himself was gunned down by the police stopping him from any further action. Our condolences to Captain Riggins' Family and friends.

FIRE SERGEANT CRITICAL AFTER FALL FROM ROOF:

A Detroit Firefighter is in serious but stable condition tonight after he fell off the roof of a burning vacant home overnight. The Fire Sergeant, with at least 15 years' firefighting experience, suffered multiple broken bones when he fell at the fire on Detroit's southwest side.

MAYDAY RADIO TRAFFIC FROM NEW YORK:

Rochester Firefighters responded for a house fire early Wednesday morning. Engine 7 was on location with smoke from the rear of a large three story row house. Battalion 2 called for the second alarm...a Firefighter mayday was called for a Firefighter in trouble on the second floor rear. Operations confirmed the mayday and deployed the RIT team to assist the firefighter to safety. Upon hearing this mayday, command called a third alarm and the fire was under control in about 40 min. Monroe County Fire Wire has the radio traffic on this link and LISTEN to the SHARP dispatch and fire operations on this fire.

<http://www.mcfw.com/source/images/november08/arnet.wav>

...or here if that didn't work for you: <http://www.mcfw.com/?p=940>

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 11-5-08 / 2250 hours

AND:

VIRGINIA FF LODD-Ejected While Responding & Chicago Crash Update

It is with deep regret that we advise you that a 17 year old Volunteer Firefighter of the McGaheysville Volunteer Fire Company (Rockingham County, Virginia) was killed in the Line of Duty this morning. Around 0300, Firefighter Roy Smith was responding in his personal vehicle to a structure fire and was involved in a single vehicle crash. Initial reports are that his vehicle left the road, struck a utility pole and he was ejected, He was a Junior at Spotswood High School. Here is a link to the fire company website: <http://www.mvfd80.org/>

Our condolences to all affected, especially the family of FF Smith and the members of Company 80, McGaheysville VFC.

CHICAGO RESPONDING APPARATUS CRASH:

Yesterday afternoon, a Chicago FD Engine 4 was responding to a medical emergency at 1515 hours when it was struck by a compact car at an intersection. The engine then crashed into a condominium building, but the ground floor of the building was unoccupied. The five firefighters suffered minor injuries in the crash, and a 55-year-old woman and a 6-year-old girl in the car were also injured. All seven were transported but none of the injuries appeared life-threatening.

Take Care-Be Careful: **BUCKLE UP-SLOW DOWN.**

BillyG

The Secret List 11-7-08 / 0648 hours

AND:

Hey...

The reason The Secret List exists is to pass along details and facts of interest to you as a Firefighter or EMS member, usually specific to Firefighter Close Calls, Near Misses and Line of Duty Deaths. While the information is of varied levels of interest, the true intent of the 11+ year old Secret List is to "pass along" details ..so we can all learn. We all respond to and see alotta bad stuff, and in some cases, the most horrific situations and outcomes. Sometimes the incident is "by accident" ...but other times it is totally avoidable-for us or for

those who impact us. Sometimes what we write about to you is so avoidable that it infuriates all of us. We have also written about the impacts of drunks on the fire service-and within the fire service and the impact on us before...here we go again.

2 nights ago in Illinois, a young mother and her two little kids were killed in a t-bone crash Thursday night. The crash took the lives of Amanda Jahn, 27, and her children, Ryan Jahn, 3 years, 11 months old, and Kaitlyn Jahn, 11 1/2 months old....**the ENTIRE FAMILY of Dwight (IL) Firefighter Josh Jahn.**The driver of the car that struck the Jahn vehicle, Ann Marie Goetz, 43 was transported to the hospital, where she remains a patient....she has already been charged with blowing a stop sign and felony driving while drunk.

"Firefighters Wife" Amanda Jahn was heading home with her kids. Imagine your family doing that. It's easy-every family does that. Where were they coming from? Amanda was a violinist...she was on her way back from teaching lessons and had stopped at her Mom & Dad's house to pick up the kids and go home. That's when **"Drunk Driver"** Goetz's car shot through the stop sign and struck the Jahn family on the driver's side door. Following the violent t-bone crash, the Jahns car rolled over multiple times....Amanda was trapped inside the vehicle...the 2 children, Ryan and Kaitlyn were **EJECTED IN AND FROM THEIR CAR SEATS...and Mom WAS WEARING HER SEATBELT...**but it couldn't save them from the drunk driver. The crash actually ripped the Jahn car apart into multiple pieces.

As we have also heard before, Veteran Drunk Driver Goetz has a lengthy criminal record, including prior DUIs dating back to 2000. Most of us are all very familiar with the impacts of a Firefighters death, in this case, this death will all but take the life of Firefighter Josh Jahn.

3 Quick Points:

1-If you are interested in expressing your condolences, the FD sent us FF Josh Jahns e-mail address, which will be checked and passed along to him....so if you wanna send a few words, here ya go - jjahn@dwrightfire.org

2-The holiday season is just about here. And while we are always at risk on this job, operate on or off the job extra defensively this time of year because of the drunk drivers.

3-Us. "Us" also are familiar with "us" drinking and driving ...mostly off the job, but sometimes even on the job in the firehouse. Don't ignore it. Don't allow it. Speak up. Stop it. Know a FF with a problem? Get'm help...do whatever it takes. You into the "Brotherhood" stuff? Cool. Prove it. We aren't saying don't have a drink when off duty-we are saying if "us" are ever drinking, we cannot ever drive. And "us" needs to look out for "us". The on-duty issue speaks for itself, hopefully.

The "drinking" issue-internally or externally has impacted Firefighters throughout our entire history...and again most recently, at the above "firefighters deaths" -the preventable deaths of FF Josh Jahns' Family.

Our sincere condolences to FF Josh Jahn. What a nightmare.

Take Care-THINK.

BillyG

The Secret List 11-8-08 / 0740 hours

AND:

It is with deep regret that we advise you of a Line of Duty Death this afternoon in Prince William County, VA. A Firefighter with the Dale City VFD was doing maze training and was found unresponsive at the training center. CPR was performed and she was pronounced LODD at Prince William Hospital. Indications are that this LODD was the result of a medical emergency. Details to follow.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 11-9-08 / 1645 hours

AND:



Hey...

You may have noticed some delays or some nonexistent issues of the Secret List in the last month or so. That's because we have simply outgrown our older system-The Secret List had become too big. However...this issue of The Secret List is from the spank'n new system...which is expected to be much more effective, efficient and with loads of room to grow. In the first week it will be slower or delayed as we load the system up-so be patient. After that, we should be good to go.

To see what issues you may have missed, go here:

<http://firefighterclosecalls.com/secret.php>, You or anyone else can go there to sign up and join as well...or add other e-mail addresses such as portable e-devices.

That's it-just wanted to keep you advised on the upgrades and changes...we NEVER thought we would ever have this much interest with the number of visitors to our website as well as subscribers to THE SECRET LIST (which is now 11 years old)...so the major upgrades just made sense.

A reminder: as always, we remain 100% non-profit, non-commercial, fully self-funded and free with the intent to pass on good information of value to Firefighters and related emergency service members.

All the best for a wonderful Thanksgiving to you and yours from all of us.

Take Care-THANKS.

BillyG along with GordonG, BrianK, ForestR, BarryF, RudyH, ChrisS & TomK

November 18th, 2008 - 0900hrs

AND

Hey...

Two Philadelphia Firefighters fell through a thin fiberglass roof while operating at a 1 alarm fire last night. The fire was at an auto body shop and the run came in around 2111 hours...and was placed under control at 2137 hours. When Philly Firefighters went up on the roof, they may have miscalculated the thickness of the roof, which turned out to be made of fiberglass and only a couple inches thick. One firefighter broke thru and fell all the way through, about 15 feet and landing. He was transported and is listed in critical condition. Philly Fire officials said while his injuries are pretty severe, he is expected to survive. The other Firefighter fell partially through the roof and was also taken in with minor injuries. The cause of the fire is under investigation. We'll post more on our home page.

And in Newton (MA) last night, a Firefighter suffered minor burns and injured his shoulder after he fell through the floor of a million-dollar home fire. The Firefighter, who also had elevated carbon monoxide levels, was kept overnight at the hospital and is expected to recover. A second Firefighter twisted his ankle and was treated at the scene. The house had just been renovated and was unoccupied and appears to have begun in an electric meter and is not considered suspicious.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List (NEW FORMAT) 11-20-08 / 2005hrs

AND

Hey...

As posted on our home page yesterday, to be clear, the incident yesterday in Pennsylvania involved a piece of apparatus being delivered-NOT an in service rig. The man was struck and killed by a New Jersey FD's brand new aerial ladder truck in Monroe County, PA. The circumstances were pretty unusual-workers at a nearby vineyard saw the car go airborne then bounce down an embankment and slam into an iron gate and stone wall at the winery. The workers said a man staggered out of the car. They called 911 and told the man to stay put, but he refused their help and crawled back up the embankment...the man, now a "pedestrian" was then struck by the rig on the highway. The apparatus is brand new and has yet to be added to the fleet of the Passaic, NJ FD. A vendor was driving it from a Pierce Manufacturing plant to N.J., where it was going to have final work done before being delivered to the FD.

PHILLY FIREFIGHTER CRITICAL:

A Philadelphia FF remains in critical condition after surgery where doctors were treating him for soot inhalation, broken ribs and a broken arm, according to Fire Commissioner Lloyd Ayers. FF Raymond Rajchel, a 34-year veteran, and firefighter Robert Underwood, a 23-year veteran, fell through a roof late Wednesday while operating at a fire inside an automotive-repair shop.

FF Underwood was treated for bruising and released...he caught himself as he fell, and colleagues rescued him as he dangled 20 feet above the concrete floor where Rajchel lay injured. Both work at Ladder 28 and were venting the garage's roof when the incident occurred. Our prayers go out for his quick recovery.

FIREFIGHTER FUNERAL DETAIL REMINDERS:

Chabot College Fire & EMS News

DETROIT (MI) FF WALTER HARRIS:

TODAY is the LODD Funeral for Detroit Senior Firefighter Walter Harris Sr. Here are the details:

<http://www.dffa344.org/index.cfm>

MAINE FF MICHAEL SNOWMAN:

TOMORROW is the LODD Funeral for 49-year-old FF Michael Snowman who died at a house fire in Detroit (Maine) when he had an apparent heart attack. FF Snowman will be remembered at a public service Saturday at 1:00 p.m. at the Hartland (Maine) First Baptist Church.

ILLINOIS FF STEVE KLINE:

Services for Firefighter/Paramedic Steve "Tiny" Kline: Visitation will be Sunday, November 23, 2008 from 2:00 pm till 8:00 pm w/FF walk through at 7:00 pm. Funeral services will be on Monday, November 24 at 10:00. The visitation and the funeral will be at the Morris FD Station 2 at 2301 Ashton Road, Morris, IL 60450.

FIRE CHIEF CLARK O. MARTIN Jr.

As we shared a few weeks ago, Secret List member, long time friend, Fire Buff, Firefighter and Fire Chief CLARK MARTIN (Monroe County, FL and Fairfax County, VA) passed away after a very difficult but brave battle with cancer.

Memorial Service: Friday, December 5, 2008 at 4:00 PM, Burke Presbyterian Church, 5690 Oak Leather Dr.

Burke, Va. 22015...there will then be a reception on Friday, December 5, 2008 from 5:30 PM to 9:30 PM, Waterford at Fair Oaks, 12025 Lee Jackson Memorial Hwy, Fairfax, VA 22033.

Fire/Rescue personnel are encouraged to wear dress uniform. If you have any questions, contact Eric Lamar at the IAFF: elamar@iaff.org

Here is a wonderful piece that Bill at FireGeezer wrote about Clark:

<http://firegeezzer.com/2008/11/02/r-i-p-chief-clark-o-martin-jr/>

Take Care-BE CAREFUL,

BillyG

The Secret List 11-21-08 0645 hours

AND

Hey...

As per Prince Georges County (Maryland) Fire/EMS PIO Mark Brady, about 11:30 hours this morning, Prince George's County Firefighters were alerted to a house fire in the Riverdale Heights area. Fire/EMS units arrived at 6318 57th Avenue and found a 1-story single family home with light smoke showing from the front of the house. The engine from Riverdale Heights (813) arrived first and advanced a hoseline to the front door and then paused, to don their PPE and SCBA. The house was vacant and a small fire could be seen in the front living room. The ladder truck from Riverdale (807) was the second to arrive, almost at the same time as Riverdale Heights. The crew from Truck 807 donned their PPE and SCBA and entered the dwelling to begin ventilation by removing windows. As the engine crew from November 22, 2008

Chabot College Fire & EMS News

Riverdale Heights prepared to enter the structure and extinguish the fire, their hoseline sustained damage from glass or debris and broke; rendering it useless. As additional arriving companies stretched another hoseline into position, a flashover occurred. The flashover occurred with the crew from Truck 807 inside. The crew quickly exited the structure, some requiring assistance from other firefighters. The fire was then out in about 10 minutes. 2 Firefighters sustained burn injuries and were transported to a Burn Unit.

Fire Fighter Anthony "Tony" Blazek, 27, and a 3-year volunteer member of the Riverdale Fire/EMS Station sustained 2nd and 3rd degree burns about his face, neck and back. He has been admitted to the Burn Unit at the Washington Hospital Center. His burn injuries are serious, however, not life-threatening.

A second firefighter, Cory Johnson, 23 years-of-age, 6-year volunteer member of the Riverdale Fire/EMS Station sustained minor burn injuries and was treated and released from the Burn Unit. Fire Investigators believe the fire started in a couch and was caused by vagrants improperly discarded cigarette. Fire loss is estimated at \$25,000.

We have posted several images on our home page (provided by PGFEMS PIO) taken by Probationary Volunteer Member Tony George of Riverdale Heights 813. He was on the first arriving engine and snapped the pictures in sequence. Additional details and links to follow. Our sincere wishes for FF Blazeks rapid recovery.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL-STAY LOW.

BillyG

The Secret List 11-21-08 / 1900 hours

AND

As of this afternoon, Riverdale (Prince Georges County, MD) Volunteer F/F Anthony Blazek has been moved out of ICU and to a regular room at the Burn Unit at Washington Hospital Center. FF Blazek will have to remain hospitalized for a period of time and will undergo skin graft surgery on Monday for burns on his face, neck and shoulders. There are no serious respiratory problems as he did have his mask on, according to Chief Ryan, of Riverdale. It is unknown when FF Blazek will be released from the hospital but he will have a lengthy recovery time. His family along with his Brother and Sister Firefighters have been by his side to support him.

FF Blazek is able to receive visitors from 1100 - 2100 daily, room number 3E-8, MedStar-Washington Hospital Center. The other injured member, FF Cory Johnson is resting at home after being released from the hospital ...but will be further evaluated later this week. Thanks on behalf of the Riverdale VFD and Prince Georges County FD to all who have offered support and well wishes.

UPDATES can be found here: <http://www.riverdalevfd.org/> as well as on www.Statter911.com.

FDNY 5th ALARM WITH TENSE MOMENTS TODAY:

There were some tense moments this afternoon as FDNY companies operated at a well involved five-story building on 31st Street in Astoria (Queens) which was believed to be a cabinet factory. While operating, there was an explosion and partial collapse inside the building. Initial reports are that a large propane tank inside the building was the source of the explosion and while all of the firefighters were forced out...all members were accounted for and there were no FF injuries.

BRUNO UPDATE:

Chief Bruno (Alan Brunacini) had his 2nd knee replaced this week (part of the bionic man-plan) and is doing really well. Bruno would love to hear from those who have time to drop a line. The Chief can be reached at: alanbrunacini@cox.net

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 11-22-08 / 1625 hours

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

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

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

The budget woes continue, in various forms and fashions:

The Phoenix Fire Department is facing staffing cuts in their 9-1-1 Communications center: <http://www.tucsoncitizen.com/ss/arizona/101480.php>

The Sacramento (CA) Fire Department is evaluating the possibility of a ballot measure to eliminate station brownouts due to limited funding:
<http://www.sacbee.com/city/story/1378324.html>

Even the Fire Department New York is not immune to budget cuts and possible layoffs and station / company brownouts:
<http://abcnews.go.com/Blotter/story?id=6181983&page=1>

The West Jordan (UT) Fire Department is struggling with whether to rebuild or fix a firehouse in need of repair (both options have their plusses and minuses):
http://www.sltrib.com/news/ci_10892719

While it doesn't seem like much, the Mesa (AZ) Firefighters union agreed to give up one day of pay per year to help their struggling city balance its budget; a good faith move by the Union membership. The one day per year may not be enough, but it's a

start. Here's the reality we're all facing – fire departments and police departments are fare game for budget cuts, which has not always been the case:

<http://www.azcentral.com/news/articles/2008/11/21/20081121mr-fireplan1122.html>

- A related article from Mesa where they are bracing for the cuts and struggling with how to make ends meet:
<http://www.azcentral.com/news/articles/2008/11/20/20081120mr-PDfire1121.html>
- Another related story from Mesa where they are desperately in need of additional temporary stations to handle the growing call volume, but when the funding isn't there, it isn't there:
<http://www.azcentral.com/community/mesa/articles/2008/11/19/20081119mr-safety1119.html>

Nevada residents voted NO to paying more taxes for funding a new fire station that would have reduced response times and would have provided a higher level of fire protection: <http://www.rgj.com/article/20081105/NEWS19/811050442/1321/NEWS>

The Stockton (CA) Firefighters Local 456 have demonstrated true leadership in tough times to save one of their truck companies that was going to get eliminated; they took some pay reductions and put off some raises:

http://www.recordnet.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20081114/A_NEWS/811140322

- And a related story from Stockton (CA) and the concessions their Union membership has made; a class act in today's challenging times:
<http://www.news10.net/news/local/story.aspx?storyid=50843&catid=2>

The Lacey (WA) Fire District is looking at having to cut six (6) firefighter positions due to their budget shortfall: <http://www.theolympian.com/breakingnews/story/661352.html>

- The final decision is made by the Lacey Fire Commissioners to only layoff five (5) firefighters, and close one fire station:
<http://www.theolympian.com/breakingnews/story/669383.html>

The City of Philadelphia (PA) is faced with a one billion dollar shortfall:

<http://cms.firehouse.com/content/article/article.jsp?id=61560§ionId=46>

- And a related story from Philadelphia where they are looking at closing two ladder companies and five engine companies:
<http://cms.firehouse.com/content/article/article.jsp?id=61652§ionId=46>

Even with all the California wildfires, San Diego (CA) voters say no to a fire tax that would have helped increase the level of fire protection in the area:

<http://cbs2.com/nationalwire/22.0.html?type=national&serviceLevel=a&category=a&filename=FireTax.xml>

The Phoenix (AZ) Fire Department is looking at having to reduce \$20 million dollars from their budget of \$300 million dollars: <http://www.kpho.com/news/17979279/detail.html>

Clark County (NV) leaders are faced with massive declines in revenue and are having to look at alternatives, which may mean not filling vacant fire positions or potentially layoffs. Clark County Fire is the Fire Department that covers the Las Vegas strip; so even all that money from the casinos isn't helping the County and the Department:
<http://www.theolympian.com/breakingnews/story/669383.html>

The City of Redding (CA) is considering asking their firefighters to pay their share of the pension / retirement costs. Health care and retirement costs are two of the highest rising costs to governmental agencies, and more agencies are asking their employees to start paying more to help offset their costs:
<http://cbs13.com/californiawire/22.0.html?type=local&state=CA&category=n&filename=CA--NorCal-ReddingBud.xml>

Fire Department Consolidation / Merger Related Stories:

Voters in Washington overwhelmingly approved the merger of two fire districts;
<http://www.columbian.com/article/20081105/NEWS11/711059946>

Public Relations Nightmare Stories:

A Spokane (WA) Fire Captain has been arrested after allegedly stabbing someone at a bar while off duty: <http://www.kxly.com/Global/story.asp?S=9292007>

An ex-San Francisco (CA) Firefighter is facing criminal charges for workers compensation fraud:
<http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/c/a/2008/11/12/BACT142CPS.DTL>

A Twin Falls (ID) Firefighter is sentenced for battery:
http://www.magicvalley.com/articles/2008/11/19/news/local_state/149068.txt

The Palm Springs (CA) Fire Department was involved in a hit and run accident that injured two people:
<http://www.mydesert.com/article/20081105/NEWS0804/81105023/0/NEWS03>

The Wisconsin State Firefighters Union Chief resigns over an inappropriate racial slur directed at Barack Obama:
<http://cms.firehouse.com/content/article/article.jsp?id=61724§ionId=46>

A 21 year old Massachusetts volunteer firefighter will face charges of speeding and dangerously operating a fire vehicle after crashing a ladder truck, resulting in major damage:
<http://www.capecodonline.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20081117/NEWS11/81117017>

A retired Boston (MA) Firefighter is in the news after getting arrested for allegedly smuggling marijuana last week, and his medical disability retirement is coming into question: <http://www.fireengineering.com/news/newsArticleDisplay.html?id=170249>

A brand new ladder truck being driven by the vendor to the Passaic (NJ) Fire Department came in contact with a privately owned vehicle, resulting in one person being killed, not to mention damage to the ladder truck:
<http://cms.firehouse.com/content/article/article.jsp?id=61724§ionId=46>

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

“Is it a bus or a fire truck?” In northern Virginia, a fire department has “painted” a bus to look like a fire department truck to help with recruiting personnel:
<http://www.wusa9.com/news/local/story.aspx?storyid=77817>

A great tribute to the six (6) Worcester (MA) Firefighters who lost their lives in 1999; a new fire station is built on the site of the building that was demolished after the deadly fire: <http://www.telegram.com/article/20081120/NEWS/811200775/1116>

An off-duty St. Louis (MO) Firefighter is shot dead during a car jacking incident:
<http://www.firerescue1.com/fire-news/437639-off-duty-st-louis-firefighter-shot-dead/>

“The new kid in charge;” a must read for any new officer, especially if they are younger than 30 years old and/or have less than 10 years on the job (both of which are very common in today’s fire service): <http://www.firerescue1.com/Columnists/Linda-Willing/articles/437628-The-New-Kid-in-Charge/>

Even though some taxpayers are not willing to pay additional monies to assist with maintaining fire service levels, the Tualatin Valley (OR) Fire Department was very fortunate to have voters approve paying more:
<http://www.kuik.com/Article.asp?id=970114&spid>

Same story in Colorado where the voters approved a ballot measure for the Mountain View Fire Protection District: <http://www.coloradahometownnews.com/news-story-erie.asp?ID=3368>

Five Chicago (IL) Firefighters are injured when their fire engine (responding to a call) collides with a private vehicle; also injured were the mother and child in that vehicle:
<http://www.suntimes.com/news/metro/1265369%2Cfirefighters-engine-crash-110608.article>

A Los Angeles (CA) Fire Department Engine Company was rear-ended on the freeway while on scene of an accident. I guess some folks are too busy or preoccupied to read

the “keep back 300 feet” signs that are posted on many fire engines. Luckily nobody was injured: http://www.dailynews.com/news/ci_10884516

A Vallejo (CA) man receives eight years in prison for hitting a Vallejo Fire Captain with his car and for punching another firefighter:
http://www.timesheraldonline.com/news/ci_10904209

The new Fire Chief of the Charleston (SC) Fire Department has started his new position and is beginning the long, rebuilding process that will hopefully get the department back on track and where it needs to be in the year 2008:
http://www.charleston.net/news/2008/nov/07/new_fire_chief_has_rebuilding_process_un60770/

250 of 977 Atlanta (GA) Firefighters will soon be eligible to retire; doesn't mean they will, just means they will be eligible:
http://www.charleston.net/news/2008/nov/07/new_fire_chief_has_rebuilding_process_un60770/

The Mt. San Antonio College (CA) Fire Academy is looking at raising money for a fire truck to use in their program. Many people assume colleges are made of money and can just buy large capital items like this. The reality is most colleges end up getting equipment like this donated to them by local fire departments after they are no longer usable (hand-me-downs) for the fire department, but still good for the college students: http://www.dailybulletin.com/ci_10901373

The National Fire Protection Association has released their 2007 study on Firefighter injuries, something all of us can learn something from to keep ourselves safe:
<http://www.nfpa.org/publicJournalDetail.asp?categoryID=1692&itemID=40969&src=NFPAJournal&cookie%5Ftest=1>

The City of Napa (CA) hired five firefighters and is preparing for opening up an additional fire station:
<http://www.napavalleyregister.com/articles/2008/11/12/news/local/doc491a73dcd57d7463882527.txt>

Many fire departments across the nation have their company (engine, truck, etc.) personnel at the fire stations go into businesses on an annual basis to perform fire and life safety inspections, to not only familiarize themselves with the buildings during normal conditions, but to educate the owners about keeping their businesses safe and free from hazards, and also performing code enforcement. The Reno (NV) Fire

Department is still struggling with putting together a comprehensive plan to have their firefighters do such work:

<http://www.rgj.com/article/20081120/OPED01/811200312/1098/OPED>

An interesting job swap program where the firefighters from Mesa (AZ) and Queen Creek (AZ) switch stations so the firefighters working for the slower fire department (Mesa) have a chance to get more experience in a higher volume system:

http://www.abc15.com/content/news/phoenixmetro/story.aspx?content_id=59071350-a3a4-4040-9bde-629fb238d4fc

An issue being felt across the nation – homes being foreclosed; this article focuses on the hazards the fire service may be facing with foreclosed homes:

<http://www.telegram.com/article/20081120/NEWS/811200775/1116>

St. Louis (MO) Firefighters are preparing to switch SCBA brands after their current manufacturer was named in a lawsuit that resulted from the deaths of two firefighters:

<http://www.stltoday.com/stltoday/news/stories.nsf/stlouiscitycounty/story/2AB752255E489076862574F70016C0AF?OpenDocument>

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

- ***Happy Thanksgiving 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. 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
Chabot College web site: www.chabotcollege.edu

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

The Fine Print:

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