



FIRE & EMS NEWS

November 1, 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 TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES:

Registration for the 2008 Fresno Training Officers Symposium is now open and classes are filling up quickly!!!

For more information, go to the registration website at <http://register.calchiefs.org> - where you can download the class descriptions and complete online registration.

Classes being offered this year include, but are not limited to:

- Fire Command 1A
- S-330 (Strike Team/Task Force Leader) **- FULL!**
- S-420 (Command General Staff) **- FULL!**
- Fire Management 2A **- FULL!**
- Rescue Systems 1 **- FULL!**
- Low Angle Rope Rescue
- Fire Apparatus Driver/Operator 1A
- Regional Instructor Orientation **- FULL!**
- Trench Rescue **- FULL!**
- Ethical Leadership in the Classroom **- FULL!**
- Auto Extrication
- Commercial Ventilation Practices **- FULL!**
- Thermal Imaging Camera Awareness **- FULL!**
- Mastering the Fire Service Assessment Center
- Values & Ethical Fire Service Leadership
- Training Mandates
- PowerPoint Basics and Advanced
- Building Construction for Today's Fire Service. **- FULL!**
- The Company Officer - the Missing Link.
- Company Officer Development Academy

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- Lessons Learned: Charleston Fire Department Line of Duty Deaths.
- Lessons Learned: Kyle Wilson Line of Duty Death
- ICS for Structural Collapse Incidents.
- Command and Control Cohesion.
- Fireground Tactics: The Application of the Rules of Engagement for Fighting Fires.
- Search Operations for Today's Fireground.
- Forcible Entry Techniques **- FULL!**
- RIC Operations. **- FULL!**
- Conflict Resolution & the Discipline Process.
- Real Leadership is not for Wimps!
- First-due: Mission Focused Tactics for First-Due Officers
- The Chief Officer of the Future - Organizational and Leadership Principles for the Fire Service.
- Creating Behavioral Performance "SPECS"
- Executive Leadership Institute - The Fire Chief
- Retirement Homes, Assisted Living Facilities & Group Homes and Nursing Homes
- Surviving the Structure Fire: Today's Deadly Fires / Avoiding Fatal Errors on The Fireground **- FULL!**
- You are what you have done - you become what you do
- And many more - see the website for more details.

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](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](#) 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

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- [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:

USFA Releases Residential Structure and Buildings Fires Report

WASHINGTON D.C. - The Department of Homeland Security's United States Fire Administration (USFA) has issued a report today examining the causes and characteristics of fires occurring in residential structures and buildings.

The report, ***Residential Structure and Building Fires*** can be downloaded by going to: www.usfa.dhs.gov/downloads/pdf/publications/Residential_Structure_and_Building_Fires.pdf was developed by the National Fire Data Center, part of USFA.

The report presents an overview of residential structure fires and trends for one-and two-family, multifamily, and other residential structures. This report also addresses residential building fires for each of the three residential occupancy types.

The report is based primarily on 2005 NFIRS data and the 2005 National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) survey data. In 2005, there were an estimated 396,000 residential structure fires, resulting in 3,055 civilian fire deaths, 13,825 civilian injuries, and \$6.9 billion in loss.

“Most fires and related deaths and injuries in residences are preventable,” said United States Fire Administrator Greg Cade. “It is important that you take the necessary precautions to ensure your home is fire safe. Install and maintain smoke alarms and sprinklers, and establish and practice your escape plan. By being prepared, you can help reduce the chances of fire injury or even death.”

Fires in residential buildings—a subset of residential structures—accounted for 95 percent of residential structure fires and fatal fires, 97 percent of residential structure fires with injuries, and 95 percent of fires with dollar loss. There were an estimated 376,500 residential building fires in 2005. These fires claimed the lives of 2,895 civilians and injured an additional 13,375 civilians.

Cooking (41 percent) and heating (13 percent) are the leading causes of residential building fires. Cooking also accounts for approximately 25 percent of fires that injure civilians. Smoking (20 percent) is the leading cause of fatal residential building fires.

APPLICATION PROCESS FOR THE 2009 HARVARD SENIOR EXECUTIVE PROGRAM:

Application Procedures Announced for the 2009 Harvard Senior Executives in State and Local Government Fellowship Program

Emmitsburg, MD - Application procedures have been announced for the 2009 Harvard program for ***Senior Executives in State and Local Government***. The program is once again sponsored through a partnership between the International Association of Fire Chiefs (IAFC), the International Fire Service Training Association/Fire Protection Publications (IFSTA/FPP), the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) and the Department of Homeland Security - United States Fire Administration (USFA). Each organization will fund the tuition costs of two individuals for a total of eight fellowships.

USFA Administrator Gregory B. Cade in announcing the 2009 Program said, “My experience with the ***Senior Executives in State and Local Government*** program at Harvard’s Kennedy School of Government was by far one of the best professional development opportunities I have ever undertaken. The curriculum, faculty, and setting were truly outstanding. Most importantly, as a former Fire Chief, I know the ***State and Local Government Program*** has provided me with experiences and tools to confront the many challenges facing fire and emergency services today. The program was and continues to be particularly valuable when examining and understanding the relationships between careerists, elected, and appointed officials.”

Eight senior fire executives will be awarded fellowships to attend the annual program for ***Senior Executives in State and Local Government***. The 3-week program is conducted on the Harvard campus in Cambridge, Massachusetts. Selected Fellows will be assigned to attend one of the two session dates: June 7-26, 2009 or July 5-24, 2009. **Fellows must be available to attend either session.**

Applicants are responsible for travel costs to the final interview process in Emmitsburg, Maryland, and if selected, also to Cambridge. Housing will be provided at the National Emergency Training Center in Emmitsburg for the interview process in April of 2009. Fellows are expected to continue their professional contributions to the fire and emergency services in light of their ***State and Local Government Program*** experience.

The following criteria and guidelines have been established for the 2009 program:

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- Application is open to senior fire executives who have demonstrated significant career accomplishments and have the potential to impact and initiate change. **Attainment of a senior position is less important than demonstrated experience in facilitating significant change within a public sector setting.**
- Preference may be given to applicants who are graduates of the National Fire Academy's [Executive Fire Officer Program](#), although program completion is not a prerequisite. Preference may also be given to applicants who have completed graduate-level degree programs or course work.
- Individuals whose organizations have been represented in the **Senior Executives in State and Local Government** program during 2006, 2007, or 2008 will not be considered. The program is available to international participants.

Application Instructions

Please follow these four steps carefully as the application procedures have changed from prior years.

1. Applicants must complete and submit the Harvard/Kennedy School of Government [Application for Executive Education](#) (DOC, 255 Kb, [Microsoft Word Help](#)). This form-fillable document can then be completed for submission to the address listed below, not to Harvard. It is recommended that this form be saved to your computer. For the question **“Who will be the financial sponsor of your participation?”** please enter **“IAFC/IFSTA-FPP/NFPA/USFA Fellowship.”** Make sure that you attach your essay responses (250 words or less for each question response).
2. Enclose a current resume or curriculum vitae.
3. Enclose a letter of recommendation from your senior official. If the applicant is the Chief, then the letter should be written by the jurisdictional head (e.g., Mayor or City Manager, etc.). Otherwise, the recommendation should be from the Fire Chief.
4. **Please do not submit your application package directly to the Harvard Kennedy School of Government.** Mail the application package (traceable mail with receipt is recommended) no later than February 14, 2008 to the following address:

*Harvard Fellowship Program
International Association of Fire Chiefs
c/o Ms. Elena Slavinsky
4025 Fair Ridge Drive - Suite 300
Fairfax, Virginia 22033-2868*

For questions regarding application procedures only, please contact the USFA's Ms. Mary Wingert at (301) 447-1085 or mary.wingert@dhs.gov

If the applicant's organization or position should change (voluntarily or involuntarily) after the application package has been submitted, she/he is obligated to notify Ms. Wingert. Application packages postmarked **after** February 14, 2009 will not be considered. For more information please refer to the [USFA/National Fire Academy Web site](#) or the Harvard University/John F. Kennedy School of Government [Senior Executives in State and Local Government Web site](#).

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

USFA and NIST Complete Study of Thermal Imaging Technology

Emmitsburg, MD. – The United States Fire Administration (USFA) and the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST – www.nist.gov) have completed a report:

Technical Note 1499, Performance Metrics for Fire Fighting Thermal Imaging Cameras – Small- and Full-Scale Experiments (PDF, 2.5 Mb) –
<http://fire.nist.gov/bfrlpubs/fire08/PDF/f08017.pdf>

This report provides information on the research conducted as part of a project partnership on Thermal Imaging Camera (TIC) imaging performance metrics and test methods. The overall objective of the report is to provide science-based information to national standards developing organizations, including the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) in support of NFPA 1801, ***Standard on Thermal Imagers for the Fire Service***.

This study was conducted with support of the Department of Homeland Security's (DHS) Science and Technology Directorate. The report describes performance metrics on TIC image contrast, effective temperature range, resolution, and image and thermal sensitivity.

"Each year fires in structures trap firefighters resulting in their injury and sometimes, death," said U.S. Fire Administrator Greg Cade. "This research partnership has developed critical information to support the development of a national standard on Thermal Imaging Technology that previously did not exist which will enhance the safety of our nation's firefighters."

NIST and USFA conducted research on the performance of thermal imaging systems to enhance firefighter safety in operational situations. Current thermal imaging technology was assessed by investigating a variety of commercially available thermal imaging cameras in the laboratory as well as in full-scale burns. The research also explored new technology that might enhance performance of future thermal imaging devices and worked to incorporate new technology into enhanced infrared cameras. Issues such as differential resolution, thermal exposure, performance during suppression, and ease of use were also examined. This project complemented existing NIST funded research on the development of a standard on thermal imaging technology.

"This study examined the capabilities and limitations of such thermal imaging technology and may lead to improved evaluation, standards, training, and understanding by local fire and emergency services departments," said NIST researcher Nelson Bryner. "NIST was pleased to work with USFA in this effort to provide science-based information to national level standards developing organizations on this life saving technology for the fire service and the public they protect."

Another technical report documenting the needs of the fire service community, ***Thermal Imaging Research Needs for First Responders: Workshop Proceedings***, was previously published as part of this study.

These reports are available for download, free of charge, from the both the USFA and NIST Web sites.

Further information about this partnership effort may be found under the **Research section** of the USFA Web site at www.usfa.dhs.gov/fireservice/research/safety/nist3.shtm

FIRE SERVICE TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES:

National Fire Academy (NFA) Training Opportunities

(as of October 30, 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

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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	10 vacancies
R203	Fire Dynamics-Fire Modeling 3/23/09-4/3/09	4 vacancies
R213	Analysis of Arson Management 1/18/09-1/23/09	7 vacancies
R247	Advanced Life Support Response to Hazardous Materials Incidents 3/23/09-4/3/09	4 vacancies
R335	Administration of Public Assistance For Community Recovery 1/25/09-1/30/09	11 vacancies
R359	Discovering the Road to High-Risk Audiences 2/1/09-2/6/09	9 vacancies
R491	NFIRS: Program Manager 2/1/09-2/6/09	14 vacancies
P492	Standards of Cover: Fire Prevention & Risk Mitigation 2/8/09-2/13/09	5 vacancies
R816	VIP: Community Education Leadership 2/15/09-2/20/09	2 vacancies

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 13, 2008

- The Great Southern California ShakeOut

<http://www.shakeout.org>

Recently on the LAFD Blog...

- Wildfire, Will Your Neighborhood Be Next?

<http://snipurl.com/477ii>

- Listen to News Radio During Local Wildfires

<http://snipurl.com/477j3>

- 75 Years Ago: L.A. Wildfire Kills 29 Firefighters

<http://snipurl.com/477mt>

- Can You PASS the Fire Extinguisher Test?

<http://snipurl.com/47778>

- What Type of Smoke Alarms are in Your Home?

<http://snipurl.com/4777v>

- LA's Bravest Say: You Don't Know Fire

<http://snipurl.com/47785>

- Novelty Lighters, Playing with Fire

<http://snipurl.com/280f6>

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www.chabotfire.com

- LAFD Driver Training: Getting Us There Safely
<http://snipurl.com/4779i>
- Be Open To Garage Door and Gate Safety
<http://snipurl.com/4779r>
- Stroke is a Medical Emergency and Every Minute Counts
<http://snipurl.com/4779z>
- Jack Dorsey: LAFD Breaking News via Twitter
<http://snipurl.com/477ab>
- Firefighters Code 3 For a Cure
<http://snipurl.com/477am>
- 93 Years Ago: The Cause for Alarms and Away with the Horses
<http://snipurl.com/477ay>
- Symbolism of Substance, the LAFD Seal
<http://snipurl.com/477ef>
- How Fast Do Firefighters Arrive in Los Angeles
<http://snipurl.com/477hz>
- Disaster Preparedness is Smart Business
<http://snipurl.com/477j7>
- Will a Rabbit Save Your Life?
<http://snipurl.com/477jp>
- LAFD Friend, Father of Police Call Dies
<http://snipurl.com/477k5>
- An LAFD Career, the Power to Make a Difference
<http://snipurl.com/477kw>
- The Busiest Fire Engines in Los Angeles
<http://snipurl.com/477lf>
- Where are the Police in Los Angeles?
<http://snipurl.com/477lv>
- How Far We've Come: 1958 Video Features LAFD
<http://snipurl.com/477m8>
- Hannah Montana, God and the LAFD
<http://snipurl.com/477ml>

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>

Kindly mark these dates on *your* calendar today!

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 INFORMATION, COURTESY OF THE U.S. FIRE ADMINISTRATION:

USFA Releases Highway Vehicle Fires Topical Report

WASHINGTON D.C. - The Department of Homeland Security's United States Fire Administration (USFA) has issued a special report, part of its Topical Fire Report Series, examining the causes and characteristics of highway vehicle fires. An estimated 258,500 highway vehicle fires occur annually resulting in 490 civilian deaths, 1,275 civilian injuries, and \$1 billion in property loss.

"Highway vehicle fires account for nearly one out of every six fires," said United States Fire Administrator Greg Cade. "It is important to focus on vehicle fire prevention and public safety to help reduce the number of vehicle-related fire deaths and injuries."

The report, **Highway Vehicle Fires** – www.usfa.dhs.gov/downloads/pdf/tfrs/v9i1.pdf was developed by the National Fire Data Center, part of the USFA. The report is based on 2004 to 2006 data from the National Fire Incident Reporting System (NFIRS).

According to the report, 84 percent of highway vehicle fires occur in passenger vehicles. Unintentionally started fires (29%) and the failure of equipment (28%) are the leading causes of highway vehicle fires. Sixty-two percent of highway vehicle fires originate in the engine, running gear, or wheel areas of the vehicle.

The short topical reports are designed to explore facets of the U.S. fire problem as depicted through data collected in NFIRS. Each topical report briefly addresses the nature of the specific fire or fire-related topic, highlights important findings from the data, and may suggest other resources to consider for further information. Also included are recent examples of fire incidents that demonstrate some of the issues addressed in the report or that put the report topic in context.

Topical reports may be downloaded from the **Statistics section** of the USFA Web site at www.usfa.dhs.gov/statistics/reports/index.shtm

FIRE SERVICE TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES:

Public Safety Consultants is offering some great fire service professional development opportunities, as seen below. Go to their website for more information: www.fireclasses.com

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Contemporary Leadership Challenges for Chief Officers – Chico, CA – November 24, 2008

For more information, and to register, go to www.fireclasses.com

PLACE: City of Chico Fire Dept. Training Center 1466 Humboldt Rd. Chico, Ca. 95928

- 1 Day Seminar (LUNCH IS PROVIDED!)

INSTRUCTORS: Gordon Graham & Paul Stein (sponsored by the Chico F.D.)

This extremely informative and motivating 1-day seminar will be taught by two of the most nationally renowned instructors on current leadership and management issues, Gordon Graham and Chief Paul Stein. This unique 1-day interactive workshop will include an in-depth look at current management trends in the fire service, and how to become a more effective and efficient chief officer. This program also combines the separate disciplines of Risk Management, Customer Service, Accountability, Mentoring, and Integrity, and how these concepts work together to assure things go right, thus preventing undesirable consequences. This class is designed for Chief Officers and those that aspire to become chief officers.

TOPICS: - Identifying successful Leadership characteristics - Ethical Leadership - Getting the front line supervisor on your side - Project Management - Delegate, motivate, and lead - Coaching/Counseling - Risk Management - Customer Service – Accountability - Integrity - Becoming a better communicator

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

LEARNING

Media CENTER




Everyone Goes Home® Learning Media Center E-Alert - October 20, 2008

Improving Your Theory of the Situation

Change your action steps and improve Risk Management

This Month's Feature
[Improving Your Theory of the Situation](#)
This presentation looks at case studies to help officers and firefighters take lessons learned from previous incidents and learn to apply them in future situations.
» [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.

  
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www.everyonegoeshome.com

FIRE SERVICE INFORMATION FROM THE CALIFORNIA STATE FIRE MARSHAL'S OFFICE:

Download your monthly report from the California State Fire Marshal at <http://calchiefs.org/items/SFMReportOctober2008.pdf>

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:

Just in – There is a new Sacramento California Fire Fighters Joint Apprenticeship Committee CPAT Testing Center in Sacramento, CA!

- **See below for more 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

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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 Schedule:

ORIENTATION DATES:

- November 11, 17
- December 8

PRACTICE DATES:

- November 11, 12, 17, 18
- December 8, 9

TEST DATES:

- November 15, 20
- December 11

Orange (CA) - 2008 Schedule:

ORIENTATION DATES:

- November 1, 17
- December 6

PRACTICE DATES:

- November 4, 12, 18
- December 2, 9, 16

TEST DATES:

- November 6, 15, 20
- December 4, 13, 18

Sacramento (CA) - 2008 Schedule:

ORIENTATION DATES:

- November 8, 20
- December 13

PRACTICE DATES:

- November 8, 20
- December 13

TEST DATES:


- November 21
- December 18

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 October 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 containing a fire helmet, surrounded by the text "LIFE SAFETY INITIATIVES", "EVERYONE GOES HOME", "FIREFIGHTER", and "LIFE SAFETY INITIATIVES". To the right, the text "www.EveryoneGoesHome.com" is displayed above the large, stylized text "EVERYONE GOES HOME®" and "FIREFIGHTER LIFE SAFETY INITIATIVES".

October 2008
E-Newsletter

[Bringing Laughter Among Loss,
the Tough Job of a Clown](#)

Fire Prevention Week is the first full week of October. The weekend prior, members of the fire service, survivors of our fallen heroes and others joined together in Emmitsburg, Maryland, to honor those firefighters who lost their lives in the line of duty during the past year.

» [Click Here to Read the Full Article](#)



The logo is a blue Maltese cross with a red rose in the center, surrounded by the text "NATIONAL FALLEN FIREFIGHTERS FOUNDATION®". Below the logo, the text reads "The Everyone Goes Home® Firefighter Life Safety Initiatives".

[Firefighter Mental Health and Wellness](#)

Stress, Job Stress, Job Burn Out, Acute Stress Disorder, Post Traumatic Stress: What is it? What can we do about it? What can be done to reduce its impact on our physical, as well as, emotional outlook? We need to begin the run and manage ourselves through active service careers and balance out the negative impact that stress has on us.

» [Click Here to Read the Full Article](#)

[Cultural Change: Just Do It](#)

I've heard it said many times that if we could accomplish Initiative #1 concerning cultural change, the remaining 15 wouldn't be necessary. After spending a lot of time with the *Everyone Goes Home*® program, I'm not so sure I believe that is completely true. As with any plan, there are benchmarks and/or steps along the way to reach the desired outcome.

» [Click Here to Read the Full Article](#)

More October 2008 Articles:

- [Fireman's Fund Reaches \\$20M Milestone in Donations to Fire Service](#)
- [Carr Looks Forward to Challenges as Charleston Chief](#)
- [Everyone Goes Home® Speakers Bureau](#)
- [Paul Nelson Named New Wisconsin State Advocate](#)

» More: [View the Complete October 2008 Newsletter](#)

» Archives: [Everyone Goes Home® Newsletters](#)

» For More Information Visit: www.everyonegoeshome.com

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.



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](#) 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 -

Dates / Locations / Times:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tuesday November 4, 2008 from 1200 to 1700 hours • Wednesday November 5, 2008 from 1200 to 1700 hours <p>NOTE: All of the above classes will be held at the Bay Model Visitor Center in Sausalito (2100 Bridgeway, Sausalito)</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>
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 trauma 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@sfparamedics.org or visit their website section on volunteer opportunities at www.sfparamedics.org/pages/about/volunteer.php

- Advanced Medical Life Support Classes - Volunteers Needed

Dates / Locations / Times:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tuesday November 4, 2008 from 1130 to 1630 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>
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

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	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

- Infrequently Used Skills Classes - Volunteers Needed -

Dates / Locations / Times:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• November 4, 2008 from 0830 to 1200 hours• November 4, 2008 from 1300 to 1700 hours• November 6, 2008 from 0830 to 1200 hours• November 6, 2008 from 1300 to 1700 hours• November 9, 2008 from 0830 to 1200 hours• November 9, 2008 from 1300 to 1700 hours• November 13, 2008 from 0830 to 1200 hours• November 13, 2008 from 1300 to 1700 hours <p>NOTE: All of the above classes will be held at the San Jose Fire Department Bureau of Education and Training, 255 South Montgomery, San Jose, CA.</p> <p>**Go to their website at www.sparamedics.org and click on Volunteer Info (under About) to confirm the above dates and times and to register.</p>
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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:

USFA Releases Report on the Chemical Fire in Apex, North Carolina

Emmitsburg, MD – The United States Fire Administration (USFA) released a new technical report titled **Chemical Fire in Apex, North Carolina** (www.usfa.dhs.gov/downloads/pdf/publications/tr_163.pdf).

At 9:38 p.m. on Thursday, October 5, 2006, the Apex Fire Department was dispatched to a report of a chlorine odor. AFD dispatched its standard response of two engines and a chief officer (shift commander). By the time the incident demobilized, approximately 17,000 people had been evacuated from their homes due to the threat posed by the chemical plume. There were no fatalities. Thirty civilians sought medical treatment for respiratory distress and skin irritation. Twelve police officers and one firefighter were treated for respiratory difficulties that

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were consistent with exposure to "tear gas." This report examines the response of the Apex Fire Department, the value of pre-planning efforts, and the impact of a well coordinated response in the worst of conditions.

"Once again we see the positive outcomes of preplanning, practicing the plans, and executing the plans when an emergency occurs," said U.S. Fire Administrator Greg Cade. "Our country's fire service is an amazing cadre of specially trained individuals whom the public not only relies on during emergencies – but also depends on to be prepared for all emergencies, and knows how to apply the principles of on scene management, including ICS and NIMS."

From every account and after-action report, including the town's report, this potentially devastating situation was handled with the highest levels of skill and expertise. The multiagency cooperation was virtually a textbook application of Unified Command and the National Incident Management System (NIMS). The key element contributing to the success of operations was that Apex had a very well-defined plan that was practiced routinely. They made a commitment to train to the plan, and when they had an incident they used the plan as a foundation for the response.

The USFA develops reports on selected major incidents throughout the country. The incidents usually involve multiple deaths or a large loss of property, but the primary criterion for deciding to write a report is whether it will result in significant lessons learned. Under this project, USFA also develops special reports addressing a variety of issues that affect the fire service such as homeland security and disaster preparedness, new technologies, training, fireground tactics, and firefighter safety and health.

For additional information regarding this report, or other USFA Technical Reports, visit the **Publications section** of the USFA Web site at www.usfa.dhs.gov/applications/publications/

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

U.S. Fire Administration Launches Blog

EMMITSBURG, MD – The U.S. Fire Administration (USFA) today announced the launch of an interactive blog on its Web site at USFA.DHS.gov. This blog will serve as a tool for the Fire Service to share comments, ideas, and success stories about fire prevention, preparedness, and response in America. In turn, USFA will post videos, outreach materials, and other helpful tools while charting feedback.

"Over 3,000 civilians and 100 firefighters lose their lives each year due to fire," said U.S. Fire Administrator Greg Cade. "This blog is the perfect medium for an open dialogue with the Fire Service to discuss measures that we can undertake to help save lives. We hope to foster a

community where USFA staff and readers can share ideas and experiences with each other and work together for a fire-safe America.”

USFA employees will contribute to and moderate the blog, including staff from the National Fire Academy. Their breadth of experience will provide unique perspectives on public education, research, data collection, and training issues. The first post discusses fire department preparedness for extreme weather emergencies and natural disasters, and how these events can place personnel and assets at risk, diminishing response capabilities. Future posts will cover topics such as how the rising cost of fuel is affecting fire and emergency services departments, college campus fire safety, how to get fire prevention messages into local news stories, residential sprinklers, and firefighter health and safety.

“The USFA is committed to being proactive in addressing emergent issues and innovative concepts through the new blog,” continued Cade. “The challenges faced by today’s fire service leaders and firefighters change rapidly and continue to grow in complexity. This new Internet tool provides another opportunity for USFA to stay abreast of current events and respond quickly to changes and the informational needs of this nation’s fire service.”

The USFA blog can be found at blog.usfa.dhs.gov.

FIREFIGHTER FATALITY INFORMATION:

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

Name:	William Joseph Miller
Rank:	Firefighter
Age:	24
Gender:	Male
Status:	Volunteer
Years of Service:	2 years
Date of Incident:	10/13/2008
Time of Incident:	2030hrs
Date of Death:	10/13/2008
Fire Department:	Blue Mound Fire Department
Address:	324 N. Lewis, Blue Mound, IL 62513 (USNG: 16S CJ 1813 9679)
Map:	http://www.fidnet.com/~jmoore/usng/?zoom=13&usng=16SCJ18139679&disp=m
Fire Department Chief:	John A. Holmgren, Jr.

Incident Description: Firefighter Miller passed away from injuries sustained when the apparatus he was operating rolled over while participating in an area fire department water supply training exercise. Another firefighter was injured in the accident.

Incident Location: Vicinity of crossroads Mosquito Creek Road and Archery Club Road (USNG: 16S CJ 1977 9974)

Map View:

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<http://www.fidnet.com/~jlmoore/usng/?zoom=13&usng=16SCJ19779974&disp=m>

Funeral Arrangements: Visitation will be Thursday, October 14, 2008 and Funeral will be Friday, October 15, 2008 in Ramsey, Illinois at the Miller Funeral Home. There will be a memorial service on Saturday October 16, 2008 from 5:00-6:00 pm in Blue Mound, Ill at the Dawson and Wikoff Funeral Home.

Memorial Fund Contact and Address: Blue Mound Fire Department, 324 N. Lewis, Blue Mound, IL 62513

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

To date, 94 firefighter fatalities have been reported to USFA in 2008 as a result of incidents that occurred in 2008. USFA

AND:

Name: Brian D. Neville
Rank: Paramedic-Firefighter
Age: 32
Gender: Male
Status: Career
Years of Service: 7
Date of Incident: 10/16/2008
Time of Incident: Unk
Date of Death: 10/16/2008
Fire Department: Baltimore County Fire Department
Address: 700 E Joppa RD., Towson, MD 21286-5500
Fire Department Chief: John Hohman
Fire Department Website: <http://www.co.ba.md.us/fire>

Incident Description: Paramedic-Firefighter Neville was discovered deceased by his relief shift having passed away during the night while on duty in BCFD Station 17. The cause of the Neville's passing has yet to be reported.

Incident Location: BCFD Texas - [Station 17](#), 9835 York Road, Cockeysville, MD 21030 (Grid: 18S UJ 5943 6906)

Map View:

<http://www.fidnet.com/~jlmoore/usng/?zoom=17&usng=18SUJ59436906&disp=h>

Funeral Arrangements: At this point, viewings will be held at Ruck Funeral Home in Towson (1050 York Road, at West Road). Exact times for viewings are still to be determined. A full Fire Department with interment at Dulaney Memorial Gardens is anticipated. More information will be forthcoming as soon as it is available (<http://www.iafflocal1311.org/DEATHS.htm>).

Memorial Fund Contact and Address: Pending (<http://www.iafflocal1311.org/DEATHS.htm>)

Tribute is being paid to Paramedic-Firefighter Brian D. Neville at <http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/fireservice/fatalities/>

To date, 95 firefighter fatalities have been reported to USFA in 2008 as a result of incidents that occurred in 2008.

AND:

Name: Adam Cody Renfroe
Rank: Firefighter
Age: 24
Gender: Male
Status: Volunteer
Years of Service: 2
Date of Incident: 10/29/2008
Time of Incident: 1300hrs
Date of Death: 10/29/2008
Fire Department: Crossville Fire Department
Address: PO Box 100, Crossville, AL 35962 (USNG: 16SEC931944)
Map: <http://www.fidnet.com/~jlmoore/usng/?zoom=14&usng=16SEC931944&disp=h>
Fire Department Chief: Daniel White

Incident Description: Firefighter Renfroe and another Crossville firefighter were searching a burning residential structure for a possible victim when the alarm to the other firefighter's air pack sounded. The other firefighter exited the structure, believing Renfroe was behind him. When Firefighter Renfroe did not come out of the residence, firefighters and law enforcement from several departments began efforts to rescue him. One Crossville police officer climbed a ladder on the outside of the house and, through a window, could see that Renfroe was still inside. Only after overcoming fire conditions were firefighters able to get to Renfroe. However, he did not survive. Investigation continues into the incident.

Incident Location: DeKalb CR-482, not far from SR-75 (USNG: 16S EC 856 978).

Map View:

<http://www.fidnet.com/~jlmoore/usng/?zoom=12&usng=16SEC856978&disp=h>

Funeral Arrangements: Pending

Memorial Fund Contact and Address: In honor of Firefighter Adam Cody Renfroe, C/o Crossville Fire Department, PO Box 100, 14521 AL-68, Crossville, AL 35962

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

To date, 96 firefighter fatalities have been reported to USFA in 2008 as a result of incidents that occurred in 2008.

USFA does not have a Line-of-Duty-Death (LODD) criterion nor does it make LODD determinations. "Please note, running totals of firefighter fatalities used on these initial notices do not necessarily reflect the number of firefighter fatalities used in totals for the (provisional) monthly year-to-date USFA firefighter fatality reports, or year-end (provisional) reports posted online (http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/fireservice/fatalities/statistics/ff_stats.shtm)

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

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

Hey....

This is the first time in many years I wasn't able to be at the National Fallen Firefighters Memorial Weekend. I had committed several years ago to be in the NW-so here I am, sleepless in Seattle spending time with some good Firefighters in Washington State.

If you have ever been to the NFFF Memorial Weekend, you know what an incredibly moving and important event that it is. As we have urged before, if you have never been, attending should be on your list of to do stuff as a Firefighter. While some feel it might be "too depressing"...for those who have been, they quickly discover that it is extremely moving and further helps you "recharge" your own batteries and your commitment to this job. More importantly, the time taken to honor the families is priceless. Between observing the work done in supporting the families (and the kids) to the moving candlelight service to the memorial service, it is amazing what those who work and volunteer for "the weekend" get done.

If you didn't get the chance to be there, here are some pictures:

<http://weekend.firehero.org/2008slides/phpslideshow.php?directory=weekend>

So if you didn't make this year, I'll see ya there next year.

Events in our business such as the National Fallen Firefighters Memorial Weekend matter. Clearly there are lots of other outstanding fire service events, but this event has a very solemn but exclusive mission: to support those (and the families) of those FF's who gave their lives in the line of duty. And while there are many good people in our business who matter everyday (from the fire service associations, the fire service media, instructors, November 1, 2008 www.chabotfire.com 29

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firefighters, officers, dispatchers, staff support and folks who run things on the larger national scales such as, for example, the USFA, the NFA, the Near Miss Reporting System and to Fire Act Grant folks to those who are elected and actually do support us, as examples)... but those who work and volunteer at the National Fallen Firefighters Memorial Weekend deserve a special tip of the helmet. From Ron Siarnicki to the very professional NFFF staff to the national fire service Honor Guard members to the newest and oldest serving volunteers who came up to Emmitsburg to help out this past weekend for the first time, what these good people accomplish together is nothing short of amazing.

As I sat here in the fully sprinklered Marriott, I watched CNN-HLN and not once, but on numerous occasions, they ran the story and clips of the NFFF Memorial Weekend worldwide, honoring the good people who lost their lives as Firefighters.

Times are tough. I sat with some great firefighters Saturday night from 2 of the Washington State FOOLS Chapters and heard of at least 1 FD that may have to layoff up to 8 firefighters. I am still shocked when I see FD's that are already woefully short staffed, looking at more cutbacks. At what point does a community speak up? Or...at what point does the community get told by leadership that they will NOT have the service and response they think they have, if cuts are made? I am still amazed when I hear about FF cuts....but get even more worked up when cuts happen...and yet FD's and their leadership allow the public and elected officials to feel that "we will be fine" and "these cuts will not affect service, safety or response times"....WTF!? That isn't good for people.

And while times are tough all over, we still see genuinely good people doing good stuff. Be it FF's who take it upon themselves to get things like training done, budget cuts or not, to those who volunteer their time for their union local or their FF associations or wherever else we give of our time, the good people still do good regardless of whatever or whoever is trying to push the bad stuff and the negatives. Don't get me wrong, the fire service "quota" on "not so good" people is full and well covered, but there are a whole lot more good people in our business who make it better.

In this case, and specifically this weekend, thanks to all the good people, from staff to volunteers (and MANY of them family members of past Fallen Firefighters), who helped make the 2008 National Fallen Firefighter Memorial Weekend an incredible and meaningful event. And while it mattered to, of course, the attendees, it matters most to the families of those lost in the Line of Duty. Never been to NFFF Memorial Weekend? Plan on it next year with a group of your FF's-you won't regret it.

Take Care,
BillyG
The Secret List 10-6-08 / 1122 hours

AND:

Hey...

Yesterday (Tuesday) morning, 4 Sacramento Firefighters were burned (one seriously) when they became trapped inside a dwelling fire. Firefighters arrived in about 6 minutes and reported heavy smoke and fire showing...they entered and made their way upstairs when the

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heavy heat quickly hit them. They became trapped as the fire burned through their hoseline...one of the FF's, Captain Jeffery Helvin, 39, was taken the hospital for serious injuries. 3 other FF's, Christopher Berquist, 30, Bruce Gee, 26, and Eric Ely, 23, were treated and released for moderate to minor burns. During the fire, 1 Firefighter made it out through an upstairs window and the others came down the stairs. All 4 suffered burn injuries, with the Engine Captain receiving burns to his hands and upper torso area. The extent of his burns is not known at this time, but none of the Firefighters injured have life threatening injuries. We wish them a rapid recovery and will update this story on our homepage.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 10-8-08 / 0121 hours

AND:

Hey...

A **Gary (Indiana)** ladder company crashed into a car this afternoon and witnesses stated that the apparatus killed the female civilian driver instantly. Coroner's office investigators are on the scene this evening at 35th Avenue and Jefferson Street. A Gary Firefighter stated that none of the 3 Firefighters on the ladder company were injured. Additional details to follow on our home page.

SURGERY FOR BURNS: Sacramento Fire Captain.

A Sacramento fire captain will require surgery for burns he suffered fighting a house fire yesterday. Capt. Jeffery Helvin, 39, is in serious but stable condition at UC Davis Medical Center's burn unit. He suffered serious burns to one hand and burns to his neck and face, said Capt. Jim Doucette.

3 other firefighters were injured in the blaze. Firefighters Bruce Gee, 26 , Christopher Berquist, 30, and Eric Ely, 24, all suffered superficial burns. The 4 Firefighters were hurt while battling a two-alarm blaze at about 0930....they had gone upstairs to quell the spreading fire when the flames quickly intensified, Doucette said...."**It sounds like they got caught in some kind of 'flashover,'** " he said. "At least one or two of (the firefighters) jumped out of the windows, and the others made it down the stairway," Doucette said.

Cards and well-wishes for the Helvin and the other firefighters can be sent to:

Capt. Jeff Helvin, Sacramento Fire Department, 5770 Freeport Blvd., Suite 200, Sacramento, 95822.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 10-8-08 / 2114 Hours

AND:

Hey...

A **Knoxville (TN) Firefighter received a head injury** while responding to a car crash around 1700 hours. The civilian driver of the Mitsubishi convertible involved in the crash also has

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been taken to the hospital with life-threatening injuries. The crash happened when the car slammed into a telephone pole...the driver had to be extricated from the vehicle and was taken to the University of Tennessee Medical Center. A firefighter from Engine 16 suffered a head injury during the response and was transported...but his injury was not believed to be life-threatening. More details will be posted.

And in **St Louis (MO), 2 fire apparatus collided with each other while responding to a call, injuring 8 Firefighters.** All were taken to hospitals for examination. None were critically injured. The two fire companies were headed to a fire at 12:45 hours about a block from where the crash happened. The engines were from Engine Co. 10 and Engine Co. 28. 7 of the 8 injured Firefighters were expected to be released from the hospital this afternoon. The 8th Firefighter suffered a concussion and will be kept at the hospital overnight for observation. The most seriously injured firefighter, whose identity is not being released, was a jump man in the ladder truck from Engine Co. 28. A jump man sits in the cab of the fire truck and under a canopy, as per St Louis terminology. Photos on our home page.

We wish a rapid recovery to all affected.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 10-10-08 /1845 hours

AND:

Hey...

As you may remember, an explosion destroyed a building in Ghent (WVA) in January of 2007 as FF's arrived-killing 2 in the Line of Duty. 2 Appalachian Heating employees Glenn Ray Bennett, 44, and Jeffrey Lee Treadway, 21, both from Beckley were killed; and Ghent VFD Firefighters Craig Lawrence Dorsey, 24, of MacArthur and Frederick Allen Burroughs, 51, of Ghent, were Killed in the Line of Duty. Two other emergency responders and the store's four employees were injured. Seven lawsuits were filed on behalf of 17 plaintiffs in Raleigh County Circuit Court. The first of the suits was scheduled to go to trial in March 2009....plaintiffs who specified damages were seeking a total of \$120 million.

VIDEO: Here is an outstanding "Don't Miss This" TRAINING VIDEO that is of value for all fire and EMS personnel, related to the above specific incident:
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JzdnUZReoLM>

OFF DUTY FIREFIGHTER MOTORCYCLE DEATHS:

While we rarely write about them (simply a time and logistical issue), there have been numerous off duty FF deaths recently-almost all related to vehicle accidents-and many on motorcycles. Most recently, on Friday at 0545, Assistant Fire Chief Matt Rouse, 37, from the Munford VFD in Alabama was killed on his way to work. Matt was traveling north on a motorcycle and another driver was headed south on a 2 way divided highway, when the other driver turned in front of Matt...he was killed instantly. The other driver said he never saw Chief Rouse. Matt leaves behind a wife and two children. While his career job was in the business field, he also worked with Fire & Rescue at the Talladega Super Speedway and at the Talladega Airport.

Many Firefighters ride "bikes" and with this economy, many more may be. If you are one of those, make sure you are VERY visible...bright vests may not provide the "biker look" some may want...but it helps others see you. Headlights on/pulsing, a helmet, bright visible clothing and the "drive defensively" expectation that you may not be seen-can all help minimize similar tragic losses. Our sincere condolences go out to the members of the MFD and the family of Chief Rouse ...with hope that his loss will help others. Take Care-BE CAREFUL on and off duty...

BillyG

The Secret List 10-12-08 / 2252 hours

AND:

ILLINOIS FIREFIGHTER KILLED IN THE LINE OF DUTY DURING TRAINING:

Last evening, a fire tanker with the **Blue Mound FPD in Illinois** rolled over while participating in a training drill. This happened in southwest Macon County around 2030 hours and a **Firefighter was killed in the Line Of Duty**. The Firefighter, who was driving, was 24 years old...another FF on the rig was slightly injured. Area FD's were doing a water supply shuttle drill. He was conscious during the extrication but then lost consciousness and was pronounced at the hospital due to his injuries. Additional details to follow.

ROTOR BLADE TRAGICALLY KILLS PARAMEDIC:

It is with deep regret that we advise you of the **Line of Duty Death** of a Paramedic with the Arizona Department of Public Safety. **Paramedic Bruce Harrolle was hit with the rotor blade from the DPS helicopter while conducting a mountain rescue around 1600 hours yesterday**. The helicopter landed to evacuate the two hikers...the medic secured one hiker inside the helicopter and the rotor blade struck him as he was guiding the second hiker to the helicopter. The helicopter flew the hikers to safety without further incident. Paramedic Harrolle is a 9 year veteran with DPS and he leaves behind a wife and 2 young children.

FETN SHUTS DOWN:

We have posted some information related to FETN (Fire & Emergency Training/Television Network) shutting down. It is on our News/Updates section of the home page.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 10-14-08 / 0742 hours

AND:

Hey...

We deeply regret to advise you that Ms. Heather Westphal, Manager of Membership Marketing of the International Association of Fire www.IAFC.org horrifically drowned Sunday while on family vacation on the Hawaiian island of Kauai. Heather began working for the IAFC in February, 2007. The 33-year-old Westphal and her 39-year-old sister-in-law, Tonya Cataldo of Parker, CO, were walking along a ledge when **they were both** swept out to sea by a large wave-**as witnessed by many family members**.

The latest information is here from Dave Statter:

<http://www.wusa9.com/news/columnist/blogs/2008/10/iafc-staffer-drowns-in-hawaii.html>

Please check www.IAFC.org tomorrow for official release and related information on this terrible loss. We had the pleasure to work with Heather on numerous occasions and she was exactly what any association would want managing the membership program. She was professional yet a pleasure to be around and work with and was one who truly understood the unique needs of an association and it's members, such as the IAFC.

While not a Firefighter, there are so many people who support what we do in so many critical ways each and every day...and clearly, Heather was the perfect example. This is a deep loss to the IAFC, the Fire Service but most critically, her surviving husband (**who unsuccessfully attempted a rescue**) and her entire family and friends. Rest in peace.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 10-13-08 / 2130 hours

AND:

Hey....

A Firefighter in Texas suffered cardiac arrest on the scene of a run Monday-but is now in stable but serious condition. The New Berlin FD responded to an interstate grass fire when a Volunteer Firefighter seemingly lost control of his vehicle just as he arrived at the scene. FF Justin Burton, 37, was in stable condition Tuesday in the wake of the medical emergency that occurred in his personal pickup truck on Interstate 10 as he was responding to a grass fire with his wife, Sharon....both New Berlin Firefighters. As the firefighters already on scene were operating, the Burtons approached in their pickup, which coasted to a stop in the median, bumping the cable that divided the east and west sides of the interstate. Firefighters watched the unusual accident as Sharon Burton, a firefighter/EMT, came on the radio calling for help because her husband had stopped breathing. FF Burton was unconscious and didn't have any heart rate or respirations...they pulled him out of the vehicle and began CPR and radioed for an ambulance....after several minutes, FF Burton began breathing on his own. 4 Firefighters worked to resuscitate him with the EMS equipment they carried, others used one of the apparatus to control the grass fires. We wish FF Burton a rapid recovery.

NEW YORK CITY TRIP:

As we shared with you several weeks ago, The September 11th Families Association has created a show entitled "Performing Tribute" ...which is a volunteer performance that was created by the September 11th Families' Association's Tribute WTC Visitor Center. The show will take place at the Tribeca Performing Arts Center on October 20 as well as October 21 in New York City....we will be attending.

Tickets can now be purchased online and at a 50% discount for SECRET LIST members. The Performing Tribute ticket website is <http://performingtribute.eventbrite.com/> or it can be reached from www.tributewtc.org home page. The discount code for Secret List members is SL1. Tickets must be purchased in advance. Questions? Contact: jchiles@tributewtc.org
We VERY rarely pass stuff like this along on The Secret List-but this one is well worth it....
Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 10-15-08 / 0239 hours

AND:

Hey...

A few days ago, you saw the 8 St. Louis Firefighters who suffered minor injuries after their 2 responding fire apparatus collided with each other. The crash was caught on tape by a nearby security camera....**but here is a NEW version of the video tape. (See video below)**

The GOOD news is that all members were seat belted in. When folks say that we collectively aren't impacting our LODD's, that is wrong-we are. Absolutely. While it will be impossible to eliminate all LODD's (because of reasons from personal responsibility to training issues to supervision to the FACT that sometimes, when everything is done right, we still must take the rare necessary risk and that can result in a tragic ending)....**but the crash in St Louis is demonstrative of how some things are changing, sorta.** More and more apparatus crashes lately have shown all members being seat belted in. Firefighters belted in probably would not have been the case nationally 5 or more years ago...so there are some changes that have been made at FD's all over North America.

The other issue though is those who drive our apparatus as well as those company officers who supervise those who drive apparatus. To get a real handle on the fire apparatus close calls and line of duty deaths, a simple conscientious effort to slow down when applicable, stop at red lights and stop signs-before blowing thru...by the drivers and officers...is what will really help us reduce some injuries and deaths. It will even allow us to actually ARRIVE on the scene of the call we were originally responding to. That's the real answer to the WHY slow down...why NOT run red lights...and WHY NOT blow stop signs, until it's clear to go.

Besides, it isn't your apparatus-they just let you drive it....drive it like it ISN'T yours...and drive it AS IF it is your family in that next intersection. Imagine if these members were NOT belted in. **CRASH VIDEO---TAKE A LOOK:** <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vXuKeBHY82g&e>

While we all wanna get there quickly, we gotta get there....that's the "why"...cause someone having a really bad day is waiting for "us" to get there.

Take Care-DRIVE CAREFULLY.

BillyG

The Secret List 10-19-08 / 1420 hours

AND

Hey...

A rookie Saudi Firefighter was killed after falling from a high-rise building under construction in Jeddah during a drill this morning. FF Ayish Al-Subaie died immediately in the Line of Duty when he fell from the balcony on the 32nd floor of a building located on the North Corniche at around 0900 today during training. It is reported that FF Al-Subaei, a new recruit, who was in his 20's, was alone on the balcony at the time of the accident and apparently he lost his balance before plunging down 32 stories. All of FF Al-Subaie's other Firefighters were on the roof of the building and it was not clear what he was doing on the 32nd floor. As always, our sincere condolences.

NOT JUST FOR THE BOYS:

Adding another layer to the very critical issues of FIREFIGHTING CANCERS, this one specifically identifies the risks related to female Firefighters...BUT if you pee standing up-read this info as well-the general information sections apply to ALL OF US. I am also attaching a related link below as well.

According to recent research by Cornell University, the toxic chemicals ALL FIREFIGHTERS can face on a fire call may be especially dangerous to women Firefighters, as many of the chemicals are known to increase the risk of breast cancer. The new study is available by Cornell's Sprecher Institute for Comparative Cancer Research and the school's Breast Cancer and Environmental Risk Factors Program (BCERF)....link below.

The report folks said their research targeted the roughly 9,000 career women firefighters in the United States and is designed to inform career and volunteer Firefighters of their particular risk and what to do about it. Their big take-home message is nothing new-we just have to do it...for girls and boys who crawl down hallways:

==wear self-contained breathing apparatus during all phases of firefighting.
==put on your bunker gear before arriving at a fire and don't take it off until the operation or inspection is completed, even during fire overhaul and follow-up investigations conducted...even days later because chemicals can still outgas from charred remains.
==immediately wash off/decon-any soot-and related crap on your skin-from any fire related call-at anytime. The poison filled SOOT can easily be soaked up by your skin. Clean your hood-same thing, the crap it absorbs is then absorbed in your neck area. No reason to take the risk. Clean the gear-clean yourself ASAP after the run. Nuth'n new....but we gotta do it.

This excellent brochure outlines a variety of fire scenarios and the types of chemicals that are possible breast carcinogens that result from smoldering or burning wood, to foams, glues, resins, paints, mattresses, shower stalls, coatings for wires and cables, rubber, window treatments and vinyl tubing, as well as chemicals of concern released from brush, forest, and tire fires-all stuff we deal with. The publication is available at:

<http://envirocancer.cornell.edu/learning/alert/fire08.cfm> To request print copies, call BCERF at (607) 254-2893.

For more information related to FIREFIGHTERS and CANCER, go to www.FireFighterCancerSupport.org

Take Care,
BillyG

The Secret List 10-22-08 / 2254 hours

AND

Hey...

Late this afternoon, the Hooversville VFD tanker (Shade Township in Somerset County, PA) was responding to a brush fire when they were involved in a vehicle accident around 1530 this afternoon. Initial reports are that 2 Firefighters were heavily entrapped in the fire apparatus...they were injured...but reports are that the injuries are NLT...updates will follow.

A Shelby Township (Michigan) Firefighter and a 65-year-old woman were injured in a crash yesterday after the woman tried to squeak by on the right-hand side of the fire apparatus headed to an emergency. The rig was headed to a car fire when it tried to turn right...the woman went into the curb lane and tried to go around them," and actually ran into the side of the truck and the rig was making a wide turn. Neither had life-threatening injuries and the woman will likely face charges of failing to yield to an emergency vehicle.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 10-23-08 / 1720 hours

AND

Hey...

A Bethlehem (PA) ladder company responding on a fire call about noon today collided with a car, very critically injuring the man driving the car. The ladder truck had its lights and siren on and the car did not yield as the truck responded. No Firefighters were injured but the civilian is reported to be in extremely critical condition...more details on our home page about this and yesterdays tanker crash in PA as well.

...and last night in Chicago, a woman suffered traumatic injuries when the vehicle she was in collided with a Chicago fire apparatus last night in the South Side's Englewood neighborhood. The engine company was responding (with lights/siren) to a call of a working fire when it collided with a civilian vehicle. 1 FF was also injured with NLT injuries.

INDIANA FIRE CHIEF SUING OTHER FIRE DEPARTMENTS FOLLOWING FF LODD:

A Fire Chief is suing two other mutual aid departments over injuries he suffered while recovering the body of Firefighter from a burning house ...after the FF had been missing for 45 minutes. Madison Township Fire Chief Robert Black's lawsuit in southern Indiana's Jefferson Circuit Court accuses the Hanover and Kent volunteer fire companies of negligence for failing to keep track of firefighters at the scene.

Chief Black, 41, fractured his right ankle when he fell from a second-story balcony while trying to recover the body of Kent Township Firefighter Greg Cloud on Nov. 1, 2006. FF Cloud died from smoke inhalation, according to the suit filed Oct. 15. NOTE: There is no NIOSH report on that fire, due to the previously TSL discussed limited resources NIOSH has to investigate FF LODD's. The IAFC and IAFF have produced a report with recommended changes that is expect to be acted upon in 2009. Here is that report: <http://www.cdc.gov/NIOSH/fire/IAFCPgmReview.html>

The Indiana lawsuit alleges that FF Cloud remained in the burning house for about 45 minutes before Firefighters determined he was still inside. Chief Black previously said a head count came up one firefighter short and they knew it was FF Cloud because his truck was there but he couldn't be found. Chief Black and two other firefighters then went in to search for him.

The suit faults the Hanover and Kent VFD's for failing to have a system to track firefighters at the scene. Some departments use tags that are left behind to signify firefighters'

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whereabouts, while others use electronic systems. The suit also alleges the two departments did not make certain all firefighters used respirators, failed to maintain communications among firefighters and did not provide proper training. The suit said Black was incapacitated for several months due to the nature of the fracture. It does not specify a damage amount.

SECRET LIST NOTICE: Due to the growth issues we mentioned in the past, there may be some TESTING of TSL in the next few days-ignore'm...it's just the techs testing. Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 10-24-08 / 1655 hours

AND

Hey...

A Montgomery Township Firefighter was shocked while operating at a house fire yesterday (Tuesday) afternoon. On arrival, the fire was exterior, extending up into the attic area. While operating, one of their Firefighters suffered an electrical contact-and at that point, command evacuated the building and used dry chemical to keep the fire contained. The injured firefighter was pulling down and opening up the soffit between the roof and walls of the house when he was injured....he was treated and transported and was stable as of 1800 last night.

And In Jenkins Township, a dwelling with no working furnace and electric radiators for heat was destroyed after flames gutted the two-story structure in the Inkerman section around 1645 hours yesterday afternoon. Upon arrival of Firefighters, the 1st floor was well involved...but because the power had still not been secured, much of the operations had to be exterior as the dwelling was "charged" according to the Chief. During operations, a Pittston Firefighter was shocked, but not burned, and was taken to a local hospital for treatment...his injuries were minor, but as a precautionary measure he was kept at the hospital overnight and is now out.

PA TANKER ROLLOVER UPDATE:

As posted here and on our home page (with pictures) you will remember the responding fire tanker roll over last week. The Hooversville Fire Company (Somerset County) was responding to a reported brush fire and was beginning to climb a hill with their tanker when the crash occurred. While the incident was bad, it was FAR LESS BAD because both occupants were wearing their SEAT BELTS according to PA Fire Commish Ed Mann who spoke with the Fire Company President. Although both HFC Firefighters were banged up, they were treated and released from the hospital.

===USE OF SEAT BELTS on fire apparatus: not as "strange" as it used to be...and has been paying off more and more.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL. **DON'T BUDGE**-until members are belted.

BillyG

The Secret List 10-29-08 / 0905 hours

AND

Hey....

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After nearly a year of researching, assessing, and discussing the importance of caring for the needs of Firefighters who have been critically injured in the line of duty, the Int'l Association of Fire Chiefs Safety, Health and Survival Section (www.IAFCSafety.org) has released a short survey (link to survey is below) to collect more detailed and specific information on those needs. The survey will assist the IAFC SHS in gathering resources in developing sample SOG's for departments to use in the event of a critical firefighter injury. While we have all been very strongly focused on the issues of LODD (and will continue to be)...an area that requires additional focused attention is critical **FIREFIGHTER INJURY**.

Link to survey: <http://www.zoomerang.com/Survey/?p=WEB228D3JXPZZ4>

Please help the IAFC SHS spread the word about this survey so that they can obtain as much information as possible. If you know of a firefighter or emergency medical service worker who has been injured, please let them know about this survey. It is confidential and the information gathered will only be reviewed by the project committee.

By the way, even if you are NOT A CHIEF, you can JOIN the IAFC as an affiliate active member including being a part of the IAFC Safety, Health and Survival Section for just \$100.00 total. If interested, click here:

http://www.iafc.org/associations/4685/files/mbrship_applicAFF.pdf The IAFC SHS can certainly use those who are insanelly focused on the issues of firefighter safety, health and survival and who want to get involved with the related IAFC SHS committees and projects...

Here, take a look at what you could become involved with:

http://www.iafcsafety.org/1225205517SHS_Org_Chart_11.08.pdf

If you have ANY interest in any of the projects within the chart, sign up (if you are not currently a member) and then advise-you will be involved! Questions or interest in getting involved? Contact VLee@iafc.org

PLEASE PASS THIS E-MAIL/SURVEY INFO ON TO ANY AND ALL FIREFIGHTER and EMERGENCY SERVICE RELATED E-MAIL GROUPS YOU HAVE ACCESS TO.

Take Care,

BillyG

The Secret List 10-29-08 / 2119 hours

AND

ALABAMA FF KILLED IN THE LINE OF DUTY AT DWELLING FIRE (The Secret List)

A 24 year old Firefighter from Crossville (AL) was killed in the Line of Duty this afternoon while performing a search in a single family dwelling fire. Initial reports are that FF Cody Renfroe entered the structure to apparently do a search and found later by other Firefighters. One report from the scene is that it was thought there was a person in the residence (that person did escape)...FF Renfroe went to perform a search...but when the other Firefighters got the fire knocked down, they discovered him and pulled him out, LODD. One other report states that he may have been missing for up to an hour. We have posted some pictures on our FireFighterCloseCalls.com home page and will provide more details as they become available. As always our deepest condolences to all affected by the loss of FF Cody Renfroe.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 10-29-08 / 2359 hours

AND

Hey...

A pedestrian was struck and critically injured by a car this morning in **Aledo (Texas) and an AFD Firefighter on that scene was injured after his foot over by the fire apparatus** while on scene. The Aledo Firefighter was injured when the engine began to roll...and the firefighter chased after it...when his foot got caught under the tire. The apparatus rolled about 40 feet and also ran into 2 parked police cars. Initial reports indicate that the engine was set in park, but the Firefighter forgot to set the emergency brake. The FF was transported with a possible broken foot and for non-life threatening injuries.

FIREFIGHTERS TRAPPED-SINGLE FAMILY DWELLING FIRE: VIDEO w/RADIO AUDIO

Some of you may have already seen this from Loudoun County (VA), but if you have not, **ABSOLUTELY** take the time to watch this video-there is much to be learned by this professionally done investigative video: <http://www.loudoun.gov/Default.aspx?tabid=2384>

Take Care-BE CAREFUL-**Set The Brake...Chock The Wheels.**

BillyG

The Secret List 10-30-08 / 1326 hours

AND

Hey...

Because of the recent LODD's and Close Calls, we are behind in passing some other items on to you...so here are a few of those items of interest:

FIREFIGHTER BURNED IN CT:

A Milford (CT) Firefighter went to the hospital yesterday with burns from fighting a tractor-trailer fire on Interstate 95. Firefighters responded to the fire and found the truck well involved....the truck driver, who wasn't hurt, was standing nearby. The truck's two saddle tanks ruptured and diesel fuel poured into the storm drain beneath it...causing more of a fire problem. Firefighter Brian Connelly was treated for minor burns to his hands from radiant heat, then released from Milford Hospital....the truck's cargo of Liz Claiborne products was also damaged...

USE CAUTION AT CAR FIRES FOR A VARIETY OF REASONS:

A Wenatchee (WA) Firefighter's bunker pants caught fire Wednesday morning when he was operating at a car fire and a gasoline line broke. Firefighters used foam to keep an SUV and family sedan parked next to a Lumina from catching on fire. A Firefighter attempted to pry open the hood so the crew could douse the fire, a fuel line dropped under the vehicle and started leaking gas. The stream caught fire and headed toward the FF's foot, causing the fuel on the pant leg of his bunker pants to catch on fire. Another Firefighter put the fire out immediately. The FF was not injured and continued to work on the fire. On a side note, while this wasn't a PPE problem per se, don't forget the upcoming PPE Symposium: www.fireppesymposium.com

AUDIO: MARYLAND LODD MEDICAL HELICOPTER CRASH:

<http://www.wusa9.com/news/columnist/blogs/2008/10/audio-and-preliminary-report-from-md.html> .

The above link will bring you to the preliminary report and audio from MSP chopper crash.

NOTE: TAKE TIME to listen to the audio (backup link)

<http://wjz.com/video/?id=46192@wjz.dayport.com>

REPEAT OF YESTERDAYS FIRE LINK:

Some of you had trouble "clicking" on yesterdays link, try this or just cut and paste it into your browser. This is a "not to miss" video report:

<http://www.loudoun.gov/Default.aspx?tabid=2384>

Here is some older info related to that fire in Loudoun County, in case you missed it:

<http://loudounextra.washingtonpost.com/news/2008/sep/13/report-contains-lessons-loudoun-firefighters/>

NEW SCBA DESIGN:

As many of you know, the IAFF has lead the move forward for several new PPE related innovations. The soon to be released new BUNKER GEAR design will allow for some significant and positive improvements. take a look:

<http://www.firehouse.com/news/2005/ppe.html>

AND NOW, the latest innovation lead by the IAFF is the new SCBA design...take a look at this:

http://www.clipsyndicate.com/publish/video/727364/new_air_pack_could_save_lives_10_22_08

Here is the press release from the IAFF:

<http://www.iaff.org/Comm/Press/102308SCBA.htm>

HOW ONE CITY IS DEALING WITH A PROBLEM:

This is about Alexandria, VA's dealings with an ethanol transloading facility, that has become a PR mess....but it also shows how the pro-active Fire Chief and staff have attempted to handle this...even though much of this started even before the Fire Chief took office.

<http://www.wusa9.com/news/columnist/blogs/2008/10/read-city-of-alexandria-emails-on.html>

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 10-31-08 / 1021 hours

AND

Hey...

3 Columbus (Ohio) Firefighters are now in stable condition after an gas explosion and fire blew them away from the structure. **FF's were initially on the scene for a gas leak and after their arrival...the structure exploded.** CFD FF Pat Malone, a 23-year veteran was taken to OSU Medical Center with 2nd and 3rd degree burns on his hands and face...he is in serious but stable condition. CFD FF Barb Capuana, a 20-year veteran, and FF Dan Whiteside, a 17-year veteran, were transported with concussion injuries and other minor injuries. A natural gas leak caused the explosion and eventually, the fire, at 1444 hours at the Cherry Box adult bookstore...CFD FF's were gaining entry, removing civilians and then it

exploded, and the massive explosion knocked them back out onto the street. A 4th CFD FF Mike Warnimont, suffered a sprained ankle and was treated on the scene. The CFD was called to the scene when construction workers putting in a water line hit a gas line outside of the Cherry Box. The explosion blew part of the roof off the building and destroyed at least one wall. By 6 p.m., the entire building had collapsed. 2 civilians were also injured and at least 1 piece of CFD apparatus was seriously damaged.

Here is some video:

http://www.php.10tv.com/vplayer.php?clip=2008_10_31_Building_Explodes_Injuring_Firefighters.wmv

Here are some photos:

http://www.10tv.com/live/content/local/stories/2008/10/31/slideshow_explosion.html

MISSISSIPPI FIREFIGHTER TRAPPED-ANOTHER FIREFIGHTER "HEARD" HIS CALLS FOR HELP!

This is the 2nd time this week where a Firefighter was "found" inside a burning structure...the other one being the tragic LODD in Alabama, when Crossville FF 24-year-old Adam Cody Renfroe was lost inside after doing a search. In this case, a Jackson Firefighter saved the life of another Firefighter last Sunday night. FF Corey Landrum was outside the burning church, changing his SCBA, when he heard faint cries for help! FF Landrum went into the church and up the stairs, where he found FF Richard Taylor lying on his stomach, overcome, lost and disoriented. FF Landrum says he followed the cries for help as they got louder...and he found FF Taylor and got him out of the church. FF Taylor was transported and later to the Firefighters Regional Burn Center in Memphis. It is reported that FF Taylor suffered 1st and 2nd degree burns to his abdomen and legs and had less than 1 minute left on his SCBA.

We will provide more details on this **extremely CLOSE CALL** as soon as it is available.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 10-31-08 / 2147 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 (AZ) Fire Chief calls the current and upcoming budget cuts “gut wrenching,” but is something he is going to have to make work in these tight times. He was tasked (directed) to put together a 15% reduction in next year’s budget, which is not easy to do, especially when salaries and benefits typically make up over 90% of a fire department budget:

<http://www.azcentral.com/community/phoenix/articles/2008/10/10/20081010phx-firechief1011.html>

The Trenton (NJ) Fire Department is looking at layoffs and demotions due to a drastically shrinking revenue stream:

http://www.nj.com/mercer/index.ssf/2008/10/layoffs_stoke_tension_at_trent.html

Plattsburgh (NY) Fire Department is looking at having to maybe reduce on duty staffing if someone calls in sick or is on vacation since the city is nearing going broke by the end of the year. Not the best option, but when the money’s not there, there are few options:

http://www.pressrepublican.com/homepage/local_story_290233054.html

The Keiser (OR) Fire District may have to cut firefighter positions if a current tax levy does not pass:

<http://www.statesmanjournal.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20081015/COMMUNITIES/810150359/1106>

The Mesa (AZ) Fire Department is expected to cut 1 million dollars from their budget – ouch: <http://www.eastvalleytribune.com/story/128720>

The Stockton (CA) Fire Department is looking at possibly losing one of their three truck companies due to the budget problems being faced by the city:

<http://www.news10.net/news/local/story.aspx?storyid=49551&catid=2>

The Escondido (CA) Fire Department has to hold off putting an additional engine company into service due to the lack of funding:

http://www.nbcsandiego.com/news/local/Escondido_Holding_Off_on_New_Engine.html

And a related story from Escondido:

<http://www.nctimes.com/articles/2008/10/29/news/inland/escondido/zbc51b1e70f6169a0882574f1007298f2.txt>

The Chico (CA) Fire Department is facing possible budget cuts resulting in decreased on-duty staffing: http://www.chicoer.com/ci_10861615?source=most_email

A timely article on how the economic downturn is affecting fire departments across the nation: <http://www.firerescue1.com/labor-issues/articles/435894-Economic-downturn-hits-fire-departments/>

The State of Oregon's public pension plan loses nearly 13 billion dollars this year. This is a good reminder to all of us to not rely on our pensions to get us through retirement. Max out your deferred compensation plans, make good investments, and expect things like this to happen. Don't put your eggs in one basket.

http://www.oregonlive.com/business/index.ssf/2008/10/oregons_public_pension_fund_lo.html

Fire Department Consolidation / Merger Related Stories:

The City of Alameda (CA) is exploring the option of merging with the Alameda County Fire Department, due to upcoming budget shortfalls:

http://www.insidebayarea.com/timesstar/localnews/ci_10647830

A proposed five city fire department merger in Utah may not be as easy as it seems:

<http://www.clippertoday.com/default.asp?sourceid=&smenu=1&twindow=&mad=&sdetail=29332&wpage=1&skeyword=&sidate=&ccat=&ccatm=&restate=&restatus=&reoption=&retype=&repmin=&repmax=&rebed=&rebath=&subname=&pform=&sc=1005&hn=clippertoday&he=.com>

Two Arizona Fire Districts are set to merge:

http://www.azdailysun.com/articles/2008/10/20/news/20081020_front_183674.txt

Public Relations Nightmare Stories:

A Santa Monica (CA) Fire Captain is arrested off-duty for exposing himself in public:

<http://www.smmirror.com/MainPages/DisplayArticleDetails.asp?eid=8323>

Three Tampa (FL) Fire Inspectors are being investigated by the FBI for allegedly accepting gifts from a sprinkler contractor. As tempting as it can be to accept the typical gifts that are offered to many of us on a regular basis (free lunch, free dinners, free drinks – off duty of course, free trips, free tickets, etc.), this is a good reason to reinforce why we don't accept ANYTHING from any vendor or company related to the fire service, for fear of conflict of interest and the expectation of favors we may not want to actually have to provide them: [http://cms.firehouse.com/web/online/News/Florida-Fire-Inspector-Probe-Sparks-FBI-Interest/46\\$61260](http://cms.firehouse.com/web/online/News/Florida-Fire-Inspector-Probe-Sparks-FBI-Interest/46$61260)

The four San Diego (CA) Firefighters who attempted to sue the fire department for being required to attend a Gay/Lesbian were denied by a judge, who determined their rights had not been violated by being directed to attend this public relations event:

<http://cms.firehouse.com/content/article/article.jsp?id=61276§ionId=46>

A recent audit of the Portland (OR) Fire and Rescue Bureau determined that they need tighter controls on their controlled (narcotic) substances being carried on fire apparatus. However, no evidence of theft or misuse was noted:

http://www.portlandtribune.com/news/story.php?story_id=122331927911721100

Some fire departments around the Seattle (WA) area are in the news for the challenges they are facing with regards to labor issues and a recent tax levy that was approved by the voters in their favor:

<http://www.bellinghamherald.com/315/story/587333.html>

A Utah Firefighter that was shot in a standoff with local law enforcement had apparently threatened police in the past: http://www.sltrib.com/news/ci_10692155

A volunteer fire chief in Madison (IN) is suing two other departments for injuries he suffered while recovering the body of another firefighter from a burning house:

<http://www.wthitv.com/Global/story.asp?S=9224548>

The American Canyon (CA) Fire Protection District's controversial firefighter bonus program is going to be made public:

<http://www.napavalleyregister.com/articles/2008/10/29/news/local/doc4907f5b9ccce8173451779.txt>

Two City of Los Angeles (CA) officials are asking for an independent oversight committee for the Los Angeles Fire Department, after their costly, recent racial and sexual harassment lawsuits. If we don't control ourselves as a department, then things like this can happen, and how can the average citizen or department employee blame them? <http://www.firefightingnews.com/article-US.cfm?articleID=55500>

Two St. Louis (MO) fire trucks collide with each other enroute to a fire call, injuring seven of the eight firefighters on board. A good reminder for all of us to slow down and pay attention while driving – it just may you're your life, the life of your crew, or the life of some innocent people passing by that you may be involved in the accident if you contact them. Nobody wins if we don't even arrive at the call we are responding to:

<http://www.stltoday.com/stltoday/news/stories.nsf/stlouiscitycounty/story/D5B5AC42F0FE4439862574DF00128EC2?OpenDocument>

- Luckily they were wearing their seatbelts, which no doubt saved their lives:

<http://www.firerescue1.com/vehicle-safety/articles/432540-Seat-belts-save-St-Louis-firefighters-in-crash/>

Even in these tough economic times, the City of San Bernardino is looking at having to dip into their reserves (rainy day – not every day) funds to cover the police and fire raises they approved: <http://www.insidesocal.com/sb/sbnow/2008/10/council-oks-hikes-to-police-an.html>

Three Alabama Firefighters are charged with arson:

<http://cms.firehouse.com/content/article/article.jsp?sectionId=46&id=61318>

An off-duty Chief Officer with the Hialeah (FL) Fire Department is arrested at a political rally: <http://www.miamiherald.com/news/breaking-news/story/737043.html>

A Dallas (TX) Fire Captain is arrested for “poking” a police officer:

<http://www.firerescue1.com/fire-news/434817-dallas-firefighter-arrested-for-poking-police-officer/>

And a related story about the Dallas (TX) Fire Captain:

http://www.wfaa.com/sharedcontent/dws/wfaa/latestnews/stories/wfaa081028_lj_lopez.1592c56e5.html

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

The National Fire Protection Associations announces a nationwide campaign to increase the numbers of homes protected by fire sprinklers. And for those who say this will decrease the number of fires, maybe it's time to re-evaluate your priorities, which the last time we checked, it was life safety first, then the protection of property. More importantly, fire sprinklers can have a very positive effect on reducing the number of firefighter deaths and injuries, something we are struggling to find an answer to solving:

<http://www.nfpa.org/newsReleaseDetails.asp?categoryId=488&itemId=40767&cookie%5Ftest=1>

The Glendale (AZ) Fire Department is benefiting from a voter-approved tax hike; in today's economy, it is very tough to get any voters to approve tax hikes. Kudos to Chief Burdick and the rest of the personnel for doing what it took to get their voters to consider the tax increase to increase the level of service in their community:

<http://www.azcentral.com/community/glendale/articles/2008/10/15/20081015gl-firetax1015-ON.html>

Loose lug nuts on a Missouri Firefighter's vehicle prompt lie detector tests to be given to all fire personnel, with the threat of termination for those that do not wish to participate:

<http://www.stltoday.com/stltoday/news/stories.nsf/stlouiscitycounty/story/36759436F74DC705862574E4000CF24D?OpenDocument>

Emergency personnel answer the call for support – local firefighters supporting breast cancer: http://www.denverpost.com/news/ci_10779256

My good friend Brian Humphrey, Public Service Officer for the Los Angeles Fire Department is featured in an article relating to the technology he and his department is employing to help keep their citizens informed:

http://www.wired.com/entertainment/theweb/magazine/16-11/st_firefight

Boise (ID) area firefighters and police officers find themselves on top of a Krispy Kreme donut store for 60 hours....for charity:

<http://www.idahostatesman.com/newsupdates/story/546949.html>

Colorado State University hosted a police/fire charity hockey game:

http://www.reporterherald.com/news_story.asp?ID=19407

With the drastic increase of responses and response times to the Las Vegas strip, the Clark County (NV) Fire Department has worked out a deal with the MGM Grand to actually build them a fire station on the Strip, within one of their new massive high-rise projects, where they are expecting an additional 80,000 people per day. It looks like they've also made them purchase a new fire engine as well as an ambulance. This is smart business; however, it doesn't say anything about paying for the staffing of the station – the most expensive component. It's easy to get a developer to pay for apparatus or even facilities; what's tough is getting them to pay the millions of dollars each year (salaries and benefits) to staff the station:

<http://cms.firehouse.com/content/article/article.jsp?sectionId=46&id=61419>

Brea (CA) Firefighters have raised over \$18,000 for one of their members who has been diagnosed with cancer. That's what I call teamwork!

<http://www.ocregister.com/articles/terril-brea-gibson-2208151-association-firefighters>

Are fire engines necessary on EMS calls? A good question with a good answer as to why they are: <http://www.kimatv.com/news/30595234.html>

A couple of months ago, a consortium of Southern California Fire Departments (including Los Angeles City and Los Angeles County, in addition to 30 or so other departments), made a decision after a lengthy evaluation, to purchase their new SCBAs from Sperian (formerly known as Survivair). However, a recent lawsuit from a SCOTT SCBA vendor may derail that purchase, at least for the near future. A good read for anyone in the fire service who may at some point be tasked with setting up a committee to recommend a purchase of fire equipment or apparatus:

http://www.redorbit.com/news/science/1585915/fire_gear_contract_suspended_after_suit/index.html

And now a story of how the judge has voided the contract initially awarded to Sperian to produce the SCBA units for the 30 plus departments, because he felt the process used to award the contract was incorrectly handled:

<http://www.news10.net/news/local/story.aspx?storyid=49551&catid=2>

A timely story on how to secure fire prevention grants. In tough economic times, it is critical for fire departments to look at alternative funding sources such as grants:

<http://www.firerescue1.com/fire-products/Prevention/articles/431284-How-to-secure-fire-prevention-grants/>

For the aspiring Fire Chiefs out there, an interesting piece on Thomas Carr, the current Montgomery County Fire & Rescue Chief who is leaving to take over the top spot in Charleston (SC) soon. Definitely some lessons to be learned here:

<http://www.stltoday.com/stltoday/news/stories.nsf/stlouiscitycounty/story/36759436F74DC705862574E4000CF24D?OpenDocument>

MSRA infections hit a Colorado Fire Academy:

<http://cms.firehouse.com/content/article/article.jsp?id=61368§ionId=46>

An Ohio Fire Chief and the Mayor are able to agree on why the Mayor feels the department should be calling Mutual Aid and not relying on off-duty firefighters who show up to assist (and do not have their appropriate personal protective equipment) – because of safety concerns for the firefighters. I realize this happens everywhere, even in my own department. Well intentioned off-duty firefighters show up to assist. But, if they do not have the appropriate PPE, and importantly, do not check in with the Incident Commander (accountability reasons) to see if they are even needed, they are more of a liability than a help. Once again, a situation that comes down to communication: <http://www.firerescue1.com/labor-issues/articles/432868-Ohio-chief-mayor-resolve-differences-over-fire-responses/>

The new Fire Chief of the Tucson (AZ) Fire Department has a goal: eliminate the hazing of probationary firefighters, something many departments still do, and something that has cost some fire departments (Los Angeles Fire Department being one) millions of dollars in lawsuits: <http://www.tucsoncitizen.com/daily/local/99715.php>

An appropriate article for all fire service members, not just company officers: “Clearer Communication for Company Officers” - <http://www.firerescue1.com/Columnists/Linda-Willing/articles/432889-Clearer-Communication-for-Company-Officers/>

Lights, siren, action? An article to make us think about why we are responding with lights and sirens to certain calls:

http://www.firerescuemagazine.com/articles/cook/cook_15OCT2008.html

Situational awareness is one of those key items that leads to firefighter injuries and fatalities, and things going bad on the fire ground. “It starts with Situational Awareness” is a timely article that is a must read for everyone in the fire service as situational awareness is something that all of us can probably do a better job at: http://www.firerescuemagazine.com/articles/schmidt/schmidt_15OCT2008.html

An interesting video showing a potential new type of SCBA for the fire service: <http://flashovertv.firerescue1.com/Clip.aspx?key=31666C8EF4857EE1>

A video showing two St. Louis Fire Trucks colliding with each other enroute to a call; both never made it and one rolled over. Luckily nobody was killed or seriously injured – a wake up call to all of us in the fire service. SLOW DOWN, STOP AT RED LIGHTS! These crews didn't follow that simple advice:

<http://cms.firehouse.com/content/article/article.jsp?id=61367§ionId=46>

The Pasadena (CA) Fire Department recently accepted firefighter applications and they are amazed that a little over 2,000 candidates applied for the 12 or so openings. Only 2,000 applicants? While that may seem a lot, it is actually a lot less than what fire departments used to see in the 1980's and 1990's:

<http://www.azcentral.com/arizonarepublic/local/articles/2008/10/19/20081019steroids1019.html>

The new NFPA Standard 1901 (Standard for Fire Automotive Apparatus) is effective January 1, 2009, and some of the highlights for newly purchased fire apparatus include seat belt indicators and the ability to govern the maximum speed of the fire apparatus. For those that say this is ridiculous that we have to be mandated for certain things like these items, you're correct. If we the fire service did a better job at reducing the number of on-the-job firefighter injuries and fatalities from situations such as speeding and not wearing our seatbelts, we wouldn't have to have a standard like this held over our heads: http://firechief.com/apparatus/highlights_new_nfpa_1901_1014/

The Phoenix (AZ) Fire Department is performing steroid testing on firefighters – something very few (if any) other fire departments are currently doing. However, that will probably change in the future:

<http://www.azcentral.com/arizonarepublic/local/articles/2008/10/19/20081019steroids1019.html>

“Drivers fail to yield to California emergency vehicles” – something many of us take for granted; people will pull over for us when we have our lights and sirens activated. Thus, a good reminder that running “code 3” – with lights and siren doesn't guarantee the right-of-way – it only allows us to request the right-of-way. A guarantee means it would automatically occur; this article shows it doesn't:

<http://www.firerescue1.com/vehicle-safety/articles/432520-Drivers-fail-to-yield-to-Calif-emergency-vehicles/>

“Animal House, Part 1” – an interesting look at working in a “big-house” – a fire station with not just one company (usually an engine), but a bigger company with at least two companies (typically an engine and a truck):

http://www.firerescuemagazine.com/magazine_content/gayk_15OCT2008.html

Kentucky Firefighters and Police Officers are shot at while responding to a house on fire: <http://cms.firehouse.com/content/article/article.jsp?id=61236§ionId=46>

An interesting article to assist us with dealing with the “new generation” of firefighters:

<http://www.firerescue1.com/cod-company-officer-development/articles/435815-Talkin-bout-my-generation/>

The Firefighter Near-Miss website (www.firefighternearmiss.com) has reached a milestone – near miss report #2,000 has been posted. For those that are not aware of this valuable resource, you’re missing out on an excellent training and safety tool: <http://www.iafc.org/displayindustryarticle.cfm?articlenbr=37911>

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

Also, thanks to everyone for their continued support over the years. You may not agree with all of the information contained within these newsletters, but remember why the information is being included: to better prepare you for a career in the fire service, to prepare you for promoting in the fire service, and to just keep you up-to-date with what is going on in your fire service. 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*****

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- 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.