



FIRE & EMS NEWS

August 3, 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.

THE C.C.C.F.P.D. RELEASES THE LINE-OF-DUTY-DEATH REPORT:

The [Contra Costa County Fire Protection District](#) has released the line-of-duty-death reports for **Captain Matt Burton** and **Engineer Scott Desmond**. Both firefighters suffered Line-Of-Duty-Deaths on July 21, 2007, while fighting a structure fire in San Pablo, CA and attempting to rescue two occupants, who also succumbed to the injuries they received in the fire.

This report (like every other Line-Of-Duty-Death report) should be mandatory reading for every firefighter – current and future. To download a copy, go to www.cccfpd.org/LODD.html

Let's again take a moment of silence to honor our fallen brothers, as well as the other fallen firefighters who have lost their lives in the line of duty, protecting lives and property, as we whole-heartedly take the oath of office to do. While we try to ensure everyone goes home at the end of their shift, which is not always the case. This is the line of work we choose, and brothers Burton and Desmond paid the ultimate sacrifice – they lost their lives trying to save the lives of others.

The following information about brothers Burton and Desmond was taken from the California Professional Firefighters website – www.cpf.org



Matthew Charles Burton

December 27, 1972 – July 21, 2007

With great sadness, the Contra Costa County Fire Protection District and IAFF Local 1230 announce the death of Fire Captain Matt C. Burton, 34. Captain Burton is survived by his wife, Chantel, daughter, Megan Cristina, 11, and son, Joshua Matthew, 7. Captain Burton died early Saturday morning trying to rescue two civilians from a burning home in San Pablo. The 10-year veteran of the Contra Costa Fire Protection District was a well-respected firefighter and leader who worked hard and had a generous heart. Born in Maryland, Captain Burton lived for 31 years in Concord, where he graduated from Mt. Diablo High School in 1991. Burton joined the Contra Costa County Fire Protection District May 19, 1997. He promoted to Engineer on November 9, 2002, and was promoted to Captain Feb. 1, 2007. Previously assigned to Station #81, he moved to Station #70 on Feb. 21, 2007.



Scott P. Desmond

February 16, 1970 – July 21, 2007

With great sadness, the Contra Costa County Fire Protection District and IAFF Local 1230 announce the death of Fire Engineer Scott P. Desmond, 37. Engineer Desmond is survived by his wife, Carolyn, and son, Tyler, 17 months.

Engineer Desmond died early on July 21 trying to rescue two civilians from a burning home in San Pablo. Desmond joined the Contra Costa County Fire Protection District March 1, 1999. He promoted to Engineer November 9, 2002. On April 18, 2005 he was assigned to Engine Company 88 in Antioch CA.

FIREFIGHTER EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY – Los Angeles (CA):

The [Los Angeles Fire Department](http://www.joinlafd.org) will be accepting applications for the positions of **Firefighter & Firefighter/Paramedic**, until: September 5, 2008. To view their recruitment website, including the job announcement and to complete an online application, go to: www.joinlafd.org

For more information about the **City of Los Angeles**, visit their website at www.lacity.org

For more information about the **Los Angeles Fire Department**, visit their website at www.lafd.org

For more information about the **Los Angeles Fire Department, I.A.F.F. Local 112**, visit their website at www.uflac.org



FIRE SERVICE RELATED EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY – SACRAMENTO (CA):

The Sacramento Regional Fire/EMS Communications Center is looking for fire dispatchers! Below you will find their job announcement:

About the Position:

The position of Fire/EMS Dispatcher requires a dedicated professional who is enthusiastic about working with other professionals in the Sacramento Regional Fire/EMS Communications Center. SRFECC is the 3rd largest fire dispatch center in the State of California. Under the general direction of the Shift Supervisor, the Dispatcher receives, properly interprets and relays information via telephone, radio and alarm systems; assists citizens with medical emergencies by instructing them, via telephone, on life saving procedures that can be performed prior to the arrival of trained medical personnel; analyzes and acts promptly to respond with assistance to emergency situations that are received; quickly and accurately utilizes a computer-aided dispatch system to initiate a response of necessary fire apparatus and personnel, ambulance, and other emergency assistance as needed to effectively handle emergency situations; utilizes a two-way radio system to communicate with field units; and maintains the status of all fire and medical apparatus and equipment within the system.

Salary Range: \$19.35 to \$20.85 per hour for Level A (must promote to Level B within 1 year)

Final Filing Date: Open Filing

Minimum Qualifications:

Educational Requirements:

- High School Diploma or GED certificate

Possession of:

- A valid Class C California Driver's License.
- A safe driving record.
- Ability to obtain a valid CPR certificate.

IMPORTANT

A typing certificate indicating a typing speed of at least 35 words per minute, corrected, and dated no more than 6 months prior to application submission, must be included with application.

(NO ON LINE TYPING CERTIFICATES, NO EXCEPTIONS)

For a current typing certificate you may contact: Sacramento Works Career Center (various locations), some temporary employment agencies like Appleone, Adecco, etc., your local adult education center, or look in the phone book under business services.

Ability to:

- Type 35 words per minute
- Learn, apply and maintain current knowledge of departmental rules, regulations, policies and procedures as well as information pertaining to fire and EMS dispatch.
- Learn and apply call interrogation, emergency medical dispatch, and fire dispatch techniques and procedures.
- Learn and demonstrate mechanical aptitude as required, in the operation and maintenance of voice radio, computer and computerized equipment.
- Quickly analyze information received from callers and adopt an effective, appropriate course of action.
- Read, understand and apply a variety of call-taking and fire dispatch information and materials.
- Understand and follow both oral and written instructions promptly and accurately.
- Communicate effectively in the English language in both written and oral forms.
- Reason and act decisively under stressful and/or emergency situations.
- Perform routine building and grounds maintenance.
- Learn to operate and maintain 9-1-1 and business telephone equipment.
- Learn to operate and maintain the OES mobile dispatch vehicle and equipment.
- Establish and maintain effective work relationships with those contacted in the performance of required duties.
- Read and effectively interpret small-scale maps and information from a computer screen.
- Wear a telephone headset and be able to hear, distinguish and understand voices with fore and background noise present.
- Speak clearly in a well-understood voice, using good diction in the English language.
- Visually monitor multiple CRT screens simultaneously.
- Be independently mobile during limited staffing hours.
- Pick up and carry manuals, directories, etc. weighing up to 15 lbs.
- Sit or stand for extended periods of time.

Desirable Qualifications:

- Knowledge of principles, practices and procedures of modern public safety dispatch.
- The general functions of fire departments and other public safety agencies.
- Knowledge of and use of the Incident Command System in identifying the duties and responsibilities of each position and lines of communications and authority.
- Knowledge of the location of major streets, highways, public places and landmarks within Sacramento County.

Work Hours:

Persons hired from this recruitment will work a 3-day on-3 day off, 12-hour shift schedule. Specific workdays and hours may vary and will include working evenings, nights, weekends, holidays, some overtime, as well as rotating shifts.

Employee Benefits:

Employees may choose from several excellent health insurance programs. Dental and vision insurance programs are also provided. Employer contribution covers most of the costs for these insurances. There is employer-paid PERS retirement. Employer pays for Accidental Death & Dismemberment and Life insurance policies for each employee. Long-Term Disability Insurance is covered by employee contribution. The Center also participates in the State Disability Insurance Program. Each employee accrues 126 hours of paid sick leave per year and between 25.5 and 37.5 days of combined vacation and holiday pay (dependant upon length of service). Each employee receives an annual uniform allowance of \$350. Purchase of uniforms is required upon successful completion of Training.

Probation:

Persons who are accepted in this position are placed in probationary status for 12 months. During these 12 months, probationary dispatchers are evaluated monthly and are subject to dismissal without notice or cause.

Selection Process:

All applications will be screened. Candidates who meet the minimum qualifications will be tested. If there is a question regarding the applicant's qualifications, the Center will contact the applicant for additional details. If all portions of the application are not completed, *including attaching a typing speed certificate*, the application will not be considered. Those who pass the testing process will be placed on a hiring list according to their scores and may remain on the list for up to 1 year.

Examination Process:

The examination may include, but is not limited to...

- Role Playing Exercise
- Spelling Test
- Oral Interview
- Oral Directions Test
- Psychological Testing
- Written Language Tests
- Drug Screening
- Health Screening Examination
- Background Investigation

Sacramento Regional Fire/EMS Communications Center
10230 Systems Parkway Sacramento, CA 95827-3006
Human Resource (916) 228-3058 - Fax (916) 228-3082

For additional information regarding employment contact:

jparker@sacregionalfire.ca.gov

[Download an Application for Fire Dispatcher](#)
Fire/EMS Dispatcher - Entry Level Only

FIRE SERVICE TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES:

Some great firefighting training opportunities, courtesy of our good friends at Fire Nuggets. Firenuggets.com (or www.firenuggets.com) is a great resource all firefighters should be subscribing to. For only \$9.95 a year, you have access to fire related articles and information from the leading fire service professionals, on a wide-variety of topics. Great information to share with your personnel and provide for your personal career development. Go to their website to check out what they have to offer, including a free, sample issue, as well as numerous training opportunities.

Here are some seminars they are offering in the near future:

- **Seminar #1:** =====

"Strategy, Tactics and Safety": Presented by Deputy Chief Vincent Dunn (ret.), FDNY – Denver, CO: October 17, 2008

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

For more information, including the registration flyer and to register, go to their website – www.firenuggets.com

FIRE SERVICE EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY – NEWARK (CA):

The [Newark Fire Department](http://www.newark.org) will be accepting applications for the position of **Firefighter/Paramedic**, until: August 11, 2008. NOTE: The deadline has been extended from July to August 11, so if you have not submitted one and you qualify, what are you waiting for?

To view the job announcement, go to: <http://newark.org/jobs/>

For more information about the **City of Newark**, visit their website at www.newark.org

For more information about the **Newark Fire Department**, visit their website at: <http://newark.org/departments/fire.html>

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.

PARAMEDIC TRAINING INFORMATION:

Absolute Safety Training (Oroville, CA) is going to be accepting applications for their 2009 Paramedic training program, August 1 through September 30, 2008.

The Program:

- Classroom instruction is from January 2009 through July 2009.
- Anatomy and physiology is included.
- Your clinical internship is concurrent.
- The Field Internship will be from August 2009 until completion.
- Is designed for the working adult, and taught by working professionals.
- Open classroom: skills practice, group study, individualized help and counseling.
- Competitively priced at \$6,000.00, with financing available and approved for Veterans.

Class Meets:

- Friday and Saturday with some Sundays, in Oroville, CA.
- Modern adult-sized classroom.

Application Period:

- August 1, 2008 through September 30, 2008.
- Call or email them (see below) for an application packet.

Program Fee Includes:

- Tuition, textbooks, lab fees, uniform shirts, liability and workers comp insurance.
- Expanded scope of practice training.
- ACLS, PALS, PEPP and PHTLS certifications.

For more information, visit their website at www.absolutesafetytraining.org – call 530-521-6520 – or email dlayne@snowcrest.net

FIREFIGHTER HEALTH & SAFETY INFORMATION, COURTESY OF THE I.A.F.F.:



Menu Planner Features Recipes, Nutrition Information

The IAFF has revised and relaunched the popular [Fit to Survive](#) web site, an online guide to health and nutrition created expressly for IAFF members.



In addition to a menu planner featuring simple, healthy meals that you can prepare on the job, the [Fit to Survive](#) web site offers expert advice and practical information on staying fit and healthy, with a special emphasis on how to follow a healthy diet to help reduce the risk of heart disease and other chronic diseases. Have a recipe to share? Send your healthy recipes to firehouserecipes@iaff.org.

The menu planning feature lets you plan ahead for each day, week and month. Each day's meals adds up to approximately 2,200 calories, and includes recipes with complete nutrition information. Additionally, a "Portion Distortion" feature helps you control portions and avoid unnecessary calories.



Another new feature of [Fit to Survive](#) is a special focus on smoking cessation. The IAFF and Pfizer Pharmaceuticals are working together to make the IAFF the first smoke-free union in North America. Visit [Fit to Survive](#) for information on the health risks of smoking and the benefits of quitting, tips on how friends and family can help smokers quit and guidance on how to encourage health care insurance providers to include smoking cessation treatment in their coverage benefits.

The IAFF is committed to ensuring its members have the resources necessary to make this dangerous profession as safe as possible.

Visit [Fit to Survive](#) today and make sure YOU stay fit to survive.

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 EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY – WOODLAND (CA):

The [Woodland Fire Department](#) will be accepting applications for the position of **Firefighter**, until: August 8, 2008. NOTE: If you read closely, you'll see the only requirements to apply are a high school diploma or equivalent, and a valid California Drivers License. Thus, everyone should qualify!

For more information about the **City of Woodland**, visit their website at www.cityofwoodland.org

For more information about the **Woodland Fire Department**, visit their website at: <http://www.cityofwoodland.org/indexSub.cfm?page=499824>

To view the job announcement, go to: http://www.calopps.org/profile_agency.cfm?id=44 – or read the information below taken from their website:

Firefighter – Close Date: Aug 8, 2008

Job Description: **THE POSITION**

To respond to fire alarms, medical emergency, and other emergency activities in the protection of life and property; and to participate in fire prevention, training and station and equipment maintenance activities.

Essential Job

Respond to fire alarms with assigned company; lay and connect hose lines; hold nozzles and direct water streams; raise and climb ladders. Provide basic life support during medical incidents, assessing and initiating patient care until relieved by proper medical personnel. Operate all types of portable fire extinguishers, hand tools, hose lines, power tools and appliances, salvage covers, forcible entry tools, emergency medical equipment and other rescue equipment. Participate in fire drills; serve as instructor as assigned; attend training sessions. Maintain regular and consistent attendance. Promote and maintain safety in the work place. Work cooperatively with others. Shut down natural gas and electrical services to structures. Respond to hazardous materials incidents. Participate in fire inspection activities and other fire prevention and public education activities as assigned; ensure that businesses are operating in compliance with the fire code. Participate in the Fire Prevention Program providing various public relations services, including facility tours, public education seminars and other public events. Respond to inquiries from the public. Assist in investigating fire origin and cause. May be requested to respond to fire calls during non-duty hours. Control traffic. Participate as member of County HazMat team. Inventory supplies; maintain records. Can serve as "acting positions" when certified. Clean station quarters and equipment and maintain a clean and orderly condition in and about the firehouse; perform minor building maintenance.

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Operate radio-telephone equipment Assist in overhaul and salvage operations. Perform related duties as assigned. Test and maintain fire hoses and hydrants.

QUALIFICATIONS:

Education: High school diploma or equivalent. College-level coursework in fire science, general management, or related field desirable.

Experience: Any experience that would likely provide the required ability is qualifying; fire fighting experience is desirable.

License or Certificates: Possession of a valid California Driver's License. A California State Firefighter I Certificate or a certificate from an accredited Firefighter academy post 2001, a current EMT Certificate and a valid CPAT certificate is highly desirable.

APPLICATION:

The Human Resources Department will only be accepting application packets from **8:00 am until 10:00 am on Tuesday, August 12th, 2008** at the Parks and Community Services Department located at 2001 East Street, Woodland, CA 95776. Submissions made prior to that date via e-mail, mail, online, in person or fax, will not be accepted. **If an applicant possesses a Firefighter I certificate or a certificate from an accredited Firefighter academy post 2001, a current EMT certificate, a valid CPAT certificate and a valid CA DL, a copy of those documents along with a City of Woodland employment application must be provided.** Review Process: Based on the information provided in the application documents, the best qualified applicants will be considered for further examination. All applicants meeting the minimum qualifications are not guaranteed advancement through any subsequent phase of the examination. Applicants will be required to take and pass a medical examination by a City of Woodland physician to insure their physical suitability to perform the assigned duties. If you have a disability that requires accommodation during the selection process, please notify Human Resources at least seven days prior to the event.

The written test is tentatively scheduled for Tuesday, August 26th and Wednesday, August 27th, 2008.

BENEFITS

Retirement: PERS 3% at 50 Plan. Employee contributes 4% of PERS eligible salary. (City pays employee contribution to PERS up to 9% of salary.) The City does not participate in social security.

Medical: CalPERS Medical Insurance Plans.

Dental/Vision: City paid Delta Dental and Medical Eye Services.

LTD: Wage protection plan for long-term disabilities.

Life Insurance: City provides a \$30,000 life insurance policy.

Vacation: 11 hours per month during first three years of service.

Holidays: Paid for 134.4 hours per year in lieu of holiday's payable at the rate of 11.2 hours per month.

Sick Leave: 12 hours per month.

Education Incentive: \$625/yr towards additional education.

Salary: \$4,554.00 - \$5,536.00 Monthly

FIRE SERVICE TRAINING OPPORTUNITY:

The “Nobody Gets Left Behind” Training Group and the Santa Rosa Fire Department presents:

“Building the perfect playbook”
- Professional development Program -
Building construction for today’s fire service!!

September 12 OR 13, 2008

Today’s fireground is dynamic and evolving at a rate never seen before in the U.S. fire service! Even the most knowledgeable and experienced fire service experts realize the need to constantly educate and prepare themselves for the next call! The following dynamic and interactive-based one-day seminar will include:

- Type & date of a structure for a successful “size-up”
- Ordinary & lightweight construction components
- The “why & where” fire will travel
- Scenario & interactive-based training opportunities

Instructor - Barry Franchi, a professional Firefighter since 1974, he joined the San Jose Fire Department in 1980. He was promoted to fire engineer in 1984 and worked on downtown engine and truck companies until being promoted to captain in 1996. He is a lead instructor for the SJFD firefighter recruit academy and is a past recipient of the SJFD valor award. He is currently assigned to truck company 3 in San Jose's downtown battalion. Barry has also spent more than twenty years in the construction industry, working in a variety of areas including: new construction of commercial and residential. Remodeling of residential and commercial structures.

REGISTRATION

To Register for this class: www.leerescue.com/NGLB

Program Fee \$95.00

Class Dates September 12 or 13, 2008 - each class limited to 30 participants

For more information please call Jeff Seaton @ (408)-710-2045

FIRE SERVICE TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES:

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

Contemporary Leadership Challenges for Chief Officers – Pleasant Hill, CA - August 25, 2008

Sponsored by the Contra Costa County Fire Protection District

PLACE: Pleasant Hill Community Center, 320 Civic Dr., Pleasant Hill, Ca. 94523
- 1 Day Seminar

INSTRUCTORS: Gordon Graham & Paul Stein,

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 - Lunch is included!

Contemporary Leadership Challenges for Chief Officers – Reno, NV – October 2, 2008

Sponsored by Regional Public Safety Training Center

PLACE: Regional Public Safety Training Center 5190 Spectrum Blvd Reno, NV. 89512

- 1 Day Seminar

INSTRUCTORS: Gordon Graham & Paul Stein

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.

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Lunch is included

Contemporary Leadership Challenges for Chief Officers – Temecula, CA – October 28, 2008

Sponsored by Pechanga Fire Department

PLACE: Pechanga Tribal Government 12705 Pechanga Rd. Temecula, Ca. 92592

- 1 Day Seminar

INSTRUCTORS: Gordon Graham & Paul Stein

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.

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Lunch is included!

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

Sponsored by The Chico Fire Department

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

- 1 Day Seminar

INSTRUCTORS: Gordon Graham & Paul Stein

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

Lunch is included

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

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

The Candidate Physical Ability Test (CPAT) is a must have for any person planning on becoming a firefighter. More and more departments are requiring a candidate to possess a CPAT completion card (no older than one year) just to apply for their department. If you do not possess a current CPAT, you do not pass go, you do not collect two hundred dollars, and you miss out on the opportunity to compete for a firefighter position at many departments. The CPAT does not guarantee that you will be a successful firefighter. Successfully passing the CPAT means that you should be able to enter a firefighter academy at a reasonable level of fitness appropriate to the job. I encourage you to learn more about the CPAT, and also look into having this certificate on your resume. Trust me, this may be an eye-opener for some – many of you will not pass it the first time. Make sure you take advantage of the orientation and practice sessions and learn where your weak spots are so you can focus on those areas.

Basic Information For The CPAT Test

QUALIFICATIONS:

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

APPLY EARLY

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

PAYMENT:

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

ORIENTATION SESSION:

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

TEST:

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

RETESTS:

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

PRACTICE SESSIONS:

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

Northern California 2008 Schedule:

ORIENTATION DATES:

- August 4, 16
- September 2, 13, 29

It is strongly recommended that an Orientation be attended at least 8 weeks prior to taking the CPAT Test. Allow 1 ½ to 2 hour for the orientation. There is no cost for the Orientation, it is include in the testing fee.

PRACTICE DATES:

- August 4, 5, 16, 19
- September 2, 3, 13, 16, 29, 30

TEST DATES:

- August 7, 23
- September 4, 20

Southern California 2008 Schedule:

ORIENTATION DATES:

- August 19
- September 6, 22

It is strongly recommended that an Orientation be attended at least 8 weeks prior to taking the CPAT Test. Allow 1 ½ to 2 hour for the orientation. There is no cost for the Orientation, it is include in the testing fee.

PRACTICE DATES:

- August 5, 22, 19
- September 9, 16,23

TEST DATES:

- August 7, 16, 21
- September 11, 20, 25

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 EMPLOYMENT INFORMATION – CULVER CITY (CA):

The **Culver City (CA) Fire Department** will be accepting applications for the position of **Firefighter**, from: June 23 – August 8, 2008. The primary requirements are that you possess EMT certification by the end of the probationary period (not to file the application, so virtually everyone should qualify).

NOTE: The final filing date has been extended until August 8!!!!

To view the job announcement, go to: www.culvercity.org/jobs

For more information about the **City of Culver City**, visit their website at www.culvercity.org

For more information about the **Culver City Fire Department**, visit their website at: www.culvercity.org/fire/fire.asp?sec=gov

FIRE SERVICE TRAINING OPPORTUNITY:

- **Fire Instructor 1A**

(FSC 71A) CRN # 78343

SEC: 001 UNITS: 2

Dates: 08/21/08 to 09/18/2008 - *Thursdays*

Course web site: www.ccsf.edu/~wlong

This course is taught by a California State Fire Marshal certified Master Instructor, Bill Long. The student will learn the fundamentals of lesson planning, the latest instructional techniques, how to present lessons for Manipulative (hands on) lessons that are interesting and informative.

(Meets partial certification requirements for “Fire Officer” & “Fire Instructor” certifications through the State Fire Marshal’s Office)

Class Location: SFO – CCSF Aeronautics off “North Access Road”
Directions: Take 101 or 280 or 380 to SFO “North Access Road” follow the signs “CCSF Aeronautics” go pass “Fed Ex” take (left) at Clearwater Drive and go through gate near the Jet Airplane – Building 928 – classroom #8

Total Cost: \$144 (registration fees) + (Administrative fee) paid online
\$85 (cert + book) paid in class

Further Info: wlong@ccsf.edu
Course web site: <http://fog.ccsf.edu/~wlong>

Enroll online at www.ccsf.edu before coming to class

Register Now!

FIRE SERVICE EXPERIENCE OPPORTUNITY:

Greetings,

Pardon my blanket email, but I am contacting you because in the past I have recruited for Public Safety Student Aides in your classrooms, and I am in need again of some qualified AJ or Fire students! If you know of anyone interested in a very well paying student position, please encourage them to apply immediately via our website: www.ebparks.org

I have enclosed the job description below for your review. We are looking for Police and Fire applicants, so please feel free to pass this on to anyone that may be interested in either field. I will be screening applications over the next few weeks, so please have them submit their applications ASAP. Thank you in advance for your assistance.

Meadow D'Arcy
Administrative Analyst I
Public Safety Student Aide Coordinator
East Bay Regional Parks Police Department
17930 Lake Chabot Road
Castro Valley, CA 94546
510-690-6503 voice
510-538-4622 fax
mdarcy@ebparks.org

About the Position

The Public Safety Student Aide position was established as a training program for students desiring careers in law enforcement, fire protection, public safety dispatching, evidence and other careers in the field of public safety. Under supervision, Aides perform a variety of primarily entry-level and clerical tasks while assigned in one of the following areas of the Public Safety Department: Administrative Division, Communications/Records, Detective Unit, Fire Department, Personnel and Training Unit, Property and Evidence Unit, Patrol Operations, Special Enforcement Unit or the Volunteer Trail Safety Program. Aides are generally assigned to an individual department or unit and rotate positions annually or based on departmental needs. Typical tasks may include: answering phones and giving information; issuing supplies and equipment; filing a variety of documents; data entry; assisting with police or fire training exercises; providing civilian assistance to police and fire personnel; setting up training reservations and preparing travel documents; cataloging, processing and picking up evidence; securing park entrances after closing, and other work as required. May be assigned to the patrol division for District holidays or special events to direct traffic, assign parking or other non-enforcement activities. **For more information about the District's Department of Public Safety, call Meadow D'Arcy, Program Coordinator, at (510) 690-6503.**

Minimum Qualifications

Education: Completion of high school or equivalent GED or CHSPE certificate. Must be enrolled in a minimum of nine college-level units and have a 2.00 cumulative grade point average or higher to apply for and to retain position, and

License: Must possess and retain a valid California driver's license.

Knowledge, Skills and Abilities

Interest in law enforcement or fire protection with the potential for a career in this area. Ability to learn law enforcement practices and procedures. Ability to perform basic clerical skills such as typing, filing, completing simple mathematical computations. Ability to use basic office equipment. Ability to effectively follow oral and written instructions and adhere to Departmental policies. Ability to establish and maintain positive and cooperative working relationships with those contacted in the course of work at all levels, including a culturally diverse general public, with a focus on quality service to internal and external customers.

How to Apply

Interested applicants may download application materials below or pick up application materials from EBRPD Administrative Offices, 2950 Peralta Oaks Court, Oakland; or telephone (510) 544-2154 and request that application materials be mailed. Applications

for this position will be accepted on a continuous basis. Faxed applications are not acceptable. Application materials for this position consist of the following required parts:

1. [East Bay Regional Park District Application for Employment](#) AND
2. [Supplemental Statement](#)

A resume will not be accepted in lieu of any part of the application. Mail the completed application materials to **EBRPD Human Resources Department, 2950 Peralta Oaks Court, Oakland, CA 94605**.

Selection and Notification Process

Application materials will be retained up to one year and will be reviewed as vacancies occur. If an applicant meets the minimum qualifications, a screening panel will review their application materials. Possession of minimum qualifications does not guarantee an interview. As vacancies occur, the best qualified will be selected for interview and at that time, applicants will be notified of the disposition of their application. The hiring pool established after each interview process will be in effect for one year; hiring pools may overlap. The District reserves the right to request further information, or to set up a written test, performance test and/or other assessment devices before or after the interview process. **The individuals chosen for hire must be able to pass a background investigation, including fingerprinting.**

Work Location

The Department of Public Safety is located above Lake Chabot Regional Park in Castro Valley.

Conditions Of Employment

As a condition of employment, a Public Safety Student Aide:

- is required to wear a prescribed uniform and adhere to Department grooming standards. Aides will be issued an annual uniform allowance to assist in cleaning of issued uniforms.
- may be required to work irregular hours, including weekends and holidays, as needed. Work hours will be established based on District needs and the student's schedule. The expectation is that the student will generally work part-time and will be limited to 900 hours per fiscal year (July 1 through June 30).
- is required to terminate after four years or less than four years when the student completes education. An extension of up to one year may be granted by the Assistant General Manager of Public Safety.

After one calendar year, the performance of the Aide will be evaluated by their supervisor to determine if the Aide has made sufficient progress to continue in the

program. If so, the supervisor will recommend continuation and award a salary step increase to step "B" which will be the Aide's rate until the end of the program.

East Bay Regional Park District is an Equal Opportunity Employer (EOE).

FIRE SERVICE TRAINING INFORMATION:

USFA Releases New Report: The After Action Critique - Training Through Lessons Learned

Emmitsburg, MD. - The United States Fire Administration (USFA) released today, as part of their technical report series, a new report entitled [The After Action Critique: Training Through Lessons Learned](#) (PDF, 460 Kb). This report is designed to assist all fire service members to be able to gather critical preparedness, response, and recovery information from all emergencies; document the lessons learned; and assist with the continuous evolution of firefighter training.

"The fire service is always seeking ways to improve its operations. At training classes and seminars, fire service members seek out insight into tactics and discuss new technologies for their applicability to other jurisdictions," said U.S. Fire Administrator Greg Cade. "Lessons are also learned from each response to an emergency incident. Unless feedback on incident response and command is shared with other personnel in the fire service, a valuable learning opportunity can be lost."

The USFA develops reports on selected major fires throughout the country. Under this project, the 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, fire-ground tactics, and firefighter health and safety. This body of work provides detailed information on the nature of the fire problem and the many types of services provided by fire departments. The information informs policymakers – who must decide on allocations of resources between fire and other pressing problems – and personnel within the fire service, who must decide on how best to improve codes and code enforcement, training, public fire education, building technology, and other related areas.

"These reports provide detailed information for policymakers and individuals within the fire service who can use the information to improve codes and code enforcement, training, public fire education, building technology, and other areas of fire service responsibility," continued Cade.

For additional information regarding this report, or other USFA Technical Reports, visit the [Publications section](#) of the USFA Web site.

FIRE SERVICE PUBLIC EDUCATION & SAFETY INFORMATION:

Pennsylvania State Fire Commissioner Praises Passage of Fire-Safe Cigarettes Legislation

HARRISBURG – The Pennsylvania State Fire Commissioner today praised the passage of legislation that will require all cigarettes sold in Pennsylvania to be “fire safe.”

Once signed into law, House Bill 1612 will adopt a fire safety standard for cigarettes and require that all cigarettes sold in Pennsylvania be low-ignition strength, making them less likely to cause fires if left unattended.

“Fire-safe cigarettes are rolled with bands of less porous, slow-burning paper, so if the cigarette is left unattended, it will go out when it burns down to one of those bands,” said State Fire Commissioner Edward A. Mann. “There have been too many tragedies caused by the careless use of cigarettes, and this standard is designed to reduce that risk.”

According to the National Fire Protection Association, smoking materials, such as cigarettes, cigars or pipes, are the leading cause of fire deaths in the United States. In 2005, roughly one-in-four fire deaths were attributed to smoking materials. That same year, more than 82,000 smoking-material fires caused approximately 800 deaths and 1,660 injuries. The statistics do not include injuries or deaths among firefighters involved in responding to the scene.

“Smokers still need to be careful when smoking in their homes,” Mann said. “Household items like curtains, mattresses, and bedding can still catch on fire very quickly, and the only way to prevent them from igniting is to be extremely vigilant. But the change that this legislation requires is a good step toward preventing hundreds of senseless deaths every year.”

The Coalition for Fire-Safe Cigarettes reports that 14 states and the District of Columbia have implemented fire-safe cigarette laws, and 22 states have passed such legislation.

For more information regarding fire-safe cigarettes, visit www.firesafecigarettes.org.

FIRE SERVICE TRAINING OPPORTUNITY:

- Mastering the Fire Service Assessment Center -

4 -day workshop

Monterey, CA - October 21 through 24, 2008

or

Anaheim, CA – December 2 through 5, 2008

Countless firefighters have been promoted using our curriculum! This workshop is unlike any other you will find. Students will receive our 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. Our 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 our students, we have expanded to add a day to our 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! We 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 www.trainfirefighters.org

PUBLIC EDUCATION & FIREFIGHTER SAFETY **INFO:**

Residential Sprinkler Impact Study: Christmas Tree Fires

EMMITSBURG, MD - The United States Fire Administration (USFA) and the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) have completed a report, [Impact of a Residential Sprinkler on the Heat Release Rate of a Christmas Tree Fire](http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/fireservice/research/dsn/dry_tree.shtm) (http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/fireservice/research/dsn/dry_tree.shtm) which demonstrates the value of residential sprinklers on the heat release rate of a dry Christmas tree fire. As a part of this effort, videos are also available of the project's experiments comparing a dry Christmas tree fire in rooms with and without a sprinkler and the ignition of a dry tree versus a properly maintained tree.

"All Americans must be protected against death, injury, and property loss resulting from fire — especially over the holidays," said U.S. Fire Administrator Greg Cade. "Residential sprinklers can not only contain, but in most cases, put out a fire even before the local firefighters arrive. Residential sprinklers are able to prevent some of the tragic consequences of the more than 400,000 residential structures fires that occur annually in the United States."

This report and accompanying videos demonstrate that even under conditions of extreme fire growth, a single sprinkler was able to prevent flashover, control the tree fire, and limit the spread of fire to other objects. In addition, properly maintaining a cut tree is important to retaining high moisture content in the needles of the tree, which will limit accidental ignition and prevent rapid flame spread. A tree that has dry needles can readily ignite with a flaming source and generate heat release rates capable of causing flashover in residential scale rooms.

"This project's experiments demonstrate that a small amount of water can have a significant impact on a fire," said NIST fire protection engineer, Dan Madrzykowski. "In the experiments where the tree was maintained, the moisture contained in the tree provides resistance to ignition. In an experiment with a dry tree, a residential sprinkler flowing 9 gallons per minute controlled the fire."

As fire marshals, fire chiefs, and other fire service officials across the nation are working to promote and advance residential fire sprinklers, the report and videos could be extremely useful tools in demonstrating the advantages of home fire sprinkler systems.

Previously the USFA and NIST illustrated, on video, the dramatic affects of fire when it ignites a dry Scotch Pine tree. This video has been shown on television stations, Internet sites, and in training classes across the nation and around the world for the past several years. As a result of the video's popularity and success in communicating such an important fire prevention message, multiple requests were made by fire service officials and fire prevention educators to develop this report and videos of the project's experiments that would document the impact of a residential fire sprinkler system on a similar tree fire. To review the report and videos of the experiments, please visit the [Research section](http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/fireservice/research/dsn/dry_tree.shtml) (http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/fireservice/research/dsn/dry_tree.shtml) of the USFA Web site.

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.

FIRE SERVICE TRAINING OPPORTUNITY:

Peer Fitness Trainer Class

Dec 8th through Dec 12th 2008

Hosted by the Modesto Fire Department@ RFTC

Contact Bjorn Anderson for more Information:
BJAnderson@modestofire.com or (925) 286-6945

Also, check out the IAFF Website to Learn More:
http://www.iaff.org/HS/PFT/peer_%20index.htm

\$700 checks to MFD for Books & Registration Fees

Enroll by September 8th to Ensure Adequate Prep Time

(Limited Space - 1st come 1st serve)*Plus Options: H2O, Gatorade, Snacks & Lunch Delivered Daily \$15

Host Hotel Info: Courtyard by Marriot Modesto Sisk Road (209) 577-3825
\$94 Dollars per night. Double beds w/ breakfast for 2 daily
(Buffet w/ Cooked to order Eggs/whites omelets)

<https://www.marriott.com/hotels/fact-sheet/download/modcy-courtyard-modesto/>

FIRE SERVICE PUBLIC SAFETY INFORMATION:

Dear Friend of the LAFD:

In the first installment of a five-part story highlighting the impact of wildfire, Los Angeles Times videographer Brian Vander Brug offers a compelling look at how these conflagrations effect residents of The Golden State:

<http://snipurl.com/35mc1>

We encourage you to *follow the link above* to watch the video, read the stories and

participate in the ongoing discussion at the L.A. Times message board.

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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 SERVICE TRAINING OPPORTUNITY:

The Sunnyvale Department of Public Safety

PRESENTS the 12th ANNUAL

AUTO EXTRICATION WORKSHOP 2008

TWO SOLID DAYS OF EXTRICATION TRAINING

THIS YEARS CLASS FEATURES:

- CALIFORNIA STATE FIRE MARSHAL CERTIFICATION
- RECOGNIZED INSTRUCTORS
- NEW CAR TECHNOLOGY/AIR BAGS
- HANDS ON EXTRICATION
- EMS/PATIENT CONSIDERATIONS
- RESCUE EQUIPMENT VENDORS
- LUNCH INCLUDED SATURDAY & SUNDAY
- GREAT LOCAL ACCOMODATIONS AVAILABLE
- *IN COOPERATION WITH LN CURTIS & SONS*

WHEN: OCTOBER 4th and 5th **COST:** Only \$250.00 + \$25.00 CE Units

WHERE: SUNNYVALE FIRE TRAINING GROUNDS (WOLFE ROAD at ARQUES)

HURRY: REGISTRATION IS LIMITED and FILLS FAST

TO REGISTER: <https://secure.lenos.com/lenos/signal/snyextricationworkshop08/home.htm>

ACCOMODATIONS: Rooms have been arranged / reserved at the:

Corporate Inn // Sunnyvale

805 East El Camino Real - Sunnyvale, Ca 94087

Reservations: 408-220-1000

Mention "Sunnyvale Auto-Extrication Workshop" for group rate price

Refer Questions To: Sales Manager Richard Dillon

This course is sponsored by the Southbay Regional Public Safety Training Consortium which will offer ½ unit of college credit. Course fee includes registration, materials, and State Fire Marshal Certificate and Registration. *This workshop qualifies for 14 hours of Instructor Based Continuing Education for EMT's and Paramedics issued by the City of Sunnyvale Department of Public Safety California CE Provider #43-2005.***

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

Download your monthly report from the California State Fire Marshal at
<http://calchiefs.org/items/SFMReportJuly2008.doc>

FIRE SERVICE TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES:

Upcoming Training Opportunities hosted by the:
EAST CONTRA COSTA (CA) FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT TRAINING BUREAU

FIRE APPARATUS DRIVER/OPERATOR 1A): October 6 - 10, 2008

Register Online:

www.eccfpd.org/content.asp?CatId=627&ContentType=Divisions%20and%20Bureaus

FIRE APPARATUS DRIVER/OPERATOR 1B): October 13 - 17, 2008

Register Online:

www.eccfpd.org/content.asp?CatId=627&ContentType=Divisions%20and%20Bureaus

S-212 (WILDLAND FIRE CHAIN SAWS): November 5 - 7, 2008

Register Online:

www.eccfpd.org/content.asp?CatId=627&ContentType=Divisions%20and%20Bureaus

FIRE COMMAND 1A): November 10 - 14, 2008

Register Online:

www.eccfpd.org/content.asp?CatId=627&ContentType=Divisions%20and%20Bureaus

CONFINED SPACE RESCUE AWARENESS: November 24, 2008

Register Online:

www.eccfpd.org/content.asp?CatId=627&ContentType=Divisions%20and%20Bureaus

FIRE COMMAND 1B): December 1 - 5, 2008

Register Online:

www.eccfpd.org/content.asp?CatId=627&ContentType=Divisions%20and%20Bureaus

S-211 (PORTABLE PUMPS & WATER USE): December 10 - 12, 2008

Register Online:

www.eccfpd.org/content.asp?CatId=627&ContentType=Divisions%20and%20Bureaus

ICS-300 (INTERMEDIATE ICS): December 15 - 17, 2008

Register Online:

www.eccfpd.org/content.asp?CatId=627&ContentType=Divisions%20and%20Bureaus

**FIRE INSTRUCTOR 1A):
East Contra Costa County, CA, January 5, 7, 9, 12 and 14, 2009**

Register Online:

www.eccfpd.org/content.asp?CatId=627&ContentType=Divisions%20and%20Bureaus

S-290 (INTERMEDIATE WILDLAND FIRE BEHAVIOR): January 26 - 29, 2009

Register Online:

www.eccfpd.org/content.asp?CatId=627&ContentType=Divisions%20and%20Bureaus

FIRE MANAGEMENT 1): February 2 - 6, 2009

Register Online:

www.eccfpd.org/content.asp?CatId=627&ContentType=Divisions%20and%20Bureaus

S-230 (CREW BOSS): February 9 - 12, 2009

Register Online:

www.eccfpd.org/content.asp?CatId=627&ContentType=Divisions%20and%20Bureaus

S-231 (ENGINE BOSS): February 16 - 17, 2009

Register Online:

www.eccfpd.org/content.asp?CatId=627&ContentType=Divisions%20and%20Bureaus

FIRE INVESTIGATION 1A): February 23 - 27, 2009

Register Online:

www.eccfpd.org/content.asp?CatId=627&ContentType=Divisions%20and%20Bureaus

FIRE INSTRUCTOR 1B): March 2, 4, 6, 11, and 13, 2009

Register Online:

www.eccfpd.org/content.asp?CatId=627&ContentType=Divisions%20and%20Bureaus

S-200 (INITIAL ATTACK INCIDENT COMMANDER): March 17 - 18, 2009

Register Online:

www.eccfpd.org/content.asp?CatId=627&ContentType=Divisions%20and%20Bureaus

S-270 (BASIC AIR OPERATIONS): March 23 - 24, 2009

Register Online:

www.eccfpd.org/content.asp?CatId=627&ContentType=Divisions%20and%20Bureaus

S-215 (FIRE OPS IN THE URBAN INTERFACE): April 27 - 30, 2009

Register Online:

www.eccfpd.org/content.asp?CatId=627&ContentType=Divisions%20and%20Bureaus

S-244/S-245 (FIELD OBSERVER / DISPLAY PROCESSOR): May 4 - 7, 2009

Register Online:

www.eccfpd.org/content.asp?CatId=627&ContentType=Divisions%20and%20Bureaus

For more information, visit the **EAST CONTRA COSTA FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT website at: www.eccfpd.org/**

FIRE SERVICE EMPLOYMENT INFORMATION – DENVER AREA (CO):

The **Denver (CO) Regional Council of Governments** will be accepting applications for the position of **Firefighter**, until September 19, 2008. This is a joint test where you can have the opportunity to work for **fourteen (14)** different fire departments in the Denver area!

- The only requirement to take the exam is that you are at least 18 years of age!

To view the job announcement, complete an online job application, or to just get more information, go to: <http://www.drco.org/index.cfm?page=FIRE>

FIRE SERVICE TRAINING OPPORTUNITY:

NATIONAL FIRE INCIDENT REPORTING SYSTEM 5.0 SELF STUDY NOW AVAILABLE

EMMITSBURG, MD. – The United States Fire Administration (USFA) and the National Fire Academy announce the availability of the new National Fire Incident Reporting System (NFIRS) 5.0 Self Study on line course. Serving as an introduction to NFIRS 5.0, this self-study course provides an overview of the data collection system, its modules and data conversion issues. "We are pleased to make this important course available online to all USA fire departments," said U.S. Fire Administrator Greg Cade. "Accurate and complete NFIRS data is critical for use at the local, state, and federal levels and this course is the starting place for building the core competencies key to creating quality data and making available the quality information needed by the American fire service." NFIRS is the comprehensive method for detailed tracking of fire, emergency, and related incident responses. The information recorded in NFIRS can be used by your emergency services organization to: track current workloads, develop response metrics and statistics, and help with current asset management. More information on this course and access to this course is available on NFA Online at www.nfaonline.dhs.gov - More than a dozen courses are available through NFA Online in the following curriculum areas: Emergency Medical Services, Emergency Response to Terrorism, Fire Prevention, Incident Management, Management Science, and Public Education. Other NFIRS related training can also be found at <https://www.usfa.dhs.gov/fireservice/nfirs/training/>.

The USFA reminds everyone to have a comprehensive fire protection plan that includes smoke alarms, residential sprinklers and practicing a home fire escape plan.

FIREFIGHTER TRAINING INFORMATION:



Slicin' and Dicin' Cutting Techniques for Vehicle Rescue

An Interactive, Online Webcast

August 07, 2008 | 10:00AM PDT | 1:00PM EDT | 17:00 GMT

Dave Dalrymple discusses cutting techniques and approaches for rescue situations in vehicle extrication.

Speaker:

Dave Dalrymple, Education Chair, Transportation Emergency Rescue Committee-US



Webcast Sponsors



REGISTER

For more information: <http://www.fireengineering.com/webcasts/webcastDetails.html?id=710>

To register: <http://www.ian.ibeam.com/events/penn001/27226>

For questions or problems, email: webcasts@fireengineering.com

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

Some promotional examination testing tips courtesy of the www.fireprep.com - The [Don McNea Fire School!](#)

PHYSICAL AGILITY PREPARATION

The physical agility test is a major part of the examination for the position of firefighter. Understanding this part of the examination and being prepared for it are critical factors for your success. In physical terms, firefighting is an extremely demanding occupation. It requires agility, strength, and stamina. The firefighting environment is normally hazardous and constantly changing. Firefighting calls for the wearing of special protective clothing and breathing equipment and the use of tools that are often heavy. Because of the extremes encountered in the firefighting environment – hot and cold, wet and dry, night and day, clean and contaminated air – the protective clothing and equipment must be durable and effective. The need for these qualities has led to the development of equipment that is often heavy and cumbersome.

Given the demands of the occupation – saving life and property, the challenges of the environment, and the weight and constraint of the protective equipment, the need to ensure that firefighter recruits are physically capable of learning and performing the tasks required is obvious. The physical agility examination is designed to evaluate the candidate's ability to perform firefighting activities. In the recent past, the courts have held that the physical agility examination must be related to the tasks that are actually performed by firefighters. Studies reveal that the firefighter must have a high level of aerobic energy, strength, and a significant ability to resist fatigue.

FIREFIGHTER WORKOUTS

- **REMEMBER THAT 60-70% OF THE PHYSICAL AGILITY EVENTS**
- **REQUIRE EXCELLENT LEG STRENGTH AND GOOD WIND ENDURANCE!**

Physical agility testing events in most departments are very strenuous in nature. You must begin your workouts immediately in order to put yourself in top condition to perform well. This training should be year-round. In preparing firefighter applicants for physical agility examinations for over 50 years, one of the most important aspects is overall good strength, with emphasis on good leg strength and most importantly your wind endurance (lung strength and capacity). Time and time again we see individuals who are 6'4", 250 pounds, can squat 350 pounds 10 times, run 2 miles and think that they are in good physical shape. However, if they have not built up their wind endurance (lung capacity) they may have the strength equivalent of someone who is 100 pounds. Nothing drains your strength more than a lack of wind. Most physical agility test events are of short duration but very demanding. Most of these events are completed in a 5-10 minute timeframe. During that time, it is an all-out effort. We believe that the emphasis of your preparation training should be on developing your wind. Wind sprints are an excellent way of increasing your endurance. Start off by sprinting 30 yards, 3 or 4 times. Then proceed to 40 yards, 50 yards. After a period of training and feeling that your lungs are developing, we suggest that you undertake the following physical agility training.

Mark off 20 yards, 30 yards, 40 yards, and 50 yards. Use a nearby recreation field in your area or even a parking lot. Start your sprints by sprinting 20 yards and then sprint back to the start. Then immediately sprint 30 yards and back to start. Then sprint 40 yards and back to start. Sprint 50 yards and back to start. As you continue training, you will see that your wind

endurance is building. You may be able to complete 5-6 of these wind sprints in a single training session and not feel winded.

Applicants also need to concentrate on overall strength training – your chest, triceps, biceps, back, legs, sit-ups. We have included descriptions of some physical agility exercises and programs for your review.

Some additional training tips:

- Many times you are required to wear a vest that is from 30-40 pounds, simulating firefighter equipment and air tank. If possible, get a backpack, fill it with sand or weights, and use it while training. For example, wear it while running stairs.
- Run stairs. If you have a school football field accessible to you, we strongly suggest that you run the stands' stairs. You may also be able to use an office or apartment building stairs. You may also want to run the stairs carrying 20-30 pound dumbbells in each hand or your weighted backpack. It is also good practice to skip every other stair – it will build leg strength and endurance, and on some exams you can skip stairs, which will decrease your overall time and better your score.
- If you train in a gym, you may have access to a Stairmaster machine (revolving stairs – not stepper type). We suggest that you build your endurance by not holding onto the rails and increasing the level of difficulty each time you work out. If you have a training backpack, wear it while on the machine.
- If you train by running distance, the best training for firefighter examinations is to aim for your fastest 2-mile time. If you want to alternate a 3-4 mile run in between, that is fine. Your emphasis while training, however, should not be on a steady pace but on a faster pace in order to build your endurance. Physical agility examinations are short in time, but require endurance.
- Remember - always warm up before exercising and cool down after exercising.
- Do not begin these workouts until you get yourself in good physical condition by jogging 15 to 25 minutes, 3 to 4 times a week for at least 3 to 4 weeks. This will strengthen your heart and lungs so it won't be too much of a demand on your body.

START YOUR TRAINING NOW!!!

Since 1950, Don McNea Fire School has prepared over 40,000 fire applicants with their entry level seminars and products. Fireprep.com has over 250 pages of FREE information and careers articles to help you reach your goal of becoming a firefighter. Go to www.fireprep.com and register for their free fireprep e-mail newsletter that features career articles by the countries top entry level authors. You will also be informed at no cost of firefighter examinations be given across the country. While at their website don't forget to review our award winning 'Ultimate Firefighter Exam Package'. This product has help hundreds of fire applicants finish in the top 2% of the exam process. Go to the link below to review the ultimate firefighter exam package. www.fireprep.com/ultimate_firefighter_exam.html

Don McNea Fire School - dmfireschool@aol.com - 1-800-989-FIRE

FIREFIGHTER FATALITY INFORMATION:

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

Name: Robert Leland Knight
Rank: Fire Chief
Age: 42
Gender: Male
Status: Volunteer
Years of Service: 18
Date of Incident: 07/05/2008
Time of Incident: 1747hrs
Date of Death: 07/05/2008
Fire Department: Teague Volunteer Fire Department
Address: 400 Cedar St., Teague, TX 75860 (USNG: 14R QA 5761 0242)
Fire Department Chief: Assistant Chief Tim Hedrick
Website: <http://www.cityofteaguetx.com/firedep.aspx>

Incident Description: Fire Chief Knight was conducting fire suppression activities in front of an upholstery/auto body shop. While advancing a hoseline, the front brick wall collapsed, entrapping Knight. Chief Knight was extricated and transported to East Texas Medical Center but did not survive his injuries.

Incident Location: 509 Elm Street, Teague, TX 75860 (Grid: 14R QA 5775 0219)

Map View:

<http://www.fidnet.com/~jlmoore/usng/?zoom=17&usng=14RQA57750219&disp=h>

Funeral Arrangements: Visitation on 07/08/2008 from 1800-2000hrs at Bowers Funeral Home, 900 U.S. HWY 84, Teague, TX 75860 (14R QA 5710 0426, www.bowersfuneralhome.net). Funeral services are at 1000hrs on 07/09/2008 at the First Baptist Church of Teague, 209 N 6th Avenue, Teague, TX 75860. Burial will follow at Greenwood Cemetery.

Memorial Fund Contact and Address: A memorial fund has been established in the name of Fire Chief Robert Leland Knight at Citizens National Bank Teague, 420 Main St, Teague, TX 75860; (254) 739-2558 (<http://www.cnbteague.net/index.jsp>). In lieu of flowers, the family requests that memorials be made to the Teague Volunteer Fire Department, 400 Cedar Street, Teague, TX 75860, or to the First United Methodist Church, 420 Walnut Street, Teague, TX 75860. Visit www.bowersfuneralhome.net to sign the memorial guestbook or leave a message for the family.

Tribute is being paid to Fire Chief Robert Leland Knight at <http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/fireservice/fatalities/>

Chabot College Fire & EMS News

To date, 58 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 listserv do not represent the final on-duty firefighter fatality determination by USFA for such reports, nor LODD determination made by the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation (<http://www.FireHero.org>) for names added each subsequent year to the National Fallen Firefighters Memorial at the National Fire Academy in Emmitsburg, MD, they are the beginning of a research process for each firefighter fatality reported so that such determinations can be made.

AND:

Name: Robert Roland
Rank: Firefighter
Age: 63
Gender: Male
Status: Volunteer
Years of Service: <1
Date of Incident: 07/02/2008
Time of Incident: 1200hrs
Date of Death: 07/03/2008
Fire Department: Anderson Valley Volunteer Fire Department
Address: 14281 HWY 128, PO Box 398, Boonville, CA 95415
(USNG: 10S DJ 6838 1761)
Map: <http://www.fidnet.com/~jlmoore/usng/?zoom=17&usng=10SDJ68381761&disp=h>
Fire Department Chief: Colin Wilson
Fire Department Website: <http://www.andersonvalley.org/FireDepartment.htm>

Incident Description: Firefighter Robert Roland was taken to Ukiah Valley Medical Center after he became fatigued and short of breath while helping to lay water hoses at the Oso fire near Philo. Roland passed away in the Intensive Care Unit from a cause still to be reported at 0400hrs the following morning.

Incident Location: Mill Creek watershed, near Philo, CA (USNG: 10S DJ 59 31).

Map View: <http://www.fidnet.com/~jlmoore/usng/?zoom=14&usng=10SDJ5931&disp=h>

Funeral Arrangements: A private ceremony will be held 07/08/2008. Once the multiple fires in the area are controlled, the fire department will plan a memorial event to honor Firefighter Roland.

Memorial Fund Contact and Address: In memory of Firefighter Robert Roland, C/o Anderson Valley Volunteer Fire Department, 14281 HWY 128, PO Box 398, Boonville, CA 95415.

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

To date, 59 firefighter fatalities have been reported to USFA in 2008 as a result of incidents that occurred in 2008.

AND:

Name:	Richard L. Kear
Rank:	Firefighter
Age:	58
Gender:	Male
Status:	Paid-on-Call
Years of Service:	16
Date of Incident:	07/07/2008
Time of Incident:	2008hrs
Date of Death:	07/07/2008
Fire Department:	Pitt Township Volunteer Fire Department
Address:	7200 Wyandot SQ., PO Box 66, Harpster, OH 43323-9700
Fire Department Chief:	Doug Reinschell

Incident Description: Firefighter Kear was operating a fire department engine enroute to a vehicle fire when for a reason still under investigation by state police, the apparatus left the roadway and crashed. Kear was ejected from the vehicle and seriously injured. Another firefighter onboard the apparatus reportedly crawled out of the engine and began first aid until EMS units arrived. Firefighter Kear was airlifted to the hospital but did not survive his injuries.

Incident Location: SR 294 East, MM11 (USNG: 17T LF 1257 1209)

Map View:

<http://www.fidnet.com/~jlmoore/usng/?zoom=16&usng=17TLF1257212093&disp=h>

Funeral Arrangements: Pending

Memorial Fund Contact and Address: In honor of Firefighter Richard L. Kear, C/o Pitt Township Volunteer Fire Department, 7200 Wyandot SQ., PO Box 66, Harpster, OH 43323-9700

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

To date, 60 firefighter fatalities have been reported to USFA in 2008 as a result of incidents that occurred in 2008.

AND:

Chabot College Fire & EMS News

Name: Ryan T. Barker
Rank: Firefighter
Age: 25
Gender: Male
Status: Volunteer
Years of Service: Pending
Date of Incident: 07/08/2008
Time of Incident: 1800hrs
Date of Death: 07/08/2008
Fire Department: West Hill Fire Department
Address: 471 W Hill RD., Elmira, NY 14903 (USNG: 18T UM 4590 6443)
Map: <http://www.fidnet.com/~jlmoore/usng/?zoom=14&usng=18TUM45906443&disp=h>
Fire Department Chief: Joe Sullivan

Incident Description: Firefighter Barker was operating fire apparatus and returning from a propane gas-grill fire, with exposures, that had been successfully mitigated. As the apparatus came down a hill on West Hill Road A, at approximately 3,550 linear and 270 vertical feet from the crest, it came into a left-hand zigzag curve where the apparatus left the right side of the roadway coming to its final resting position having struck one or more trees. Barker was reported to have been ejected from the vehicle. The cab area of the apparatus was heavily damaged; the water tank separated from the vehicle and was several feet further down the road in the opposite lane of travel. Firefighter Barker, the only department member onboard the apparatus, was transported by Erway Ambulance to Arnot Ogden Medical Center in Elmira but did not survive his injuries. The cause of the accident is still under investigation by the Chemung County Sheriff's Office.

Incident Location: West Hill Road A, between Northcrest and Vanderhoef Roads in Big Flats (USNG: 18T UM 4483 6536).

Map View:

<http://www.fidnet.com/~jlmoore/usng/?zoom=17&usng=18TUM44836536&disp=h>

Funeral Arrangements: Pending

Memorial Fund Contact and Address: Pending

Tribute is being paid to Firefighter Ryan T. Barker at

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

To date, 61 firefighter fatalities have been reported to USFA in 2008 as a result of incidents that occurred in 2008.

AND:

Name: Joe Pat Jordan
Rank: Firefighter
Age: 71
Gender: Male
Status: Volunteer
Years of Service: 32

Chabot College Fire & EMS News

Date of Incident: 07/02/2008
Time of Incident: Pending
Date of Death: 07/04/2008
Fire Department: Pickton-Pine Forest Volunteer Fire Department
Address: 4624 FM 269, Pickton, TX 75471
Fire Department Chief: Mark Sustaire

Incident Description: Firefighter Jordan was responding as a passenger in fire apparatus to a reported MVA when he went into cardiac arrest. The apparatus was pulled to the side of the road and CPR was initiated on Firefighter Jordan. He was revived and transported to the local hospital where he never regained consciousness. He was removed from life support and succumbed to his injuries on July 4, 2008.

Funeral Arrangements: 07/07/2008

Memorial Fund Contact and Address: In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to the Pickton-Pine Forest Volunteer Fire Department, 4624 FM 269, Pickton, TX 75471

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

To date, 62 firefighter fatalities have been reported to USFA in 2008 as a result of incidents that occurred in 2008.

AND:

Name: Johnny Bajusz
Rank: Firefighter
Age: 69
Gender: Male
Status: Volunteer
Years of Service: 25+
Date of Incident: 01/16/2008
Time of Incident: 0950hrs
Date of Death: 07/18/2008
Fire Department: Layton Volunteer Fire Department – Monroe County Fire/Rescue
Address: 68260 Overseas Highway, P.O. Box 624, Long Key, FL 33001
(USNG: 17R NH 1871 4555)

Map: <http://floridadisaster.org/gis/kml/viewer.htm?zoom=18&usng=17RNH1871745554&disp=h>

Fire Department Chief: Sandy Maclaren
Website: <http://www.cityoflayton.com/>

Incident Description: Firefighter Bajusz was responding to a recreational vehicle fire (connected to a mobile home (charging), electrical contributing to ignition) on Conch Key in his personally owned vehicle when on Grassy Key (Overseas Highway MM 59), after pulling over to the right portion of his lane of travel, Bajusz attempted a U-turn and was struck by another vehicle coming up from behind (large utility truck). Bajusz suffered serious injuries

Chabot College Fire & EMS News

with ongoing complications and remained in the hospital for just over six months. Firefighter Bajusz asked to be taken to his home where, the following day, he passed away from his injuries.

Incident Location: Grassy Key, Overseas Highway MM 59 (USNG: 17R NH 0545 3903)

Map View:

<http://floridadisaster.org/gis/kml/viewer.htm?zoom=18&usng=17RNH0545939039&disp=h>

Funeral Arrangements: Pending, July 28th (or 29th), time pending, @ Trauma Star Hanger – Marathon Airport, 10100 Overseas Highway, Marathon, FL (USNG: 17R MH 9487 3449)

Map:

<http://floridadisaster.org/gis/kml/viewer.htm?zoom=18&usng=17RMH9487534491&disp=h>

Memorial Fund Contact and Address: In honor of Firefighter Johnny Bajusz, C/o Layton Volunteer Fire Department – Monroe County Fire/Rescue
68260 Overseas Highway, P.O. Box 624, Long Key, FL 33001

Tribute is being paid to Firefighter Johnny Bajusz at

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

To date, 63 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.

AND:

Name: Ryan Hummert
Rank: Firefighter/Paramedic
Age: 22
Gender: Male
Status: Career
Years of Service: 1
Date of Incident: 07/21/2008
Time of Incident: 0530hrs
Date of Death: 07/21/2008
Fire Department: Maplewood Fire Department
Address: 7601 Manchester Rd, Saint Louis, MO 63143-2811
Map: <http://www.fidnet.com/~jlmoore/usng/?zoom=16&usng=15SYC32837721&disp=h>
Fire Department Chief: Terry Merrell
Fire Department Website: <http://www.cityofmaplewood.com/fire.aspx>

Incident Description: Firefighter/Paramedic Hummert responded to a vehicle fire, an older model pickup truck, on Zephyr Place. As Hummert got out of his fire apparatus, he was shot and killed by a gunman inside of a nearby residence. Two police officers were also shot and wounded, one critically. As the residence used by the gunman was being surrounded by law enforcement personnel, it also caught fire and was reportedly destroyed. Status of the gunman at this writing has yet to be reported.

Incident Location: South Big Bend Boulevard and Zephyr Place (USNG: 15S YC 3315 7768)

Map View:

<http://www.fidnet.com/~jlmoore/usng/?zoom=16&usng=15SYC33157768&disp=h>

Funeral Arrangements: Pending

Memorial Fund Contact and Address: Donations in honor of Firefighter/Paramedic Hummert may be mailed to: Backstoppers, 10411 Clayton Road, Suite 5A, St. Louis, MO 63131

Tribute is being paid to Firefighter/Paramedic Ryan Hummert at

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

To date, 64 firefighter fatalities have been reported to USFA in 2008 as a result of incidents that occurred in 2008.

AND:

Name:	Brian J. Munz
Rank:	Firefighter
Age:	24
Gender:	Male
Status:	Volunteer
Years of Service:	Pending
Date of Incident:	07/22/2008
Time of Incident:	1945hrs
Date of Death:	07/22/2008
Fire Department:	Fairbury Fire Department
Address:	PO Box 228, 320 W Locust ST., Fairbury, IL 61739-0228 (USNG: 16T CL 7194 1172)

Map:

<http://www.fidnet.com/~jlmoore/usng/?zoom=12&usng=16TCL7194811721&disp=h>

Fire Department Chief: Leroy McPherson

Fire Department Website: <http://members.tripod.com/~alordrot/index-21.html>

Incident Description: After they had discovered a fire in the basement of their home, a family safely evacuated a two-story, stucco wood-frame single family residence in Forrest, IL, and subsequently called 911. Firefighters from seven communities in the Forrest area, including Fairbury responded. Fairbury Firefighter Munz was with a crew on interior fire attack of the structure when the first floor collapsed trapping him in the basement. Attempts by other firefighters to rescue Firefighter Munz were unsuccessful. Munz was transported to OSF Saint James-John W. Albrecht Medical Center in Pontiac, IL, but did not survive his injuries.

Incident Location: 316 W. Watson St., Forrest, IL (16T CL 8067 1212)

Map View:

<http://www.fidnet.com/~jlmoore/usng/?zoom=16&usng=16TCL80671212&disp=m>

Funeral Arrangements: Pending

Memorial Fund Contact and Address: Pending

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

To date, 66 firefighter fatalities have been reported to USFA in 2008 as a result of incidents that occurred in 2008.

AND:

Name: Frank Wichlacz
Rank: Fire Chief
Age: 75
Gender: Male
Status: Volunteer
Years of Service: 50
Date of Incident: 07/23/2008
Time of Incident: 0648hrs
Date of Death: 07/23/2008
Fire Department: Pulaski Tri-County Fire Department, Inc.
Address: 600 Glenbrook Drive, PO Box 836, Pulaski, WI 54162
(USNG: 16T DQ 0265 4633)

Map: <http://www.fidnet.com/~jlmoore/usng/?zoom=16&usng=16TDQ0265546336&disp=h>

Fire Department Chief: Assistant Chief Bruce Brzeczowski

Incident Description: After returning from a mutual aid call, Fire Chief Wichlacz was in the station when he was accidentally pinned between two vehicles while fire apparatus was being backed in the bay. Chief Wichlacz passed away from injuries sustained in the incident.

Incident Location: 600 Glenbrook Drive, Pulaski, WI 54162 (USNG: 16T DQ 0265 4633)

Map View: <http://www.fidnet.com/~jlmoore/usng/?zoom=16&usng=16TDQ0265546336&disp=h>

Funeral Arrangements: Pending

Memorial Fund Contact and Address: Pending

Tribute is being paid to Fire Chief Frank Wichlacz at <http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/fireservice/fatalities/>

To date, 67 firefighter fatalities have been reported to USFA in 2008 as a result of incidents that occurred in 2008.

AND:

Chabot College Fire & EMS News

Name: David Meron
Rank: 58
Gender: Male
Status: Volunteer
Years of Service: 5+
Date of Incident: 07/20/2008
Time of Incident: 2314hrs
Date of Death: 07/20/2008
Fire Department: Hoosick Falls Fire Department
Address: 3 Griffin AVE., PO Box 312, Hoosick Falls, NY 12090-0312(USNG: 18T XN 3469 5024)
Fire Department Chief: Ted Senecal, Jr.
Map: <http://www.fidnet.com/~jlmoore/usng/?zoom=13&usng=18TXN34695024&disp=h>

Incident Description: After having responded to two alarm calls in quick succession and once released from duty, Fire Police Officer Meron was found @ 2314hrs unconscious and unresponsive in his vehicle at the entrance to the parking lot of the firehouse. CPR was initiated and Fire Police Officer Meron was transported to the Medical Center but all efforts to revive Meron were unsuccessful.

Funeral Arrangements: 07/24/2008 - Calling hours 1500-2000hrs at Robson & Reifurt Funeral Home, 72 Main Street, Hoosick Falls, NY 12090. Funeral services will be private at the request of the family.

Memorial Fund Contact and Address: In honor of Fire Police Officer David Meron, C/o Hoosick Falls Fire Department, PO Box 312, Hoosick Falls, NY 12090-0312.

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

To date, 65 firefighter fatalities have been reported to USFA in 2008 as a result of incidents that occurred in 2008.

AND:

Name: Andrew Palmer
Rank: Firefighter
Age: 18
Gender: Male
Status: Wildland Part-Time
Years of Service: <1
Date of Incident: 07/25/2008
Time of Incident: Pending
Date of Death: 07/25/2008
Fire Department: Olympic National Park
Address: 600 E Park Ave., Port Angeles, WA 98362 (USNG: 10U DU 6788 2746)
Map:

Chabot College Fire & EMS News

<http://www.fidnet.com/~jlmoore/usng/?zoom=14&usng=10UDU67882746&disp=h>

Fire Department Chief: Superintendent Karen Gustin

Fire Department Website: <http://www.nps.gov/>

Incident Description: Firefighter Palmer was working with a crew of firefighters from Olympic National Park, WA, on the Eagle fire, part of the Iron Complex fire on the Shasta-Trinity National Forest in California. Friday, July 25th, was their first day on the fire line and Firefighter Palmer was reported to have been fatally injured when he was struck by a falling tree. The Forest Service and the Occupational Safety and Health Administration have assembled an accident investigation board to report on Firefighter Palmer's death.

Incident Location: Southwest flank of the Eagle Fire near Junction City (USNG: 10T DL 954 088)

Map View:

<http://www.fidnet.com/~jlmoore/usng/?zoom=12&usng=10TDL954088&disp=h>

Funeral Arrangements: Pending

Memorial Fund Contact and Address: Pending

Tribute is being paid to Firefighter Andrew Palmer at

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

To date, 68 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

AND:

Name:	Dan Packer
Rank:	Fire Chief
Age:	49
Gender:	Male
Status:	Career
Years of Service:	27
Date of Incident:	07/27/2008
Time of Incident:	Pending
Date of Death:	07/27/2008
Fire Department:	East Pierce Fire & Rescue
Address:	18421 Old Buckley Hwy., Bonney Lake, WA 98391 (USNG: 10T ET 6185 2529)

Map:

<http://www.fidnet.com/~jlmoore/usng/?zoom=15&usng=10TET61852529&disp=h>

Fire Department Chief: Pending

Fire Department Website: <http://www.eastpiercefirerescue.org/>

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Incident Description: Fire Chief Packer was supervising firefighting efforts as part of an interagency emergency management team at the Panther fire south of Happy Camp, a part of the Siskiyou Complex fire near Yreka, when his position was overrun by wildfire following an unexpected shift in the wind. Further details of the incident are pending investigation.

Incident Location: South of Happy Camp, CA (10T DM 68 26)

Map View:

<http://www.fidnet.com/~jlmoore/usng/?zoom=12&usng=10TDM68602684&disp=h>

Funeral Arrangements: Pending

Memorial Fund Contact and Address: Pending

Tribute is being paid to Fire Chief Dan Packer at

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

To date, 69 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.

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

It is with deep regret that we advise you of the **Line of Duty Death of New Madrid (MO) Volunteer Firefighter Bill Poley**. FF Poley was tragically killed when a fireworks mortar struck him as he was assisting with loading the mortars at the community fireworks show on July 4th. Local EMS and fellow New Madrid FF's/First Responders were on standby at the scene, but were unable to revive him. The incident is under investigation at this time by state and local officials. FF Poley was 40 years old and leaves behind his wife of three weeks, Joyce Poley, his mother, two brothers and two sisters. FF Poley served the New Madrid Fire Department for three years as a firefighter/first responder and was also served in the same capacities for the Marston, MO., Fire Department. Funeral details are incomplete at this time, but will be posted as soon as possible. This information provided by the NMFD and more details will follow.

As always, our sincere condolences.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 7-5-08 / 1801 hours

AND:

We regret to advise you that the **Teague (Texas) VFD Chief, Robert Knight, 42, has died in the Line of Duty** from injuries he received while operating a building fire in downtown Teague. Chief Knight died Saturday at a hospital in Tyler, where he was taken after he was injured. Chief Knight, who lived most of his life in Teague, was a 1988 Texas A&M graduate who worked as an engineer for the BNSF Railroad. He joined the Teague VFD in 1989 and became chief in 1999 and also volunteered as a paramedic. In April, the Teague Chamber of Commerce named him Citizen of the Year. Visitation is Tuesday at Bowers Funeral Home in Teague. Funeral services are at 10 a.m. on Wednesday at the First Baptist Church of Teague and burial will follow at Greenwood Cemetery. Chief Knight is survived by his wife, a son and two daughters. Our sincere condolences to all affected, but especially the TVFD members and the family of Chief Knight. Details on this LODD will follow.

MISSOURI FIREWORKS-FF DEATH UPDATE:

The arrangements for FF Billy Poley of the New Madrid Fire Department are as follows; Visitation: 10:00 AM until 3:00 PM on Tuesday July 8th at Richards Funeral Home in New Madrid. Services will follow at 3:00 PM at the funeral home. The Department is planning an honor guard at the funeral home as well as a fire apparatus escort to the graveside. Graveside rites will also be conducted by the New Madrid Fire Department. The MO. Div of Fire Safety is investigating this accident involving commercial fireworks but statements obtained are now indicating **this was not** a fire department operation, The victim was assisting with the display event for the Chamber of Commerce as well as him assisting a state licensed pyrotechnic operator but not assigned by the fire dept to assist. This incident was initially reported as an LODD and will be investigated to determine if it was or was not a LODD.

UPDATE: 49 FIREFIGHTERS LOSE JOBS IN GEORGIA: The East Point FD (GA) may now have to pay back more than \$1 million bucks in federal funds if their layoffs are found to have violated the original agreement under which their SAFER grant was made. EPFD was awarded a \$1.5 million grant in December 2005 to help it meet national fire response standards. The grant paid for 15 new firefighters, at a cost of \$100,000 each, over a five-year period....but East Point laid off 49 firefighters Monday.

Here are more details:

http://www.ajc.com/metro/content/metro/atlanta/stories/2008/07/03/east_point_layoffs.html

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 7-6-08 / 2230 hours

AND:

It is with regret that the **Middle Island FD (Suffolk County, Long Island, N.Y.) passed on to us the LODD of MIFD EMT Rico Torres.** EMT Torres responded to a mutual aid EMS call on July 4th....after going home from the alarm, MIFD EMT Torres collapsed in his driveway. Efforts by his colleagues to revive him were unsuccessful. He leaves behind his wife Michelle and two children ages 2 and a half and 1 years old. Funeral arrangements are pending. Our condolences as always, to all affected.

Update on Teague (Texas) Fire Chief Robert Knight LODD:

Chabot College Fire & EMS News

Initial and very preliminary reports are that the majority of the department was already out on a brush fire when they were dispatched to a commercial structure fire. The Chief and some other Firefighters responded...reports are that it was a metal clad building with a bow string roof, 4' high parapet, and a brick veneer front wall...and there was a yet undetermined collapse leading to Chief Knights Line of Duty Death. This information is preliminary, more details will follow as the investigation is performed by State and local officials.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 7-7-08 / 1623 hours

AND:

It is with deep regret that we advise you of the Line of Duty Death of Pitt Township (Wyandot County) Ohio, Firefighter Richard Kear, 58, who was killed last night as a result of an apparatus rollover. Initial reports are that the engine was responding to a car fire in a residential garage. Details will follow.

Take Care-Be Careful.

BillyG

The Secret List 7-8-08 / 0837 Hours

AND:

We regret to advise you that a **West Hill (NY) Firefighter was killed in the Line of Duty** last night when the fire tanker he was driving crashed less than two miles from their firehouse. The Firefighter driving was killed around 1800 hours. when the apparatus went off the road and crashed into trees beside the road. A local resident who lives just above the downhill left-hand curve where the accident occurred said he heard the truck hit the trees....Fred Buck, a former West Hill Firefighter, said he first heard the truck go up the hill and recognized it as the tanker although he couldn't see it from his living room chair. A few minutes later, he heard the truck coming down the hill at a much higher speed. "I heard a tremendous crash when the tanker hit the trees," Buck said. After the crash, the tank part of the rig was broken loose and sat in the middle of the road downhill from the cab, which was mangled in the crash. Details will follow on our home page and here. As always, our sincere condolences to all affected.

(SEE BELOW FOR UPDATE OF YESTERDAYS OHIO APPARATUS LODD-NO SEAT BELTS)

FIREFIGHTER KILLED WHILE IN IRAQ:

A Firefighter died Monday, a week after arriving in Iraq to work as an independent contractor providing fire and emergency services. FF Justin D. English, 25, resigned in good standing with the Springdale (ARK) FD in June to work in Iraq. He was on his way to a permanent post at a base in Mosul when his military convoy was ambushed by an improvised explosive device on the roadway. "They were in an armored car when the IED went off," said Janet English, Justin's aunt, as she fought back sobs in a telephone interview. "He had just been there over a week. He didn't even have time to send us an e-mail address so we could keep in touch with him." English arrived in Iraq on June 30 for U.S. military duties through Wackenhut. News of English's death hit the Springdale Firefighters hard, and many of his fellow firefighters spoke about his outgoing and positive spirit. "Justin was an optimistic, happy young man who truly depicted what a young firefighter should be," said Kevin

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McDonald, the assistant chief. "We're deeply saddened by this tragic event. Right now we're in a state of shock."

MORE FIREFIGHTER LAYOFFS. THIS TIME IN PENNSYLVANIA:

More short sited decisions as more of "Americas First Responders" lose their jobs. This time, the Scranton (PA) FD will be reduced in size to save money due to poor leadership and planning. Mayor Chris Doherty says he intends to act on a provision in a state-mandated financial recovery plan that calls for reducing Firefighters from **150 to about 112**. You will recall, while unrelated to staffing, Scranton FD suffered the LODD of Capt. James Robeson back in January when he was electrocuted.

A Judge turned down a request by the unions for a stay in the cost saving, FF slashing moves. The Mayor says while enacting the recovery plan, he will continue to try to negotiate new contracts with the unions. More details here: <http://thetimes-tribune.com/> and here: <http://www.scrantonfire.com/>

NO SEATBELTS IN OHIO APPARATUS CRASH LODD---WIFE AND 3 YOUNG DAUGHTERS LEFT BEHIND....UPDATE:

(NOTE: The Funeral service will be held on Friday July 11, 2008 at 11:00 a.m. - The Ohio Chiefs L.A.S.T. Team-NFFF is working with the family and Department www.OhioFireChiefs.com , www.FireHero.org)

While responding to the scene, Pitt Township FF Richard L. Kear, 58, Harpster, died in the **Line of Duty** after being ejected from the fire apparatus that went off the right side of the road. He was part of team responding to a Monday evening vehicle fire call. The engine rolled over into a culvert and hit a utility pole, ejecting FF Kear from the vehicle. **Neither firefighter was wearing a seatbelt.**

Darrin Rowland, the other Firefighter, crawled out from under the wreckage. FF Kear was flown to Grant Medical Center, Columbus, where he died at about 9:55 p.m. FF Rowland was transported to Wyandot Memorial Hospital where he was treated for injuries and then released. He sustained lacerations to the front and back of his head, abrasions mostly on the right side of his body and bruising on his lower back. FF Kear was a Pitt Township VFF for 16 years. He owned and operated K's Kwik Mart in Harpster. **FF Kear leaves behind his wife and 3 daughters, between the ages of 11 and 17. Take Care-BE CAREFUL-SEAT BELTS: THINK.**

BillyG

The Secret List 7-9-08 / 0711 Hours

AND:

Hey...

It is with deep regret that we advise you of the passing of **Lt. Jared Carson, a 15 year veteran of Cobb County Fire and Emergency Services. We have been advised that his death is considered Line of Duty.** Lt. Carson was 38 years old and with Engine 27 in Mableton. He died after a long and courageous battle with job related cancer which began in 2005. Lt Carson was an active member of IAFF Local #2563 and instrumental in the development and very proud of the 5" hose practices still in use today. Jared was a also long

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time member of The Secret List. Visitation will be held Friday, July 11, at West Cobb Funeral Home, 2480 Macland Road, Marietta, GA 30064, from 2:00 pm – 4:00 pm and from 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm.

The funeral service will be held at 11:00 am, Saturday, July 12, at Grace Baptist Church, 5790 Powder Springs Dallas Road, Hiram, GA 30141. Interment will follow at Kennesaw Memorial Park located at 1306 Whitlock Avenue, Marietta, GA 30064. Our sincere condolences to the Carson family, especially his wife and 2 children as well as the members of the CCFD.

UPDATE: OHIO APPARATUS EJECTION LODD: The funeral service for Pitt Twp (Ohio) Firefighter Richard Kear who died in the line of duty July 7, 2008, will be held on Friday July 11, 2008 at 11:00 a.m. Staging will be located at Upper Sandusky High School, at 800 N Sandusky (St. Rt. 53), you will be directed from there. All apparatus is requested to be staged by 10:00 a.m.

UPDATE: NY APPARATUS EJECTION LODD: In regards to the apparatus crash in (West Hill) NY, we have been advised that it actually was West Hill's only apparatus that was involved, a 1978 Chevy/American LaFrance. The identity of the West Hill Firefighter who died in the **Line of Duty** in that rollover crash in Chemung County Tuesday night was **25 year old FF Ryan Barker** of Elmira, who was driving the fire apparatus in Big Flats when he overturned and was ejected from the apparatus. FF Barker was returning from a gas grill fire in Big Flats and was the only person in the truck and had served in Chemung and Steuben Counties as a Firefighter for eight years.

Video link here:

http://news10now.com/content/top_stories/119765/firefighter-dies-in-crash/Default.aspx

SCRANTON FIREFIGHTER LAYOFF UPDATE: Here is link related to the situation in Scranton: http://www.scrantonfire.com/?zone=/unionactive/view_article.cfm&HomeID=72147
Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 7-10-08 / 0830 hours

AND:

Hey...

A Wayne County (NY) Volunteer Firefighter was seriously injured yesterday after he was struck by a pickup truck. Sodus FF Gary Wahl, 65, was directing traffic at an accident scene in Williamson. Wahl was reportedly hit by a pick-up truck that was traveling around 55 miles-an-hour....the driver was reaching for an object and didn't see the fireman. FF Wahl is now in satisfactory condition and charges are pending against the driver of the pickup truck, who suffered minor injuries.

OHIO DOUBLE LODD PRELIMINARY REPORT RELEASED:

The Colerain Township FD has released their preliminary report of initial findings on the tragic Line of Duty Deaths of Captain Robin Broxterman and Firefighter Brian Schira, who died inside a single family dwelling fire on April 4th of this year. According to the CTFD, this preliminary report contains "the 'whats' and the 'whos'.....the 'whys' will be in a final report to be completed by July 2009. That final report will identify actions taken at the scene, tactics,
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techniques, training and equipment. Here is the preliminary report:
<http://www.coleraintwp.org/uploads/LODDPriliminaryReportFinalVersion4.pdf>

MORE FIREFIGHTER CUTS:

It was announced that Atlanta (GA) Fire Rescue will shut down one fire station, eliminate 30+ currently filled Firefighter positions and lay off 27 fire recruits. These and other cuts are expected to reduce their fire department budget by nearly \$5 million as well as lower their ability to provide service-which always seems to be left out of or lost in the discussions wherever these items come up.

When the priority is saving money, the priority of fire, EMS or terrorism/WMD response gets lost...**UNTIL** there is a "headline making need" for fire, EMS or a terrorism response. Wherever and whenever cuts are made, it needs to be made REAL clear publicly what a FD CAN do, and what a FD now CANNOT do based on the proposed or determined cuts. To expect a FD to be able to perform "just fine" when cuts are made such as the many we have all been reading about at FD's all over the Country, is simply screwing with the **public**-without them understanding what absolutely could happen. It's just like reading and fully understanding what your insurance policy covers-and what it doesn't. Once you find out your insurance policy sucks, it's too late. Note, we said the public, because when it comes to important folks such as a mayor, they will never experience the effects of their cuts if they have their own "emergency" , when one of their aides dials 9-1-1 (or calls in by radio) and services arrive "right now".

Related stories:

http://www.ajc.com/metro/content/metro/atlanta/stories/2008/07/03/fire_dept_layoff.html

http://www.ajc.com/metro/content/metro/dekalb/stories/2008/07/07/firefighter_jobs.html?cxntlid=inform_artr

WTF?! SAVING FUEL?

The Denver (CO) FD is considering a proposal to cut the number of apparatus that responds to some emergency calls in an effort **to reduce the cost of fuel**. For example, the DFD currently sends 2 engines and 2 trucks to certain fire calls, but the new, more "fuel-efficient" response might include 2 engines and 1 truck....**TO SAVE FUEL?** A DFD spokesman stated that the department would **never** compromise public safety or firefighter safety based on the cost of a commodity, but the Firefighters union has been appropriately fighting the proposal. **SIMPLY PUT:** If you reduce a response to what had previously been determined as an appropriate response based upon the cost of fuel, **FF safety and public safety is absolutely compromised**. A very simple equation. And honestly, no matter how fuel and money saving concerned anyone is, when they have "their" fire or emergency, the cost of FUEL is the last thing on their mind. It is the cost of doing business, the cost of having a FD and the cost of being serious about sending what is needed when they have their emergency-and they will.

Wanna save fuel? Start with parking all take home cars for anyone in any government that doesn't **regularly** respond to emergency scenes. Not some "subject to call" nonsense, but only give them to those who absolutely and regularly turn out and who must arrive quickly, where that response will positively impact the working incident. Otherwise, consider this:

MARYLAND FIREFIGHTER DEATH DETERMINED TO BE LINE OF DUTY:

Prince George's County Fire Chief Lawrence H. Sedgwick Jr. has announced that the death of a volunteer member of the Department has been ruled in the **Line of Duty** (LODD). Chief Sedgwick stated that the unfortunate passing of FF George H. Linnell in 2007 has been ruled as an LODD. George H. Linnell joined the Landover Hills VFD in March of 1983. During his long and illustrious membership, George held many offices and positions including Sergeant, Captain, Volunteer President and a member of their Board of Trustees.

In December 2005, George was diagnosed with a lung disease that eventually took his life on April 13, 2007. Chief Sedgwick stated, "George Linnell's enthusiasm, zest for life and love of the Fire/EMS Department remains entrenched within my thoughts of him. His volunteer service, job performance and personality should be emulated by others as the path to being professional and respected by everyone."

The lung disease, Interstitial Pulmonary Fibrosis, can be caused by inhalation of certain toxins. Based on this cause and his activities while he served as a member of the Fire/EMS Department in Landover Hills his death has been ruled as being in the "Line of Duty" for Prince George's County and will be honored appropriately. **Our condolences to all affected by this tragic loss-but kudos to those responsible for the follow-up and the Fire Chiefs determination and recognition of how prominent FIREFIGHTER CANCER is.**

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 7-12-08 / 0933 Hours

AND:

Hey...

Senior Veteran Secret List member **Chief Alan Brunacini** has returned to his home after a successful knee replacement operation. The Chief is comfortably recuperating....Chief Brunacini's Surgeon estimates between 6 to 8 weeks of recovery before he gets back on the road teaching. As our Nations Capital Fire Chief Dennis Rubin wrote us this morning, Chief B would love to hear from his friends by email at: Alanbrunacini@cox.net This process (his other knee replaced!) will be repeated at a date some time in early Fall. When I asked Chief Brunacini about the need for both knees to be replaced, he said and I quote, "If you're going to be a bear, be a Grizzly Bear", so I know he is doing OK! Thanks to all for keeping Fire Chief Brunacini in their thoughts and prayers...and thanks to Dennis R for the update.

MAYOR BOOED AT FIRE STATION CLOSING "CEREMONIES"

As you know, on Friday July 11, the City of Atlanta (GA) Mayor notified her residents that their oldest fire station, Fire Station 7 would be shut down that following Monday. Her decision was without warning and with no input from the community...customer service at its best. During the closing ceremonies, Atlanta Mayor Shirley Franklin got into a loud **shouting match** with protesters outside the station!

Yell at the citizens and taxpayers.....**That'll win'em over!**

Video- <http://www.wsbtv.com/video/16881419/index.html>

Article- <http://www.wsbtv.com/news/16881305/detail.html>

Here is a 2nd article with a first hand report from reporters on scene and how no police nor

fire personnel came to the Mayors

aid. <http://www.11alive.com/news/local/story.aspx?storyid=118543&catid=40>

FIREFIGHTER CUTS AT THE FEDERAL LEVEL?

It must be me...but has the "elected to serve the public" world gone nuts? Do we now have LESS of a chance in having natural or man made disasters? Are all the terrorists now retired and collecting their pensions? Is the DC Federal area no longer amongst areas that JUST MAY BE targeted by the bad guys and gals? EVERYDAY we get info on more and more FD's cutting budgets...and personnel. And now at the FEDERAL LEVEL, the head of the DC Regional Federal FF's (IAFF) says that decisions to cut jobs in that area could be a warning signal that the same may happen at Patuxent River Naval Air Station and other federal workplaces close by. <http://somd.com/news/headlines/2008/7944.shtml>

Info from www.Statter911.com:

<http://www.wusa9.com/news/columnist/blogs/IAFF%20Navy%20staffing%20Schaitberger.pdf>

WHY do we write about cuts of FF positions and jobs?

One key ingredient directly related to FIREFIGHTER SAFETY and SURVIVAL is staffing-and having adequate staffing on the 1st alarm...as we are reminded: **"It's The Staffing...Stupid".....** When staffing and positions are cut, those who wish to be re-elected (or re-appointed) must let the public know what will..and what will **not** happen when they have "their" bad day with delayed FD responses and less FF staffing. Some get it-many still don't or won't.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 7-15-08 / 1010 hours

AND:

We regret to advise you that **Pickton-Pine Forest (Texas) Volunteer Firefighter Joe Pat Jordan, died in the Line of Duty last Friday as a result of a heart attack** suffered while responding to a call the previous Wednesday. Jordan, 71, dedicated 32 years of service to Pickton-Pine Forest VFD, a department he helped found in 1976. PPFVFD's secretary/treasurer was responding late Wednesday morning to a reported vehicle crash with an entrapment along with another firefighter. Shortly after they left the station, Jordan suffered a heart attack. Our sincere condolences to all affected.

TENNESSEE RESPONDING APPARATUS ROLLS OVER WHILE RESPONDING:

2 Tennessee Firefighters received with minor injuries after their apparatus rolled over while responding to a house fire in Maynardville this afternoon (Wednesday). Members of the Luttrell VFD were called to respond around 1445 hours and on the way to the fire, the apparatus crashed near an intersection, rolled over and came to rest in a nearby yard. The THP is investigating the accident. 2 Firefighters were taken to the hospital for minor injuries. No one was hurt in the house fire.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL,

BillyG

The Secret List 7-16-08 2244 hours

AND:

FLORIDA FF LODD:

We have been advised that **FF Johnny Bajusz, a Layton (Fla) Volunteer Firefighter passed away today in the Line of Duty from MVA injuries he received in January '08** while responding to a reported smoke from a structure. FF Bajusz came home yesterday for the first time since the incident and he died peacefully in his Florida Keys home. More details to follow. Our sincere condolences to all affected.

3 FIREFIGHTERS KILLED IN THE LINE OF DUTY-CHINA:

3 Firefighters were killed and nine injured after a 50-meter-long girder collapsed during a huge plastic-packaging factory fire in Shanghai yesterday. The director of the Shanghai Fire Control Bureau, Chen Fei, said last night poor construction caused the beam to collapse. 2 of the lost Firefighters came from the Nanqiao Fire Brigade and the other from the No. 1 Chemical Fire Control Brigade. Our sincere condolences to all affected.

PA FIREFIGHTER INJURED:

A Lebanon Firefighter who was injured making a rescue during Monday morning's fatal arson fire is slowly recovering, but officials don't expect him to return to action until next year. FF Mike Daub, 37, suffered back and pelvic fractures when he fell approx 20 feet while rescuing a 21-year-old. FF Daub was on a ladder helping the victim from a third-floor apartment when the heat on the second floor caused her to fall, knocking both of them to the ground. FF Daub was listed in fair condition yesterday in the Hershey Medical Center. Also injured in the fire were Neversink Fire Co. Chief Ed Eisenhower, who fell down a staircase. Details to follow.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 7-18-08 / 1731 hours

AND:

Hey...

Tomorrow, Monday July 21st is the 1 year Anniversary of the tragic Line of Duty deaths of **Contra Costa County (California) Fire Captain Burton and Fire Engineer Desmond** (and 2 civilians) in that San Pablo single family house fire.

The investigation (report link below) showed:

=Mishandling of the initial report that led to a crucial delay in alerting firefighters.

=Confusion in communications.

=A staffing shortage

=Scene tactical coordination, command, control and accountability issues.

One of the failures was a nearly **10-minute delay** from the moment the homeowners' fire alarm alerted their alarm company to when the first fire company was dispatched. 2 significant mistakes by the alarm company employee-calling a non-emergency line and not making clear that **the house was on fire**-sent the call dropping down the priority list, leading to the critical delay and reduced response.

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The report also questions the experience level of the department's young force (common in so many areas these days), its training program and the complexities of a coverage area. A task force will discuss implementing the report's 100+ recommendations. The report and radio transcripts illustrate a moment by moment record of the heroism, chaos and tragedy at that fire.

As far as the alarm company delay, 9 minutes, 44 seconds after the alarm company (in Florida) first spoke to Gayle Moore (in California), an engine responded out of San Pablo's Station 70. Because dispatch still believed the call to be for an automatic alarm, protocol dictates a low-level response. The alarm call also stops an automatic response from the nearby Richmond FD Station 68, the one closest to the run. Only a reported structure fire would activate automatic mutual aid in this case, vs an automatic alarm.

Other issues include:

=A breakdown in the transfer of command that led to independent fireground actions, resulting in the initiation of **positive pressure ventilation** without proper exhaust openings or notification to the Incident Commander as well as to the interior crews.

=Ineffective fireground communications and lack of personnel accountability contributed to a failure to recognize that there was no Incident Commander and to rapidly identify that personnel were missing.

=Following the discovery of missing firefighters, emergency fireground procedures were not implemented effectively.

Some more of the more than **100 recommendations for change** based on a study of the July 2007 house fire that killed two firefighters and two residents also include:

=Making sure private alarm companies have the correct emergency phone line.

=Modification and training on policies on transferring command at fire scenes.

=Review policies on handling fires involving rescues.

=Improve radio communication training to avoid just face-to-face transfer of critical information.

=Create system that alerts firefighters to pitched roof additions over flat-roofed houses.

=Put four firefighters on engines instead of three.

The investigative report "Michele Drive Line of Duty Deaths" is here:
www.cccfpd.org/LODD.html .

Related Excellent Links:

<http://firegeezer.com/2008/07/20/report-on-calif-double-ff-fatalities-released/>

http://www.mercurynews.com/crime/ci_9936328

Take Care-BE CAREFUL-DOWNLOAD this EXCELLENT REPORT, PRINT IT, USE IT.

BillyG

The Secret List 7-20-08 / 2205 hours

Chabot College Fire & EMS News

AND:

Hey...

We have initial information that possibly several Firefighters and Cops have been shot this morning in Maplewood, MO, with at least one Firefighter being **very** critical...no add'l details on the Police Officers or other FF's as of yet. Maplewood is just outside St. Louis...and this was following reports of a vehicle fire near a building. Check www.ksdk.com or www.myfoxstl.com for more immediate info, this is still an active scene. We will update later. Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 7-21-08 / 1022 hours

AND:

We regret to advise you that **Maplewood (MO) FF/Medic Ryan Hummert, 22, was killed in the Line of Duty this morning....senselessly murdered while he was doing his job as a Firefighter...his life cut short by a cowardly gunman who ambushed him, other Firefighters and 2 other Police Officers.** By around noon the home where the suspect was believed to be, burned to the ground, but the status of the murderer wasn't known. It was unclear whether the murderer died in the house fire as cops were searching the remains of the brick bungalow.

Ryan was a Paramedic-Firefighter who loved his job and has spent just 10 months on the job with the Maplewood FD and is the son of former Maplewood Mayor Andrew L. Hummert, who was mayor of the city for 10 years. The City Hall flag was placed flown at half mast at about 1000 hours just before Fire Chief Terry Merrell tearfully announced Hummert's death. **He was gunned down as he responded along with other Firefighters and Police Officers to a pickup truck fire....reports are that the house caught fire following the ambush.** Two police officers are being treated at area hospitals with non-life threatening injuries.

We will post additional information as it becomes available...this tragic loss is also being covered by all major and local news media....here are some links in addition to the ones we sent earlier:

<http://www.ksdk.com>

<http://www.kmov.com>

What happened today could have horrifically happened to anyone on this job....and again, horribly puts things in perspective. Our sincere condolences to all the members of the Maplewood FD and the family and friends of FireMedic Ryan Hummert.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 7-21-08 / 1655 hours

AND:

Hey...

A Close Call in **Baltimore County** last night...a Firefighter was injured and flown to Maryland Shock Trauma Center...companies arrived and laid a line for a building fire...a tower truck also arrived, the hose got caught in the wheels and snapped, striking a Firefighter. The

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Firefighter suffered a fairly serious leg injury and might require surgery. We wish the FF a rapid recovery.

LODD UPDATE:

Last night we responded as a part of a multi-FD mutual aid 1st alarm to an industrial drier burning in the basement of a huge resort hotel. The run went fine and all companies did great. When we were taking up after the run, I looked around at all the young Firefighters who were on the run-from all the FD's in my area. These young kids are always inspiring to me...much like 22 year old Maplewood (MO) Firefighter Ryan A. Hummert was to so many, with less than a year on the job, he was gunned down in the **Line of Duty** yesterday. At some point in their lives these "kids" decide to be FIREFIGHTERS. And of course, friends & family know there will be risks. But that understanding did little to help prepare Ryan's friends, family and Firefighters for the way he was killed yesterday following getting hired-his life long dream.

TAKE A LOOK at this pic and see if you don't see some of your own "young kid" Firefighters...as well as your own "young kids":

<http://www.stltoday.com/stltoday/news/stories.nsf/stlouiscitycounty/story/F4DCF7C0FC4AFE268625748E0012AB96?OpenDocument>

FUNERAL DETAILS: Please watch www.mofirefuneral.org and details will be posted ASAP.

PICK ONE:

The City of Denver (named as one of America's top 10 "green" cities) has tried several things, and none of it has worked yet..that is, when it comes to the "huge" problem of yucky algae on beautiful Ferril Lake in City Park. The city has used chemicals on the algae and used vacuum trucks to try to clean it out...but alas, none of it has worked.

Now, the anti-algae folks are hoping the **Denver FD** can help break up the algae with high-pressure hose lines by drafting andhoping the algae will sink. They say the work is good practice and firefighters could be back out at the lake several more times this week! Great idea....**HOWEVER**, in the "WTF aspect", this is the same FD that is considering reducing companies on emergency calls in order to save fuel costs.

Pick one-either there is a need to save fuel...or there isn't. Algae being removed by "fuel guzzling fire apparatus" vs adequate companies and staffing to fires...."classic" city hall WTF!? logic...in so many cities.

Besides, isn't algae green?

Take care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 7-22-08 / 0854 hours

AND:

It is with deep regret that we advise you that Fire Chief Frank Wichlacz of the Pulaski Tri-County Fire Dept. in Pulaski, WI was killed in the Line of Duty around 0700hrs this morning. Chief Wichlacz was in the fire station when apparatus was backing in and was pinned between two vehicles. The apparatus was returning from a Mutual Aid call. Our sincere condolences to all affected. While all the facts of this incident are out year, this reiterates the need for a **CRITICAL REMINDER** to all personnel for strict backing procedures and guidelines.

Take Care - PLEASE BE CAREFUL
BillyG
The Secret List
7-23-08/1121hrs

AND:

Hey...

Here are some updates as well as info on FF's losing in court (**and a commentary**) and a "responding" fatal crash lawsuit.

WISCONSIN LODD:

Related to the tragic LODD of Pulaski Tri-County (WI) Fire Chief Frank Wichlacz, who was killed in the Line of Duty due to an accident at the fire station Wednesday morning, here is the latest on what happened.

At 3:31 AM Pulaski Tri-County FD was dispatched to a structure fire in the Town of Maple Grove in Shawano County. Upon returning to quarters, the FF's were in the process of putting gear and equipment away. One of the fire tankers needed to be refilled with water and one of the FF's observed that a fellow FF had his personal vehicle, a pick-up truck, blocking the bay door that the tanker needed to go into. The FF got in the truck and backed it from its parked position and proceeded to park the vehicle in front of a closed bay door. The vehicle accelerated out of control, as the FF was maneuvering it, striking the bay door. Chief Frank Wichlacz was walking between the bay door and a parked tanker inside the firehouse and the force of the vehicle pushed the bay door into Chief Wichlacz pinning him against the fire tanker and narrowly missing another Firefighter.

At 0633 hours, Brown County Communications received a 911 call from the FD requesting EMS....rescue efforts also ensued as Chief Wichlacz was freed from the wreckage and subsequently transported...tragically Chief Frank Wichlacz succumbed to his injuries and was pronounced dead at 0715 hours. Chief Wichlacz belonged to the department for more than 50 years and had been Chief for more than 20 years. Chief Wichlacz, 75, is survived by his widow Diane, three children and four grandchildren. His son, Randy Wichlacz is the Assistant Chief and was on scene at the time of the crash.

ILLINOIS LODD:

Preliminary details indicate that Fairbury Firefighter Brian Munz, 24, was part of an interior crew who was in the process of backing out of the house when the floor just inside the door they used for entry, collapsed. He was the only Firefighter who fell into the basement from the first floor. It appears after he fell, a large couch and rubble fell on top of him, which appears to have trapped him. Rescue was begun immediately and took about 15 minutes. The rescue took numerous Firefighters due to the weight of the couch and other debris. FF Munz was using all his protective gear including air, gloves, and hood. The cause of the fire and LODD is still under official investigation.

ILLINOIS FUNERAL & MEMORIAL DETAIL:

Arrangements for Fairbury Firefighter Brian Munz. Visitation is Friday, July 25th from 1500 until 2000 at Duffy – Pils Funeral Home at 3rd and Maple in Fairbury. Funeral is Saturday, July 26th starting at 1000 hours a visitation will be available at the church beginning at 0900,

at the Methodist Church located at 4th and Maple. Information will follow or be posted concerning Public Safety Walk Through and Apparatus staging.

FIREFIGHTERS LOSE IN LAYOFF DECISION BY STATE SUPREME COURT

Michigan Supreme Court ruled **against** Firefighters over layoffs yesterday...and the decision found Detroit and Pontiac didn't violate union arbitration rights. **City officials in Detroit and Pontiac were granted increased latitude to layoff Firefighters -- even when the move may affect firefighter safety – in a pair of rulings issued today by the Michigan Supreme Court.**

*****Just a lil'COMMENT:** When courts, city elected/appointed officials and even the voting public, want less fire services, then Firefighters and Chiefs need to seriously understand (**and make very clear publicly**) that with their chosen decision, comes a **very** significantly different way of us operating.

With that change, the risk Firefighters sometimes must take in providing life-saving services with **adequate** staffing, now must also be significantly reduced: at the risk of tragic results. Simply put, we cannot do it all with measurably less FF's ...and sadly, the reductions do not go away during frantically tragic moments when someone is trapped in a fire-no matter how frequent or frequent that may be. There is little sense in a lesser staffed or delayed company or department attempting to provide service above and beyond what the courts, the cities and the public ask for or support...even though they may have suffered temporary insanity in their short sighted decisions...and they know not what they do.

Here is a link to more details:

<http://www.freep.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20080723/NEWS01/80723044/1003/NEWS01>

TRAINING, BACKGROUND AND DRIVER LICENSE CHECKS...AND USE EXTREME CAUTION WHEN RESPONDING: THESE TYPES OF TRAGIC RESULTS ARE NOT WORTH IT.

A lawsuit seeking \$6 million in damages has been filed in Greene County (TN) Circuit Court against the Baileyton United VFD, one of its Firefighters and the Greene County Association of VFD's, in connection with a fatal responding 2007 traffic crash on behalf of Crystal Henderson, surviving spouse of the late James Darryl Henderson and their surviving daughter Chelsea Henderson. James Darryl Henderson died on July 12, 2007, from injuries suffered in a June 16, 2007, collision between his vehicle and one driven by FF Travis Joe Dearstone who was responding to a house fire. "On July 12, 2007, after enduring extreme pain and suffering since the time of the collision, Mr. Henderson died as a result of the massive injuries he sustained in the automobile collision on June 16, 2007." The lawsuit's complaint also alleges that the FD and the County Association "negligently hired, trained, and/or supervised FF Travis Joe Dearstone in that they **failed to perform a proper background check, to investigate his driving history, to provide him with proper training in regard to safely and prudently responding to a fire, and to provide him with proper supervision,** and thereby these defendants failed to comply with the accepted

standards, policies and procedures governing the hiring, training, and/or supervision of such firefighters."

The complaint also alleges that FF Dearstone, at the time of the crash, committed several acts of "common-law negligence," including:

- **Failing to maintain a proper lookout for other vehicles on the roadway**
- **Failing to maintain the vehicle he was operating under due and reasonable control**
- **Failing to stop his vehicle before colliding with another vehicle**
- **Failing to insure that he could pull safely into ongoing traffic**
- **Failing to yield the right of way to the vehicle driven by James Darryl Henderson; and**
- **Failing to observe applicable traffic laws.**

The defendants strictly denied that FF Dearstone, acted in a willful, wanton manner or to the level of gross negligence or that the United VFD negligently hired, trained and/or supervised him or that he had reckless propensities. Like so many-all he was doing was trying to help someone-but the results for whatever determined final reasons, were tragic.

This is amongst the LAST position any FF's, Chiefs, FD's or Association's ever want to find themselves in....another sobering reminder for the rest of us.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 7-24-08 / 0955 hours

AND:

We regret to advise you that Olympic National Park Firefighter Andrew Palmer was killed fighting a fire in northern California Friday around 1700 hours. Eighteen year old Palmer, a National Park Service Firefighter, was assigned to the Eagle Fire on the Shasta-Trinity National Forest. The investigation into what happened continues but it appears he was struck by a tree. FF Palmer was being transported by a U.S. Coast Guard helicopter to a hospital in Redding, California to be treated for multiple injuries but tragically was pronounced dead while enroute to the hospital 50 miles away. The Eagle Fire at Iron Complex started on June 21st, according to the Shasta-Trinity National Forest website. It was one of many fires started during a lightning storm. Our sincere condolences to all affected by the loss of FF Palmer.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL,

BillyG

The Secret List 7-26-08 / 0845 Hours

AND:

A second firefighter has been killed in the Line of Duty operating at northern California wildfires. The unidentified Firefighter was killed yesterday while working on the Panther Fire south of Happy Camp in Siskiyou County. The Firefighter's name will be released once family members have been notified. **Initial reports are that the FF may have been lost in a burnover.** The 250-acre Panther Fire was started by a lightning strike Monday night about 15 miles south of Happy Camp and has since burned toward Ukonom Creek and the Klamath River. The death of the firefighter in Siskiyou County follows Friday's death of an 18-year-old National Park Service firefighter in Trinity County that we sent out on The Secret

Chabot College Fire & EMS News

List yesterday morning. Updates to follow. Our sincere condolences to all affected by yet another tragic loss.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 7-27-08

AND:

It is with the deepest sorrow and regret that we inform you that **Chief Dan Packer, Fire Chief of East Pierce (Washington State) Fire & Rescue and Immediate Past President of the Washington Fire Chiefs, died in the Line of Duty in that California Wildfire yesterday, Saturday, July 27, 2008.** Chief Packer was deployed on Friday and was serving as Division Supervisor in the Siskiyou mountains in Northern California. **Tragically, while operating, he was over run and trapped by the fire when the wind shifted unexpectedly.** As always, our thoughts and prayers are with his family, EPFR and his beloved fire service locally, state wide and nationally. This is the 2nd Firefighter fatality from Washington State on this fire. As previously sent out, on Friday, July 25, 2008, Firefighter Andrew Palmer with the Olympic National Park died after being struck by a tree. More information will be released as soon as it becomes available as per Chief Mike Brown, E.D. of the Washington Chiefs.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL,

BillyG

The Secret List 7-27-08 / 1445 hours

AND:

It is with deep regret that we notify you of the Line of Duty Death of Seals Ambulance Service (Indiana) **Paramedic Mark Marvel.** Paramedic Marvel was providing coverage during a concert Friday evening at the Verizon Music Center when he suffered an apparent heart attack. Paramedic Marvel is the Training Officer for Seals Ambulance -- which provides EMS coverage for several communities near Indianapolis. He also works part-time for Community Health Network EMS, Boone County EMS, and is a member of the Cicero Township Fire Department. He is 45 years old and is survived by his wife, two adult children, and step children. Our condolences to all affected.

KY APPARATUS RESPONDING CRASH-CIVILIAN DEATH:

A Hopkins County FD was involved in a fatal accident en route to a fatal motorcycle accident yesterday. As the Manitou Volunteer Fire Department responded to the initial accident, the apparatus exited off the shoulder of the road and when it re-entered the road, the driver lost control. The apparatus then hit a civilians truck head-on and then the fire truck then ran off the shoulder of the road and overturned. The civilians vehicle rotated counter clockwise and also ended up off shoulder of the road and the apparatus was upside down in a creek. The civilian, who was belted in (as were all FF's) was killed.

UPDATE ON THE LODD OF CHIEF PACKER:

Chief of East Pierce (WA) Fire and Rescue, Chief Packer was supervising firefighting efforts in the area in California as a member of an interagency emergency management team battling the blaze. His position was overrun by a wildfire following an unexpected shift in the wind. **More updates to follow.** Check this:

August 3, 2008

www.chabotfire.com

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http://seattlepi.nwsourc.com/local/372400_firedeath28.html

This LODD came just hours after Olympic National Park FF Andrew Palmer was killed by a falling tree while fighting the **separate** Eagle fire in the Shasta-Trinity National Forest.

BROTHERHOOD:

And when we say that, we mean **ANY** Firefighter: boy, girl, old, young, toilet user, urinal stander, poorly paid, unpaid whatever....so don't go whining to Gloria Steinem. This excellent article about the **Line of Duty Death/Murder of Maplewood (MO) Firefighter Ryan Hummert** explains and gives another example of BROTHERHOOD to the clueless and how we can treat one another-and most often do...starting from when he and his other crew members found themselves in the middle of a gunman's killing spree a week ago today:

<http://www.stltoday.com/stltoday/news/stories.nsf/stlouiscitycounty/story/BDD56A55D1F498828625749300081CEF?OpenDocument>

YOU Are Invited: FIRE DYNAMICS AT N.I.S.T. (free chow as well)

The good folks at NIST will be giving an OUTSTANDING presentation on fire dynamics **FOR FIREFIGHTERS** at NIST on Sept 3rd....and pre-registration is required. FFs can find details and register at www.fire.gov .With generous support from **NFFF, NFPA, and MFRI**morning coffee and lunch will be provided....how 'bout that? This seminar is being held in response to requests from the fire service....and YOU are invited. **Check it out ASAP.**

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 7-28-08 / 1420 hours

AND:

Hey...

A Firefighter was air-evacuated after being **struck by a falling tree** yesterday at the Harley Creek fire west of Neihart, which is now more than 40 percent contained. A four-wheel drive ambulance from Belt and a Malmstrom Air Force Base helicopter were needed to get the FF out of the forest and to the hospital. The Firefighter's name, crew and condition were not released, but James Dawson, an EMT with Belt Volunteer Ambulance who was driving the ambulance, said the firefighter's injuries were not life-threatening.

CHIEF DAN PACKER LODD-FUNERAL DETAILS:

The memorial service for East Pierce Fire and Rescue Fire Chief Dan Packer (49) has been scheduled for 2 p.m. Aug. 7 at Christian Faith Center, located at 33645 – 20th Avenue South in Federal Way. The public is invited to attend. In lieu of flowers, monetary contributions can be made at any Washington Mutual Bank under the Fire Chief Dan Packer Memorial Fund. Checks may also be mailed to: East Pierce Professional Firefighters at P.O. Box 7500, Bonney Lake, WA 98391. **MORE DETAILS HERE:** www.eastpiercefir.org

Chief Packer was tragically killed in the Line of Duty when fire overran his shelter last weekend. An autopsy conducted Tuesday determined that he died of severe burns and smoke inhalation. We have posted additional details on the fire on our home pages, news/updates.

ANNUAL NFPA FIREFIGHTER DEATH REPORT:

While the NFPA, USFA, IAFF, NFFF and others each have their "own way" of calculating and determining FIREFIGHTER LINE OF DUTY DEATHS for various reasons, but as always, the annual NFPA report is filled with extremely valuable information (see below to access the report). According to the NFPA's stats, in 2007, a total of 102 on-duty firefighter deaths occurred in the U.S. This is a sharp increase over the 89 firefighter NFPA acknowledged fatalities that occurred in 2006, but returns to the long-term trend of close to 100 on-duty NFPA acknowledged deaths annually. The largest share of deaths (38 deaths) occurred on the fireground based upon their stats. Stress, exertion, and other medical-related issues, which usually result in heart attacks or other sudden cardiac events, continued to be the leading cause of fatal injury. Of the 40 stress-related fatalities in 2007, 38 were classified as sudden cardiac deaths by the NFPA.

Go to our home page and scroll down to NEWS/UPDATES for a copy of the NFPA report.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 7-30-08 / 1056 hours

AND:

Hey...

OK, relax...nothing mean or nasty here...no foul language...and this won't take long BUTT I just need to ask you to do something as well as **watch the below video...(TRUST ME on the video).**

A few weeks ago, I finally did what should be considered the right thing for my family and me...and I scheduled and went for a colonoscopy.

At 53 I am a few years delayed (for the usual lame reasons) but figured if I push this stuff as far as Firefighter safety, health and survival, I probably ought to practice what we preach. Fortunately, there is no practice required for a colonoscopy. And no, I now do not know what a hand puppet feels like. Actually, I felt nothing.

The whole thing was really a piece of cake. And speaking of cake, I was not allowed to eat a piece of cake 12 hours prior, so that way, the Dr does not run into a piece of cake while traveling down my personal interstate highway while looking for bad stuff.

Essentially, the worries most of us have and why we avoid going is because:

- 1-We don't wanna drink that gross stuff, the stuff that makes us understand what it must be like to be Niagara Falls for a day, the day before.
- 2-We don't want anyone going the wrong way in and down what is generally considered a one way street. Not to all, but to most.
- 3-We are worried about what they might find in there. (Great opportunity for humor here but we'll let it pass)

So...for those of you still on the fence about going to get this done, here are my personal responses to the above.

1-There are different things you can drink. Some of you get some kind of prescription powder and have to mix it in a big jug and drink it. I was lucky, my Dr doesn't use that. I simply picked up some over the counter stuff he told me to get, poured it into 7-Up, drank one at 5pm and one at 9pm and that was it. I also couldn't eat that day but could have jello, chicken broth etc. I also kept within 50 feet of the can. You will too.

2-I went to the Colon Oscopy World place at 0700, they had me put my gown on, lay down and asked the usual questions (why don't you trim your mustache?.. how do you eat with that?...aren't you too old to go to fires?.. why do you think you are always right?...the secret list isn't really a secret, is it?...questions like that) and then took my vitals. Then, a few minutes later, they wheeled me into "THE PROCEDURE ROOM" (warm sounding) and I hung out there for a few minutes while listening to their stereo playing Jimmy Buffet music-seriously..and in a gown made of tissue paper. While enjoying the tunes, they started an IV. Then, the Dr came in, he was very cool, and **no kidding**-while talking-I asked how long it would take and he said "we are done"..What!? Yeah, no kidding...the IV ran, my brain (and time) was put on "pause" because of the drug they used and literally, I missed about 30 minutes or so of my life-like a "hold" button on a remote. That was it. Done. Finished. Highway re-opened. I got up and walked out to my waiting Daughter who drove me home. Piece a'cake.

3-So what did they find? They found one small polyp that was removed 100% painlessly during the procedure (remember-I didn't even know they had started) and it turned out to be non-cancerous and I have to go back for another routine colonoscopy in 5 years.

And so, why I am sharing these intimate details? Because, like alotta other stuff we deal with as Firefighters, colon cancer is one of the most common, and yet preventable cancers.

If you are 50 or over, talk to your Doc and schedule your colonoscopy...then **actually go** to the appointment. Colorectal cancer is one of several cancers associated with us as **Firefighters** on varying levels of increased risk. More than 90 percent of people diagnosed with colon cancer are 50. Research indicates that by age 50, 1 in 4 of us has polyps (colon cancer precursors) ...so getting screened is an excellent colon cancer prevention method.

Why schedule and go for YOUR colonoscopy?

Look at the pictures on your desk, in your helmet, in your locker and in your wallet.

Final word. In an attempt to get each of you to get checked-or those of you who know someone who should get checked, as a FREE PUBLIC SERVICE, we are providing you with this 1 minute and 33 second video that we ASSURE YOU will help you understand HOW EASY the procedure is. Go ahead, watch it. No it isn't ME...JUST WATCH "**The Secret List Colonoscopy Humor Video**" (sound up). Don't be nervous...
TRUST US..WATCH THE VIDEO!

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ql1go72c5H8>

Take Care-**GET YOUR COLONOSCOPY SCHEDULED**...seriously (links below).
BillyG

The Secret List 7-30-08 - 2135 Hours

www.FireFighterCloseCalls.com

RELATED IMPORTANT LINKS:

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

<http://www.cancer.gov/cancertopics/screening/colon-and-rectal>

<http://www.cdc.gov/cancer/colorectal/>

http://www.cdc.gov/cancer/colorectal/basic_info/screening/

AND:

Hey...

1st of all:

2 Firefighters were injured at a dwelling fire this afternoon in Mississauga (CN) around 1600 hours. Companies had heavy fire showing on arrival and after Firefighters entered the house, part of the first floor collapsed, injuring 2 members....they were taken to hospital, but the extent of their injuries is not yet known. More details will be posted later.

2nd of all:

T H A N K S for all the e-mails related to the earlier "stick it up your...." Secret List. The literally hundreds of e-mails (no kidding, like 500+) today reflect a range of thoughts that we appreciate. Today's response has been amongst some of the most on any one subject since we started The Secret List 10 years ago.

The e-mails come from those of you who have had the procedure to those who are getting scheduled ...to those who have lost family/friends to colon cancer ...to those of you that are survivors and many, many more. Whatever it takes, get your colonoscopy scheduled ASAP (one FF wrote us and his insurance does NOT cover it-and paid out of his own pocket...good for him-shame on the insurance mutts) so you can continue to read The Secret List for a long long time-not to mention, the more important things you have in your life.

...and if you haven't done so yet: **WATCH THIS VIDEO:**

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QI1go72c5H8>

...and now go get "it" scheduled.

Here are a few items to catchup on:

=Nice article on the "tireless" Chief Ron Siarnicki who dedicates so much of his energy and time to the mission of the NFFF:

http://pittsburghlive.com/x/valleyindependent/news/s_578644.html

Good piece on a good man who makes a difference.

=FIREFIGHTERCLOSECALLS.COM:

As you may have noticed, our webmasters, FireCompanies.com have been doing a lot of work to the site to make it even more usable. While there is still more work to be done, we have some updates for you:

=Recently added Downloads to the Safety & Survival Download Page:

<http://firefighterclosecalls.com/downloads.php>

-The Art of Reading Smoke – The Sequel – by Dave Dodson

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www.chabotfire.com

Chabot College Fire & EMS News

- Fire Department Customer Service – by Jim Vuona
- Fighting Fires McMansions - by Al Mullins
- Firefighters, Ordinary Everyday Smoke and Cyanide - Rick Rochford

Our sincere THANKS to Dave, Jim, Al, Rick and the many others that have submitted training, health, safety and survival information for your use. Since we started and as always, it is 100% free, non-profit and non-commercial with our only mission being what benefits and what is important to Firefighters. Our sincere thanks to all those who give their time, their knowledge and their information participate to make it what it has become today.

=ISSUES WITH COMCAST EMAIL SERVICE?

If you are a Comcast Internet and use their email service, Comcast has decided to block many "group" e-mails from your mail box. While we are working to resolve this issue through our Webmasters, we recommend in the meantime that you try a different email address such as a free AOL, YAHOO, or GMAIL address. Unfortunately, Comcast doesn't allow its users to choose which email they wish to receive...they will decide for you. Silly Comcast. If you know of any Comcast users please pass this information along as most likely they won't receive it!

Looking forward to seeing many of you at F.R.I. in Denver in a few weeks.

For more details go to: <http://www.iafc.org/displaycommon.cfm?an=1&subarticlenbr=356>

Take Care-BE CAREFUL,

BillyG

The Secret List 7-31-08 / 1802 hours

AND:

Hey...

Once again, another affiliate of the NAHB makes it clear that they are **adamantly** against residential fire sprinklers ...further demonstrating their aggressive actions **against** civilian and Firefighter survival in fires.

WHY FF's SHOULD BE CONCERNED:

<http://firefighterclosecalls.com/fullstory.php?69816> and click the "PDF" on that page to **READ** the "**housing industry is adamantly against fire sprinklers**" letter.

And while they are adamantly against residential fire sprinklers ...further demonstrating their aggressive actions against civilian and Firefighter survival, there are many more good people who are not:

READ "**The Time Has Come to Win the Sprinkler Battle**" by Chief Ronny Coleman:

http://firechief.com/technology/time_win_sprinkler_battle_0301/

READ "**It's Time to Stand Up and Be Accounted**" by FPE Ozzie Mirkhah:

<http://cms.firehouse.com/content/article/article.jsp?sectionId=9&id=60066>

I.A.F.F. locals are also asked to support the International Association of Fire Fighter's **Resolution # 27** for the continued participation in the residential sprinkler approval

process that is coming before the IAFF's 49th Convention will be held August 10-15, 2008, in Las Vegas, Nevada.

I.A.F.C. Members join us and the **IAFC Fire & Life Safety Section** at Fire Rescue International in Denver CO August 14-16 to get your free PRO-fire sprinkler materials at the section booth. Learn how you can help win the battle to get life saving residential fire sprinklers in the building codes.

To help **WIN** this battle, check out the above and then **GO TO THESE SITES:**

<http://www.ircfiresprinkler.org/index.htm>

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

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

<http://www.iafc.org/displaycommon.cfm?an=1&subarticlenbr=8> **(IAFC Fire & Life Safety Section**

<http://www.firesafety.gov/citizens/sprinklers/index.shtm>

http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/citizens/all_citizens/home_fire_prev/sprinklers/

The National Association of Home Builders remains aggressively opposed to proven life saving residential sprinkler requirements for 1 & 2 family dwellings. Their opposition continues to stand in the way of citizens and Firefighters greatly increasing survival ability in dwelling fires. To get involved-check out the above sites.

SEAT BELT VIDEO FOR FIREFIGHTERS:

Have you seen this? Check out this excellent video from Denver:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FfHzrEon9Js>

REMEMBERING THE WALDBAUMS FIRE:

Members of the FDNY and others will join together tomorrow for a memorial service commemorating the 30th anniversary of the Waldbaum's fire, which occurred on August 2, 1978. <http://stevespak.com/waldbaums.html> **(Details & photo)**

Six Firefighters died in The Line of Duty when the roof of a burning Brooklyn supermarket collapsed, plunging 12 firefighters into the fire. The fire began in a hallway near the compressor room as crews were renovating the store, and quickly escalated to a fourth-alarm. Less than an hour after the fire was first reported, nearly 20 firefighters were on the roof when the central portion gave way.

The FDNY members killed in the Waldbaum's fire included **Lt. James E. Cutillo, Battalion 33; Firefighter Charles S. Bouton, Ladder Company 156; Firefighter Harold F. Hastings, Battalion 42; Firefighter James P. McManus, Ladder Company 153; Firefighter William O'Connor, Ladder Company 156; and Firefighter George S. Rice, Ladder Company 153.**

Memorial service for the 30th anniversary of the Walbaum's fire, St. Brendan's Church, 1202 Avenue O, Brooklyn, NY, Saturday, August 2, 2008, 9:45 a.m. - Procession from E-276/L-156 to the Church - 10:30 a.m. - Mass St. Brendan's Church.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 8-1-08 / 2130 hours

AND:

Hey....

The U.S. Forest Service & National Park Service jointly released a pair of 72-hour reports on the recent Line of Duty deaths of 18-year-old **Firefighter Andrew Palmer from Port Townsend, Wash., and Fire Chief Daniel Packer of East Pierce Fire & Rescue**. The report concluded that on July 25, FF Palmer died from injuries sustained when a tree fell on him. FF Palmer, while being treated and transported, went into cardiac arrest while being and was pronounced dead on arrival at approximately 1706 Hours.

In the death of the Chief Packer, on July 26, 2 Firefighters assigned to the incident management team (that was to start leading the Panther Fire the next day) began a routine size up mission to get familiar with the fire conditions ...when the fire activity suddenly increasing near a previously constructed fire line. They began to retreat from the area, but their escape route had been comprised by the fire. One of the 2 attempted an escape by running down a steep slope that was covered with extremely heavy brush. The other Firefighter, Fire Chief Dan Packer, deployed his shelter in an attempt to survive the advancing fire-but was unable to. Chief Packer had responded to a request by the U.S. Forest Service to serve as a Division Supervisor for the incident management team managing the Siskiyou Complex.

CANADIAN MEDIC LODD WHILE ENROUTE TO WORK:

Marie-Lou Dubois, a 29 years old primary care Paramedic on her way to start her shift on the Maniwaki ambulance, was killed following a frontal impact motor vehicle collision which happened Saturday morning in Western Quebec. The collision occurred around 0720 when her car collided with another vehicle coming in the other direction. The other driver, who was driving a car reported stolen minutes prior to the collision, fled on foot. Police were doing a man hunt, using search dogs. Marie-Lou Dubois graduated as a primary care paramedic in May of 2008. In Quebec, workers injured directly on their way to or from work are considered at work.

WELCOME HOME FIREFIGHTER EARLEY:

More than two months after being hospitalized for burns sustained while operating at a house fire in Leesburg, Virginia, LCFR Lieutenant/LVFC Master FF John "Bones" Earley returned to the county on Friday. He made his trip back in style, on board Ashburn VFD's Tower Ladder 6, the unit that he was assigned to on the day of the fire. Details here:

www.iaff3756.com

www.leesburgfire.org

www.ashburnfirerescue.org

Our best to all affected-especially the FF's operating that day as well as the family of FF Earley who have a long history of dedicated firefighting service to the community.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 8-3-08 / 0553 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.

A very thought provoking article: Bulletproof vests – the next PPE for firefighters?
<http://www.firerescue1.com/fire-products/Personal-protective-equipment-ppe/articles/421164-Bulletproof-vests-the-next-PPE-for-firefighters/>

The budget woes continue, in various forms and fashions:

The City of Scranton (PA) Fire Department is looking at drastically reducing staffing:
http://www.thetimes-tribune.com/site/news.cfm?newsid=19836388&BRD=2185&PAG=461&dept_id=415898&rfi=6

Fire Departments (this story from Bakersfield, CA) are really feeling the pinch on their budgets, due to rising gas costs:
http://www.bakersfield.com/hourly_news/story/496587.html

The Atlanta (GA) Fire Department is facing significant reductions, including the closing of a fire station. Here is a story about the mayor being accosted, but if the community wants the fire station open, shouldn't they be willing to pay more taxes for it, especially in tight times like this? People want to have a high level of service, but they don't want to pay for it – something most departments and communities are faced with. If the money isn't there, it isn't there without taxation or some other form of revenue stream or something we hate hearing – expenditure reduction (pay cuts, benefit cuts, station closures, etc.): <http://www.cbs46.com/news/16877562/detail.html>

A North Hampshire town is considering privatization of some services, something more communities may strongly consider:
<http://www.emsresponder.com/article/article.jsp?siteSection=1&id=7900>

Two Michigan cities get leeway to layoff more firefighters – hopefully not a sign of the times to come....
<http://www.freep.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20080724/NEWS05/807240364>

An Oregon Fire Department is debating whether to put a bond measure to the voters, something that can be very risky, especially if it loses. But, times are tough and departments have to try almost anything to obtain funding at times when many people already think they are spending too much in taxes and think that governmental agencies waste their tax dollars:
http://www.estacadanews.com/news/story.php?story_id=121683459178688000

A Colorado Fire District is also moving forward with a bond election, and mill levy to go before the voters to help provide needed funding:

<http://www.coloradoan.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20080724/WINDSORBEACON01/807240317/1131>

The City of Vallejo (CA) is beginning their bankruptcy case:

http://www.thereporter.com/news/ci_9982493

Fire prone areas in California may face additional taxes to help fund needed fire protection – about time. Yes, we have the right to live where we want to live. But, if we make the informed decision to live in areas prone to fires, flooding, or other disasters (which are usually miles away from fire stations and law enforcement protection), we must understand the risks that come with those choices, and not expect to have “top notch public service” without paying extra for it.

<http://www.redding.com/news/2008/jul/25/fire-prone-areas-may-face-tax/>

The Glide (OR) Fire Department is in need of asking it’s residents for a bond levy to help fund their needed capitol projects: <http://www.kpic.com/news/26012459.html>

Budget problems may exist in some parts of the country, but the Loveland (CO) Fire Department is fortunate enough to be hiring firefighters

http://www.reporterherald.com/news_story.asp?ID=17334

Fire Department Consolidation / Merger Related Stories:

Fire Departments in Colorado are joining forces to become one:

http://themountaineer.com/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=99&Itemid=2

A regional fire authority plan in San Diego County is finally getting some steam and heading in the right direction, to ensure a better level of fire protection for the affected communities: <http://www.signonsandiego.com/news/metro/20080716-0729-1bo16firesupport.html>

Three California fire departments are looking at continuing their joint sharing of services, after realizing how beneficial it is to become one, especially when they were not that large to begin with:

<http://www.santamariatimes.com/articles/2008/07/25/news/centralcoast/news07.txt>

Due to a recent lawsuit, the Tucson (AZ) Fire Department has had to institute sensitivity training. Instead of waiting for lawsuits to occur, maybe it would be worth being proactive with such training, and more importantly, treating each other with respect and providing a harassment free workplace. Let’s not let lawsuits or the

federal government tell us how to run our fire departments; when that happens (and it does, like now), it means we've failed our personnel.

<http://www.620ktar.com/?nid=6&sid=903371>

Not good.....,a Boston Firefighter out on disability is discovered participating in a body building competition. Because of the rampant worker's compensation fraud occurring, if we are hurt on the job (thus receiving workers compensation), it's best to try and

<http://www.foxnews.com/story/0%2C2933%2C386570%2C00.html?sPage=fnc/us/crime>

A very interesting, and potentially scary website affecting all of us in the fire service. This website is telling homeowners to "stay and defend" and not evacuate when told to do so. It even provides reasons, cities laws, and even tells homeowners where to buy wildland gear. They also provide a service where they will come out and "evaluate" your property and the nearby fire department for only \$50 an hour. How many structures will we be defending only because of people who know nothing about our work being in the way? On one hand you can't blame them because of the limited resources we are seeing on many wildland fires, and because of our need to actually make hard, tough decisions where to go and where not to go.

Follow this topic and see where it goes. I've heard insurance companies are already getting in the act of hiring their own fire brigades (for lack of a better term) to protect their specific properties, almost getting back to the old concept of firemarks on buildings. Once again, can you blame them? Not really. What's the answer? Good question, but we better think of something because concepts like this are not going away. <http://www.prepare-stay-defend.org>

An article about how challenging it is to keep volunteer firefighters trained, due to the fact they have to be trained to the same level as paid firefighters:

<http://www.eastvalleynews.com/mail/article.cfm?i=11926>

A Georgia Fire Department that is laying off a large number of firefighters may be subject to returning grant funding (which they probably don't have) based on violations of the agreement of the grant. Be careful what you agree to and read the fine print! <http://cms.firehouse.com/content/article/article.jsp?id=60105§ionId=46>

Public Relations Nightmare Stories:

An article from the Davis (CA) Fire Department where it is supposedly accepted practice to allow drunk (off-duty, but still on department premises) firefighters to sleep and recuperate. <http://cms.firehouse.com/content/article/article.jsp?sectionId=46&id=60089>

Eight Chicago Fire Department fire inspectors may lose their jobs for misconduct:

<http://www.suntimes.com/news/metro/1062604%2CCST-NWS-fire18.article>

A Maryland Fire Chief is suspended over old videos:

<http://cms.firehouse.com/content/article/article.jsp?sectionId=46&id=60217>

And a related story regarding the Maryland Fire Chief:

<http://www.wusa9.com/news/local/story.aspx?storyid=73956&provider=top>

An ex-Georgia Firefighter and his wife are charged with arson:

<http://cms.firehouse.com/content/article/article.jsp?id=60245§ionId=46>

Two volunteer firefighters from the Fresno (CA) area are charged with arson:

<http://www.visaliatimesdelta.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20080723/NEWS01/807230317/1002>

Four Washington D.C. Firefighters are under investigation for allegedly avoiding emergency ambulance calls:

[http://www.emsresponder.com/web/online/Top-EMS-News/DC-Firefighters-Allegedly-Avoided-Ambulance-Calls/1\\$7981](http://www.emsresponder.com/web/online/Top-EMS-News/DC-Firefighters-Allegedly-Avoided-Ambulance-Calls/1$7981)

Twenty Boston (MA) Firefighters have been “raking in full pay tax free while languishing on disability for more than 18 months” – I’m not sure how other states work, but in California, thanks to Labor Code 4850, a firefighter injured on the job (covered by Workers’ Compensation) is entitled to up to one year of their salary while they are unable to work. Typically after that one year is up, they are either forced to retire, take a light duty position (if available and if they desire – not everyone does), or forced to work without pay. Most choose to retire out at that point on a disability pension, which is typically tax free, or at least a portion is – whatever is negotiated in the settlement. This is one of the many benefits we receive as firefighters in California; for those that work in the private sector, if you get injured on the job, good luck getting any form of compensation, let alone full salary for up to a year. It’s a great benefit, as long as we don’t screw it up:

<http://www.fireengineering.com/news/newsArticleDisplay.html?id=165252>

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

Firefighters in the Phoenix Valley are dressing in pink, and hitting the road for charity:

http://www.abc15.com/news/local/story.aspx?content_id=8536df71-3496-41f8-807a-f79fe434112e

Firefighters in Colorado are doing belly-flops for charity:

http://www.denverpost.com/news/ci_9922817

A former Oregon Fire Department bookkeeper is sentenced for embezzling at least 1.9 million dollars: <http://www.katu.com/news/local/25946154.html>

From the Boston (MA) Fire Department comes a disturbing story of medical files (of firefighters under investigation) that have suddenly disappeared, at the beginning of an FBI investigation:

<http://www.firerescue1.com/news/421561-Boston-firefighters-medical-files-disappear-as-FBI-looks-into-claims/>

The Phoenix (AZ) Fire Department has a brand new, state of the art Fire Investigation command van – that was donated to them. Even the biggest and best fire departments are not too ashamed to take donations. Every fire department should be partnering with their community and actively soliciting donations of equipment and apparatus, ensuring there is no conflict of interest or perception of the donator getting any preferential treatment. <http://www.620ktar.com/?nid=6&sid=917087>

The Idaho Falls (ID) Fire Department sharpens their extrication skills via training on donated vehicles. Yes, I know some folks wonder why this is even worthy of a news story. Well, when you have a choice between positive or negative public relations, you will most likely choose the positive public relations. Thus, what better way to get some positive PR while also keeping your name in media, building a positive, working relationship with the media, and at least showing your community your not just sitting at the fire station watching TV or playing checkers (as some folks still think we do. Before you get mad at people having those perceptions, get mad at ourselves as an industry for not doing a better job letting the public know exactly what we do. Granted some departments may still sit around and watch TV most of the day, but with the amount of busy work many departments are faced with, there isn't always a lot of free time during the work day):

http://www.kpvi.com/Global/story.asp?S=8754820&nav=menu546_2_4

Tulare (CA) Firefighters are in the news for training for skateboard accidents – a great example of getting into the community and actually talking and building relationships with the folks who pay for us to be here, and are who we work for – the taxpayers of our community:

<http://www.visaliatimesdelta.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20080730/NEWS01/807300301>

High school students in the state of Washington are getting the opportunity to see what the job of a firefighter entails, well in advance of graduation. What a great way to get our future leaders motivated and inspired in the excellent career opportunities we have available to them, assuming they properly plan ahead and point themselves in the right direction and not make stupid choices they'll later regret (and that may keep them from becoming public servants):

<http://wenatcheeworld.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20080715/NEWS04/328050964>

Smart move: Incentive pay was based on his degree from unaccredited school - a story about the Vallejo (CA) Fire Department and a member giving up his educational incentive pay before potentially being asked to give it back, or even worse – get disciplined for something he had control over and made the informed decision to do in the first place. http://www.timesheraldonline.com/news/ci_9886731

The Clark County (NV) Fire Department (the Fire Department who actually covers the Las Vegas strip – not the Las Vegas Fire Department as many people think) is building a new fire station on the Strip. What is worth mentioning is the funding: the MGM-Mirage Corporation appears to not only be paying for the building (that's the easy part), but also for the equipment. Not sure if they will assist with covering the annual, on-going staffing costs (the hardest, most expensive cost to come up), but at least what they are paying for is better than nothing in these tough times. Since the station will most likely be spending a lot of time at the Strip facilities, it makes sense for them to help pay for some of the local infrastructure as well.

http://www.kvbc.com/Global/story.asp?S=8659962&nav=menu107_2

Rising fuel costs are a hot topic, and something every fire department has to deal with. Here are some articles relating to this subject and how some departments are coping with the issue: <http://cms.firehouse.com/content/article/article.jsp?sectionId=46&id=60158>

And: <http://cms.firehouse.com/content/article/article.jsp?id=60168§ionId=46>

Brass thieves are targeting fire hydrants and fire department connections, something to be on the lookout for:

<http://www.cbsnews.com/stories/2008/07/21/ap/business/main4279218.shtml>

Winning fire departments of round three of the Assistance to Firefighters Grants have been announced. If your department is not on this list, why not? Shame on us for not taking the time or making the effort to secure additional funding, especially in these challenging times:

<http://cms.firehouse.com/content/article/article.jsp?sectionId=12&id=60277>

The Tucson (AZ) Fire Department has settled a former firefighter's claim for hazing he was subject to, a story all fire departments can learn something from:

<http://www.kpho.com/news/16920522/detail.html>

The Milwaukee (WI) Fire Department recently hosted an open-house job fair to recruit new firefighters. Up to 100 firefighters may be hired in the next two years:

<http://www.jsonline.com/story/index.aspx?id=771872>

Two Tennessee Firefighters are injured after their fire truck (a water tender) rolled over in route to a fire. They are lucky to be alive and that they did not kill or injure anyone else. Something to ponder: why do water tenders (which are very prone to rolling over due to the weight and instability of the water) have code 3 capability (lights and sirens) as using lights and sirens only tend to cause firefighters to drive faster and be more tunnel-visioned. SLOW DOWN!!!

<http://www.wbir.com/news/local/story.aspx?storyid=60878&provider=top>

Isn't it sad when the United States Fire Administrator has to plea to all of us – “wear your seatbelts?” Isn't that something we should have learned as children from the grown-ups? I guess not: <http://www.firerescue1.com/official-announcements/420140/>

Firefighters in a Canadian Fire Department are fighting the direction they have been given to obey the speed limit, something that is common in many departments – just like it is getting more common to expect fire apparatus to come to a complete stop at stop signs and red lights. Instead of fighting their city administration on this issue, maybe they should be happy their city administration is actually trying to keep them safe, and also keep their citizens safe. For those that argue this will increase response times – you're right.

But, what is more important – us getting there safely or getting there quickly? I'll take safely any day. Remember, we didn't cause the emergency (hopefully – but maybe if we cause an accident on the way to a call), we are there to mitigate the emergency. But, we're useless if we get into an accident on the way to a call because we are then committed to the NOT leaving the scene and taking care of the collateral damage we just caused – which may include death, injury and property damage.

<http://www.cbsnews.com/stories/2008/07/21/ap/business/main4279218.shtml>

Longmont (CO) Firefighters are interested in forming a union, something many of us take for granted and assume all firefighters and police officers belong to:

http://www.timescall.com/News_Story.asp?id=10157

An interesting story or a reality check, depending on how you take it. An article about Michigan Fire Departments struggling to ensure their fire stations are accommodating for female firefighters, something many west coast departments have already dealt with years ago – not all west coast, but many. There are still some California fire departments that do not have any female firefighters.

<http://www.visaliatimesdelta.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20080730/NEWS01/807300301>

A reality check for firefighters – when you think your living conditions are bad, read about this story about the Long Beach (CA) Fire Department and their fire station that is directly under a deteriorating bridge:

http://www.pressetelegram.com/business/ci_10000945

A reality check for the fire service: are we learning anything from all of the well produced line-of-duty-death reports or are we just providing lip service to safety and allowing history to continuously repeat itself? This article comes on the heels of the

Contra Costa County Fire Protection District (CA) Line-of-duty-death reports and raises some valid concerns we all can learn from:

<http://www.firerescue1.com/Columnists/Charles-Bailey/articles/421687-Thinking-About-Fires-Part-1/>

AND PART 2:

<http://www.firerescue1.com/incident-command/articles/421817-Thinking-About-Fires-Part-2/>

The population boom in the Phoenix area is making the Goodyear (AZ) Fire Department believe they will be growing from six fire stations to twenty-four fire stations by the year 2030. Now that is growth if I have ever seen growth. Not sure if it will ever occur, but at least they have a plan for handling the growth:

<http://www.azcentral.com/community/swvalley/articles/2008/07/29/20080729swv-pubsafetyplan0730.html>

The family members of two firefighters who died in the line-of-duty in St. Louis are seeking a new deal with the SCBA manufacturer who was determined to be at fault for their deaths:

<http://www.stltoday.com/stltoday/news/stories.nsf/stlouiscitycounty/story/47AB182C71779EB78625749400129E58?OpenDocument>

The Assistant Chief of the Charleston (SC) Fire Department who was one of the chief officers on scene the night the nine firefighters lost their lives in the line of duty on June 18, 2007, has been “asked” to resign earlier than he planned. Not surprising at all, especially after you read the after action report. Hopefully all of us can learn valuable lessons from this tragedy and not allow our careers to end on such a note:

http://www.charleston.net/news/2008/jul/22/garvin_asked_resign_from_charleston_fire48332/

An SUV collides with a fire truck:

<http://www.myfoxcolorado.com/myfox/pages/News/Detail?contentId=6775900&version=2&locale=EN-US&layoutCode=TSTY&pageId=3.2.1>

An interesting article on Firefighter Health and Safety, specifically relating to physical fitness, something all of us (myself included) can do a better job at:

<http://www.azcentral.com/community/surprise/articles/2008/07/31/20080731gl-nwvexercise0801.html>

The ridge where a Washington Fire Chief was killed was deemed (after the fact) as too dangerous, had the crews had the chance to do it all over again. I don't intend this as a Monday morning quarterback situation as much as I mean it as a way to think

“sometimes you have to trust your gut instinct” and there is a proper way to refuse risk. Better risk management, situational awareness and risk assessment is something all of us need to be practicing, to ensure our personnel actually go home at the end of their assignment. <http://www.komonews.com/news/26075389.html>

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
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