



FIRE & EMS NEWS

May 12, 2008

Volume 6 – Issue 14

FIREFIGHTER LINE-OF-DUTY-DEATH **INFORMATION – AFTER ACTION REPORT:**

This issue is dedicated to the nine (9) firefighters who died in the line of duty on June 18, 2007 in Charleston, SC. Hopefully this tragic event will provide some information we can all learn from. With no disrespect meant to those firefighters, their families, or other brother and sister firefighters, if we don't learn from history, we are doomed to allow history to repeat itself. It has almost been a year from that tragedy, and it sounds like the after action report is due soon, but the preliminary after action report is available below.

I encourage you to take the time to review the entire report, and then review the actual report that is supposedly going to be released in the near future. This is not meant to be a Monday morning quarterback situation; what's done is done and we can't take back that tragic day, as much as anyone would like to. No chief officer or company officer wants to lose a firefighter, let alone nine, on their watch. Chief officers and company officers are forced to make split-second decisions on a regular basis that may make the difference between life and death, more damage or less damage, and so forth. Nobody is perfect, and it is not difficult to make what seems to be a right decision at the time, but turns out to be a wrong decision after the fact. In this case, there doesn't seem to be many split second decisions that would have made that much of a difference as much as there seems to just be generally accepted practices and a culture that might not have been well versed on the accepted practices of other fire departments and NFPA standards.

Some of the key findings cited in this report include:

- Hoselines being used at the incident (and in past practice) were too small, thus providing insufficient water flow. Face it – the GPM's we put on the fire, must equal or exceed the BTU's being produced by the fire. If they don't, the fire wins – we lose.
- Firefighters inside notice that the roof trusses were red hot due to being exposed to such intense heat. Numerous studies and experts over the years have stressed that when a truss roof is exposed to extreme heat, it can and usually will collapse imminently.
- Although nine (9) firefighters lost their lives, at least six (6) more firefighters came close to losing their lives in the fire.

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- The first arriving firefighters inside had to wait almost 15 minutes for a dedicated (from a hydrant) water supply to fill their hoses and provide them with a safety net, as opposed to relying on tank water.
- The Fire Chief initially refused a neighboring department's offer of larger supply hoses and more modern equipment, such as thermal imaging cameras.
- There was a crew that was designated as the rescue crew (Rapid Intervention Crew/Team we have to assume) that ended up being pulled away from that important role to instead combat the fire inside the building. There was no obvious intent to replace that crew with another rapid intervention team.
- While every firefighter was provided a radio (a great idea) each shift, not every firefighter was using or possessing their assigned radio. If we have a radio assigned to our position for the day, it is a part of our PPE – no different than our helmet, our gloves, our turnout pants, etc.
- The neighboring mutual-aid companies that “jumped the call” (at least they seemed to check-in at the command post for an assignment as opposed to just freelancing) did not have the same communications frequencies with the other CFD personnel on scene.
- Water supply was a major issue, whether it was size, number or length of supply lines, promptness in establishing, ability to secure, etc.
- No obvious use of the Incident Command System.
- And many others, too many to mention; those were the key issues we can reinforce with our current personnel and practices in our own departments.

Let's take the time to actually look through the report (see link below) and see what things you can pick up to learn from – so when you're faced with a similar situation, you may choose to do things differently. More importantly, if some of these above-mentioned practices are a part of your culture, seriously consider doing what it takes to modify or change them for the better (I know, easier said than done). Most of the stuff above has already come out in some of the preliminary reports, but it is still shocking to see some of the things that are brought to light. I know it's easy to say “those things would never happen in California or in our department,” but be careful about that comment. It is not uncommon to still see on occasion, some of the above-mentioned items occur around the state and around the country, and not just in Charleston.

The preliminary after action report has been released:

[http://cms.firehouse.com/web/online/Charleston-SC-Tragedy/Preliminary-Charleston-9-NIOSH-Report-Released-/56\\$59421](http://cms.firehouse.com/web/online/Charleston-SC-Tragedy/Preliminary-Charleston-9-NIOSH-Report-Released-/56$59421)

A related story with more details:

http://www.charleston.net/news/2008/may/09/fire_report_draft_released40261/

Once again, for those that think we're Monday morning quarterbacking or questioning what happened, think again and look at the big picture. The intent of firefighter line-of-duty-death reports and after action reports are to learn from the good and mostly not-so-good things that happened at that tragic incident that killed one of our brother or sister firefighters.

If we want to truly honor those nine firefighters who gave their life for the Sofa Super Store, we will take what we can from this report, and from other after action reports and do what it takes to not let history repeat itself.

FIREFIGHTER EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY – Tacoma (WA):

The [Tacoma Fire Department](#) will be accepting applications for the position of **Firefighter**, until: May 23, 2008. The only requirements are that you are at least 18 years of age and that you have graduated from high school or equivalent! This is a rare opportunity to test with a big-city fire department, without having the need to have any special certifications!

To view the job announcement and complete an online application, go to:
www.cityoftacoma.org/empage.aspx

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

For more information about the **Tacoma Fire Department**, visit their website at:
www.cityoftacoma.org/Page.aspx?hid=572

For more information about the **Tacoma Firefighters Association**, [I.A.F.F. Local 31](#), visit their website at: www.iafflocal31.com/

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 a couple of the numerous seminars they are offering in the near future:



May 23, 2008

Register

www.firenuggets.com is hosting:
"No More Firefighter Deaths,"
presented by Gordon Graham, May 23,
2008 – Elk Grove, CA

This is a *newer* presentation by Gordon Graham. Topics related to firefighter safety will be tied into Gordon's Risk Management/Liability lecture. Gordon says, "Firefighter deaths related to heart, traffic, PPE, fatigue and training activities continue at an alarming rate and we must break the chain."

For details on this seminar: [Click here](#)

(or go to: <http://www.firenuggets.com/seminarcosumnespro08graham.pdf> if you have trouble opening up the link).



May 29, 2008

Register

www.firenuggets.com is hosting:
"Fire Ground Academy,"
presented by Chief John Mittendorf,
May 29, 2008 – Elk Grove, CA

This unique one-day interactive workshop will include an in-depth look at how to read a building, the ability to read smoke, fire extension, and analysis of the "fireground clock". The six major fireground priorities will be overviewed in concert with the six sided approach to an incident. Students will then be able to practice lessons learned from digital video examples. Lessons learned will be applied to the five major types of buildings using a digital simulator in concert with video. Students will have the opportunity to develop and analyze appropriate strategy and tactical considerations. This presentation uses the new Fire Studio 3, a state-of-the-art technology that includes 360-degree views of buildings, digital simulations with video capability and "overwrite capability" (John Madden pencil).

For details on this seminar: [Click here](#).

(or go to: <http://www.firenuggets.com/seminarcosumnespro08mittendorf.pdf> if you have trouble opening up the link).

FIRE SERVICE EMPLOYMENT INFORMATION – RICHMOND (CA):

The [Richmond Fire Department](#) will be accepting applications for the position of **Firefighter**, one day only: June 21, 2008. The primary requirements are that you are at least 18 years of age, that you have graduated from high school or equivalent, and that you have completed an EMT program!

To view the job announcement, go to: www.ci.richmond.ca.us/index.asp?NID=60

For more information about the **County of Contra Costa**, visit their website at www.co.contra-costa.ca.us/

For more information about the **City of Richmond**, visit their website at www.ci.richmond.ca.us

For more information about the **Richmond Fire Department**, visit their website at: www.ci.richmond.ca.us/index.asp?NID=79

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.

FIRE & EMS VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES:

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

FIRE SERVICE TRAINING OPPORTUNITY FOR FIRE DEPARTMENTS:

Alameda County Training Officers / Contra Costa Training Officers

Are Proud to Present:

WILDLAND 2008 June 24th & June 25th

This annual event is held at Camp Parks in Dublin and is open to all fire agencies within Alameda County, Contra Costa County and neighboring counties. The focus of this event is to exercise Wildland Fire Fighting Strategies and Tactics!

Hands-on training will include: Progressive hose lays, hand line construction, mobile attack, water supply, structure protection tactics and safety within the wildland environment.

Cost for the event per day is:

\$ 100.00 per Engine Company - ALCO & CoCo counties

\$ 150.00 per Engine Company - Out-of-County agencies

\$ 25.00 per Single Resources (ST/TF leaders, COMT...)

"All participants are required to have and use full Wildland Personal Protective Equipment including Wildland Appropriate Boots!"

Please fill out and return this portion with payment to:

Registration is Required by Friday June 13, 2008

Please make checks payable to:

ALCO Training Officer's Association
C/O Bud McLaren, Treasurer
120 Vista Avenue
Piedmont, CA 94611-4031

Agency 3 Letter ID _____, Apparatus Type _____, # of Apparatus _____, Single resource _____

Day your agency would like to participate: June 24th _____ June 25th _____

Agency contact: Name _____

Address _____

City _____ Zip _____

Ph # _____ - _____ - _____

bmclaren@piedmont.com 510-420-3031 office, 510-420-3033 fax

FIRE SERVICE TRAINING OPPORTUNITY:

**Rancho Cucamonga Fire
Protection District**

Proudly Hosts

**The Esperanza Fire Accident Investigation
Factual Report**

Presented By: Brad Harris and Jeff Brand of Cal-Fire

Date: May 19th 2008
Time: 0900 to 1230
Instructors: Cal-Fire Unit Chief Brad Harris & Cal-Fire Battalion Chief Jeff Brand
Location: Rancho Cucamonga Community Center in Rancho Cucamonga Hall
11200 Baseline Rd @ Central Park
Rancho Cucamonga, Ca
Cost: No cost, however, there will be an opportunity to donate to the
memorial fund during the event.
Class Size: 300 capacity
About the Class:

This class discusses the wildland fire that occurred last October in which five USFS firefighters were killed protecting a residence. Brad Harris was the CAL FIRE Investigation Team Leader (it was a joint investigation with the USFS) and Jeff Brand was the Chief Investigator for the Team. They have an excellent PowerPoint presentation covering the facts surrounding the incident. We recognize this event has touched many of us, and the RCFD invites all our surrounding agencies to come join in on this powerful presentation, as this report answers many of our questions.

RSVP: Please RSVP as we expect this event to fill quickly!!!
Christen @ 909-477-2770 x 3010 / cnausha@cityofrc.com
Outside Agencies please form a Liaison for all RSVP's

Dress Code & Misc Message: Please attend in Fire Dept. Uniform or Civilian Dress that would be respectful for our fallen Brothers of E-57. There will be no videotaping or cameras allowed due to pending trial. We look forward to having you all!

FIRE SERVICE PUBLIC EDUCATION INFO:

Focus on Fire: Novelty and Toylike Lighters – Playing with Fire

Novelty lighters in the hands of children are a deadly and emerging threat to life and property nationwide. Children are attracted to these lighters because they look like toys, complete with visual effects, flashing lights, and musical sounds.

Mistaking lighters for toys has proven to be dangerous as novelty lighters are responsible for injuries, deaths and accidents across the Nation. State and local governments are taking action by banning the sale of novelty lighters and limiting their distribution.

It is critical to focus public attention on the dangers of these toylike devices. For this reason, the theme for [National Arson Awareness Week](#) (May 4-10, 2008) is Toylike Lighters – Playing with Fire.

For more information on novelty and toylike lighters, please visit the U.S. Fire Administration's Web site at www.usfa.dhs.gov/citizens/focus/.

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.

The Complete Fire Officer – **Ketchum, ID – June 7 & 8, 2008**

Instructors: John Mittendorf & Paul Stein

Time: 0830 - 1700 hrs.

This extremely informative and motivating 1-day seminar will be taught by two of the most nationally renowned instructors on fire service leadership, Chief John Mittendorf & Chief Paul Stein. This workshop is a MUST for all Chief & Company Officers, as well as those aspiring to the positions.

This seminar will discuss ALL aspects of leadership (firehouse as well as fireground)

Topics to be discussed:

• Responsibilities of Supervisor • Effective Leadership Dynamics • Setting Goals, Establishing Priorities • Coaching • Counseling • The Disciplinary Process • Effective Communications • Strategy & Tactics • Incident Commander • Communications • Size Up • Fireground Considerations - Habitational Structures - Commercial Structures

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.

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 –
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.

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 – 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:

- May 27
- June 9, 21
- July 7, 19
- 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:

- May 13, 14, 27, 28
- July 7, 9, 19, 22
- June 9, 10, 21, 24
- August 4, 5, 16, 19
- September 2, 3, 13, 16, 29, 30

TEST DATES:

- May 15, 16, 17, 31
- June 12, 28
- July 10, 26
- August 7, 23
- September 4, 20

Southern California 2008 Schedule:

ORIENTATION DATES:

- May 19
- June 7, 23
- July 12, 21
- August 2, 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:

- May 13, 20
- June 3, 10, 17, 24
- July 15, 22
- August 5, 22, 19
- September 9, 16, 23

TEST DATES:

- May 15, 17, 22
- June 5, 12, 21, 26
- July 17, 26
- 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 TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES:

TAKE FIRE TECHNOLOGY CLASSES ON THE INTERNET - REGISTER FOR SUMMER 2008 CLASSES NOW!

Fire Tech classes on the internet are available from Allan Hancock College in Santa Maria, California. The following courses will be held completely on-line June 16 – August 7, 2008.

CFSTES Fire Officer Classes will not be Offered in the Summer, hopefully in late Fall 2008 or Spring 2009. You will be notified when they are available.

Fire Technology Classes

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

After prospective students have applied to the college, they may register for classes on the internet (WebReg), by fax, mail or in person starting May 1st. For information on how to enroll as a student and register for classes, or if you want additional information on the Fire Technology Program, contact Dan Coffman at dcoffman@hancockcollege.edu

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:

Heartland Fire Training Facility

S390

CA State Certified

Introduction to Wildland Fire Behavior Calculations

Students will study in depth atmospheric stability, the interaction of winds and topography and factors that lead to extreme fire behavior. The student will learn to calculate slope, wind speeds, rate of spread, flame length, spotting distance, and estimated fire size and safety zone requirements.

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S390 is required for Division Group Supervisor, Operations Chief, and IC Type 3.

Prerequisite is S 290 NO EXCEPTIONS! Students should review 290 workbook proficiency checks and fuel moisture calculations

BRING YOUR NWCG FIRELINE HANDBOOK APPENDIX B, A CALCULATOR AND PENCILS.

DATES: May 27-30, 2008 Full participation is mandatory to pass this class
No refunds after May 13, 2008

LOCATION: Heartland Fire Training Facility; 1301 N. Marshall Ave. El Cajon 92020

TIME: 0830-1730 class hours, some homework will be assigned

FEE: \$275.00 includes all materials, State Certification MAX 28 students

INSTRUCTORS: Patrick Shreffler and Hal Yearwood, Emergency Management Consultants, and Rob Balfour, National Weather Service

Patrick is a 490 trained Fire Behavior Specialist with 37 years of service, 20 years on Type 1 & 2 IMT's. Hal is 490 trained Fire Behavior Specialist and a retired USFS BC who served on Type 1 & 2 IMT's. Rob Balfour is a Fire Weather Meteorologist and a Red Carded Incident Meteorologist (IMET). Their highly rated presentations have been featured at CA Training Officers Symposium, Firehouse World and Fire Rescue West.

S-390

NAME: _____ DEPT: _____

ADDRESS: _____ CITY: _____ ZIP: _____

PHONE: _____ EMAIL: _____

Send Registration Form, **copy of S290 cert.** and check to: Heartland Fire Training Facility; 1301 N. Marshall Ave, El Cajon CA 92020/619 441-1693

EMS VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES AROUND THE BAY AREA:

The San Francisco Paramedic Association is looking for volunteers for the following upcoming EMS related classes:

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

Dates / Locations / Times:	<p>- Wednesday June 25, 2008 from 1200 to 1700 hours - Thursday June 26, 2008 from 1200 to 1700 hours</p> <p>**Go to their website at www.sfparamedics.org and click on Volunteer Info (under About) to confirm the above dates and times.</p> <p>NOTE: All of the above classes will be held at the Bay Model Visitor Center in Sausalito (2100 Bridgeway, Sausalito)</p>
You will receive:	Valuable experience watching paramedic level (or higher) students perform patient assessments. Learn from their plusses and minuses. You will also receive a free San Francisco Paramedic Association t-shirt.
Your role:	As a volunteer, you will be moulaged and designated to role-play a victim of a trauma emergency scenario. Please wear loose, old, comfortable clothing, as you may be on the floor for some scenarios.
Contact person(s):	Call the San Francisco Paramedic Association for more information or to sign-up at (415) 543-1161 (tell them Steve at Chabot sent you) or email them at director@sfparamedics.org or visit their website section on volunteer opportunities at www.sfparamedics.org/pages/about/volunteer.php

- Advanced Medical Life Support Classes: Volunteers Needed

Dates / Locations / Times:	<p>- Thursday June 19, 2008 from 1230 to 1800 hours - Friday June 20, 2008 from 1030 to 1630 hours</p> <p>NOTE: All of the above classes will be held at the San Francisco Paramedic Association – 657 Mission Street, Suite 302, San Francisco, CA 94116</p> <p>*** Go to their website at www.sfparamedics.org and click on Volunteer Info (under About) to confirm the above dates and times.</p>
You will receive:	Valuable experience watching paramedic level (or higher) students perform patient assessments. Learn from their plusses and minuses. You will also receive a free San Francisco Paramedic Association t-shirt.
Your role:	As a volunteer, you will be moulaged and designated to role-play a victim of a medical emergency scenario. Please wear loose, old, comfortable clothing, as you may be on the floor for some scenarios.
Contact person(s):	Call the San Francisco Paramedic Association for more information or to sign-up at (415) 543-1161 (tell them Steve at Chabot sent you) or email them at director@sfparamedics.org or visit their website section on volunteer opportunities at www.sfparamedics.org/pages/about/volunteer.php

FIRE SERVICE PUBLIC EDUCATION & SAFETY INFORMATION:

U.S. Fire Administration Announces Arson Awareness Week Theme for 2008

EMMITSBURG, MD – The United States Fire Administration (USFA) announces the theme for the 2008 Arson Awareness Week: *Toylike Lighters – Playing with Fire*. May 4th to the 10th will be used to educate all Americans about the dangers of novelty and toylike lighters in the hands of children. Toylike or novelty lighters have been responsible for injuries, deaths, and accidents across the Nation. State and local governments are taking action by banning the sale of novelty lighters and limiting their distribution.

“It is critical to focus public attention on the dangers of these toylike lighters,” said Greg Cade, U.S. Fire Administrator. “We are pleased to join our partners at the National Association of State Fire Marshals, National Volunteer Fire Council, and the Congressional Fire Services Institute in supporting the ban of toylike and novelty lighters.”

Effective January 1, 2008, the USFA's National Fire Incident Reporting System (NFIRS) began collecting information specifically about novelty and toylike lighters. NFIRS data indicate that lighters play a role nearly equal to matches in residential child-play fires, and some studies show that lighters tend to be the preferred ignition source. When children set fires in the home, the most common area of fire origin is the bedroom, and the material ignited is often bedding, mattresses, or clothing.

In 2002, the National Fire Protection Association estimated 13,900 child-playing structure fires were reported in the U.S., with associated losses of 210 civilian deaths, 1,250 civilian injuries, and \$339 million in direct damage. Most child-playing home fires are started with lighters or matches. The median age of children who start reported fires by playing is 5 years old, compared to a median age of 4 years old for fatal victims, and a median age in the late teens for nonfatal injuries.

Arson Awareness Week is promoted by the United States Fire Administration and the International Association of Arson Investigators (IAAI). Also partnering with the USFA and the IAAI this year are the Fire Safe Children and Families Program and the National Volunteer Fire Council.

The major goal of Arson Awareness Week is to create a national awareness and understanding of the arson-related problem in the United States by encouraging communities to get involved in the dissemination of arson awareness information by creating a simple, identifiable, and unifying message.

For more information, including a media kit, poster, examples of State and local novelty lighter ban legislation, and a regional list of youth set fires, visit the [Arson Awareness Week section](#) of the USFA Web site.

FIRE SERVICE TRAINING & SAFETY INFO:

2008 Fire/EMS Safety, Health and Survival Week

The U.S Fire Administration is pleased to once again participate as a partner in the **2008 Fire/EMS Safety, Health and Survival Week**, scheduled for June 22-28, 2008. The program is sponsored by the International Association of Fire Chiefs (IAFC) and the International Association of Fire Fighters (IAFF).

The theme for this year is *Committed to Long Term Results*, which encourages long term investments by both chiefs and firefighters to enhance their health and safety. The ultimate goal is to institute a strong culture of health and safety within the fire and EMS service.

Recommended activities and materials will incorporate three key areas where standard operating procedures, policies, and initiatives – along with the training and enforcement that support them – can limit fire and EMS personnel’s risk of injury or death.

1. Initiate an emergency vehicle policy, to include:
 - a. Always buckle up.
 - b. Always stop at red lights and stop signs.
 - c. Always drive at speed limits and defensively.
2. Fully implement the Wellness-Fitness Initiative:
 - a. Provide annual medical and physical evaluations.
 - b. Provide equipment and time for exercise.
 - c. Provide nutrition information.
3. Fully implement NFPA 1500, especially sections addressing personal protective equipment (PPE):
 - a. Provide compliant PPE.
 - b. Train and enforce use of PPE, including respiratory protection

Keep watching www.iafc.org/safetyweek for more information on this year’s program and planning resources developed by the IAFC Safety Health and Survival Section.

FIRE SERVICE TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES:

.....
**Upcoming Training Opportunities hosted by the:
EAST CONTRA COSTA FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT TRAINING BUREAU**
.....

River and Flood Water Rescue - June 19- 21, 2008
Read more...<http://www.eccfpd.org/content.asp?ContentId=939>

Fire Investigation 1A: Fire Origin and Cause Determination February 23-27, 2009 - Read more...<http://www.eccfpd.org/content.asp?ContentId=936>

Confined Space Rescue Awareness - November 24, 2008
Read more...<http://www.eccfpd.org/content.asp?ContentId=935>

Fire Management 1: Management/Supervision for Company Officers - February 02-06, 2009 - Read more...<http://www.eccfpd.org/content.asp?ContentId=934>

Fire Apparatus Driver/Operator 1B: Pump Operations - October 13-17, 2008
Read more...<http://www.eccfpd.org/content.asp?ContentId=933>

Fire Apparatus Driver/Operator 1A: Emergency Vehicle Operations - October 06-10, 2008 - Read more...<http://www.eccfpd.org/content.asp?ContentId=932>

Fire Command 1B: Incident Management for Company Officers - December 01-05, 2008 - Read more...<http://www.eccfpd.org/content.asp?ContentId=931>

Fire Command 1A: Command Principles for Company Officers - November 10-14, 2008 - Read more...<http://www.eccfpd.org/content.asp?ContentId=930>

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

FIRE SERVICE TRAINING OPPORTUNITY:

The Contra Costa County Fire Training and Safety Officers Association
In conjunction with Lee and Associates

PRESENT

WORCESTER COLD STORAGE and WAREHOUSE FIRE

A Personal Look from the Company Officer Perspective

June 10, 2008
0900-1600

PREPAID REGISTRATION ONLY

By June 4, 2008

\$50.00, includes continental breakfast and lunch

TO REGISTER, GO TO: www.srvfire.ca.gov/worcester.htm

San Ramon Community Center, Fountain Room
12501 Alcosta Boulevard

Questions: Captain Ame Blackshear
ccctoevents@srvfire.ca.gov
925-567-6935

Presented by District Chief John Sullivan, Worcester Fire Department

This presentation will take an in-depth look at the circumstances surrounding this multiple line-of-duty death incident from the perspective of the company officer. District Chief John Sullivan will guide the presentation using his personal experiences from the Worcester Cold Storage fire as a line officer (then a lieutenant). Sullivan led multiple search-and-rescue attempts into the building and subsequently lost two crew members to the inferno.

This first-hand account provides critical insight into the event and emphasizes the "lessons learned" aspects of analysis and commentary on the effect of the event. The Worcester Fire Department is resolute in its mission to ensure that the same fate never befalls another department for lack of insight.

FIRE SERVICE TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES:

National Fire Academy (NFA) Training Opportunities

(as of April 18, 2008)

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

If interested, apply immediately!

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

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

2nd Semester

R101 Code Management: A Systems Approach
8/4/08-8/15/08 4 vacancies

May 12, 2008

www.chabotfire.com

R213	Analysis of Arson Management 7/27/08-8/1/08	10 vacancies
R491	NFIRS: Program Manager 7/20/08-7/25/08	8 vacancies
R508	Partnering for Fire Defense and Emergency Services Planning 9/14/08-9/19/08	7 vacancies
R810	VIP: Leadership & Administration 9/14/08-9/19/08	7 vacancies
R816	VIP: Community Education Leadership 9/14/08-9/19/08	13 vacancies
R822	VIP: Advanced Safety Operation and Management 9/14/08-9/19/08	12 vacancies
R823	VIP: Leading Community Fire Prevention 7/20/08-7/25/08	13 vacancies
R824	VIP: Management Strategies for Success 9/14/08-9/19/08	2 vacancies

FIREFIGHTER TRAINING INFORMATION:

U.S. Fire Administration Releases Report on I-35W Bridge Collapse in Minneapolis

EMMITSBURG, MD – The United States Fire Administration (USFA) announces the release of the **Interstate 35W (I-35W) Bridge Collapse and Response Technical Report**. The report examines the area's emergency preparedness for, and response to, the August 1, 2007 bridge collapse in Minneapolis, Minnesota that killed 13 people and injured 121 others.

“To the nation's firefighters, collapse of structure is something for which they all plan and prepare. The uniqueness of this bridge collapse, and the challenges faced by firefighters and their command staffs, offers an opportunity for firefighters across this nation to learn from the Minnesota response to this event. As a result, firefighters continue their efforts to prepare for any and all emergencies nationwide,” said United States Fire Administrator Greg Cade.

Just after 6 p.m. on the evening of August 1, 2007, the 40-year old bridge collapsed into the river and its banks without warning. At the time, there were approximately 120 vehicles carrying 160 people on the bridge. The impact of the fall broke the span into multiple planes of broken steel and crushed concrete. Cars, buses, and trucks – all resting precariously along

guardrails or suddenly unprotected edges – crashed into other vehicles, partially embedded in the muddy river bank, or dropped precipitously into the river.

The local response to the bridge disaster — and the coordination with metro, State, and Federal partners — demonstrated the extraordinary value of comprehensive disaster planning and training. The city's ability to respond had evolved over several years of investing heavily and widely in all the elements that make a crucial difference when disaster strikes. Their investment covered widespread training on the [National Incident Management System \(NIMS\)](#) that extended beyond city department heads and into all employee levels. Over half of the city's 4,000 employees have received NIMS training.

To **download** the report, go to:

http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/downloads/pdf/publications/tr_166.pdf

USFA develops reports on selected major fires and events throughout the country. These emergencies usually involve multiple deaths or a large loss of property, but the primary criterion for deciding to write a report is whether it will result in significant "lessons learned." In some cases, special reports are developed to discuss events, drills, or new technologies or tactics that are of interest to the fire service.

To order or download other USFA technical reports, please visit the USFA Web site at www.usfa.dhs.gov and select the link Order Publications.

FIRE SERVICE EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY – Huntington Beach (CA):

The [Huntington Beach \(CA\) Fire Department](#) will be accepting applications for the position of **Ambulance Operator**, until: June 2, 2008. The only requirements are that you are at least 18 years of age and that you have graduated from high school or equivalent! This is a rare opportunity to test with a big-city fire department, without having the need to have any special certifications!

To view the job announcement and complete an online application, go to:

www.surfcity-hb.org/jobs/

For more information about the **City of Huntington Beach**, visit their website at www.surfcity-hb.org

For more information about the **Huntington Beach Fire Department**, visit their website at: www.surfcity-hb.org/government/departments/Fire/

FIREFIGHTER SAFETY INFORMATION:

Below is the April 28, 2008 Everyone Goes Home Safety Newsletter:
(www.everyonegoeshome.com)



[NFFF Partners with IAFC, IAFF for 2008 Fire/EMS Safety, Health and Survival Week](#)

The National Fallen Firefighters Foundation and the Everyone Goes Home® Firefighter Life Safety Initiatives Program is pleased to once again participate as a partner in the IAFC/IAFF 2008 Fire/EMS Safety, Health and Survival Week, scheduled for June 22-28, 2008.



The theme for this year is [Committed to Long Term Results](#), which encourages long term investments by both chiefs and firefighters to enhance their health and safety. The ultimate goal is to institute a strong culture of health and safety within the fire/EMS service.

Recommended activities and materials will incorporate three key areas where standard operating procedures, policies and initiatives - along with the training and enforcement that support them - can limit fire/EMS personnel's risk of injury or death.

» **More:** [Read the Full Article on EveryoneGoesHome.com](http://www.EveryoneGoesHome.com)

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

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

TOP SCORING EXAMINATION STRATEGIES

1. Read the directions very carefully or listen closely to the moderator or instructor if directions are given orally. If at any time you are unsure of any of the directions, raise your hand and a test monitor will come over and explain your question to you. Many types of these examinations differ from one section to the next. You should pay particular attention to the instructions for these types of examinations.
2. Before you begin, make sure you have all the pages in the examination. In most examinations you will be told the number of pages in your booklet; check to make certain that you have all the pages or sections. If any page is missing, immediately raise your hand and inform the test monitor.
3. Make sure that you are marking the right answer to the right question. All it takes is skipping one question and not skipping the corresponding number on the answer sheet, to cost you the examination. Every five questions or so, it is a good idea to take a look at the number in the test booklet and the number on your answer key to insure they match. Also pay strict attention to whether the answer key numbers are vertical or horizontal. You don't want to find out that you have been answering the questions on the wrong numbers.
4. When marking your answers, make sure that you mark only one answer for each question. Do not make exceedingly large markings on your answer sheet; most of these examinations are graded by computer. If the marking is too close to another marking, it will be double keyed and you will lose credit for that question.
5. If you need to erase an answer, be sure you erase it completely. Do not leave any shadows that could possibly show up when the computer is grading the examination.
6. If you come across a question during the examination that you find difficult and you are spending too much time on it, skip over the question and leave a mark on your answer key. Do not mark in the area where you will be answering; mark to the left of the number so that you know to come back to this number. It is also a good idea, if you are allowed to mark in your test booklet, to mark out choices you have eliminated as being incorrect. This allows you, when you come back at the end of the test, to go back to only the choices remaining when you are seeking the best answer. If you come across a question on the examination that you find difficult, don't allow any more than two minutes on the question. If you don't know the answer, mark it, skip it, and return to it after you have completed the remainder of the test.

7. Check the time during the examination. For example, if there is a 200 question test and a three hour time limit, you should be on question 100 with 1-1/2 hours left. You should check the remaining time every 10-15 minutes to ensure you are on an appropriate time frame.

8. Do not change answers unless you are absolutely positive. Time after time, studies have shown that when you change answers, 75-80% of the time you change it to a wrong answer. The only time you should change an answer is if you are absolutely positive or if you have miskeyed an answer. (For example, you intended to mark "C" and you inadvertently marked "B".)

9. Don't be afraid to guess at an answer. Most firefighter examinations are scored based on the number of correct answers. On most examinations, there is no penalty for a wrong answer. If you have three minutes remaining on the examination and 15 questions to answer, try to answer as many as possible, but if time does not allow, at least put an answer down for every question.

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 TRAINING OPPORTUNITY:

Two New Self-Study Courses Offered by the National Fire Academy

EMMITSBURG, MD. – The U.S. Fire Administration's (USFA) National Fire Academy (NFA) announced today that two new self-study courses are available through [NFA Online](#). These new courses – *ICS-300: Intermediate All-Hazard NIMS ICS Review for Expanding Incidents (Q464)* and *ICS-400: Fundamentals Review for Command and General Staff (Q466)* – can be used as pre-course modules or refresher training for the classroom-based ICS 300 and ICS 400 courses delivered nationwide by State fire training agencies.

"These new courses incorporate the most recent changes to the National Response Framework and provide an excellent review tool for firefighters," said U.S. Fire Administrator Greg Cade. "The material presented in these online courses will better prepare the participants to be successful in the required classroom portion of the NFA's Incident Command program offerings."

Completion of Q464 and Q466 alone does not satisfy the requirements for ICS 300 and ICS 400. To access these and other self-study courses, visit [NFA Online](#) and select *Browse Catalog* or *New Student*.

Twelve 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. In the coming weeks, several *Incident Command Simulation Series* courses will be released, as well as the revised *National Fire Incident Reporting System Self-Study*.

FIREFIGHTER RELATED SAFETY, TRAINING & NEWS STORIES TO LEARN FROM:

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

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

Name: Riley J. Terrebonne Jr.
Rank: Firefighter
Age: 29
Gender: Male
Status: Volunteer
Years of Service: Unk
Date of Incident: 04/20/2008
Time of Incident: 2100hrs
Date of Death: 04/21/2008

Fire Department: Springfield Volunteer Fire and Rescue Department, Livingston Parish Fire Protection District 2
Address: 23381 Terry Street, Springfield, LA 70462 (USNG: 15R YP 3557 6847)
Fire Department Chief: Brian A. Drury
Fire Department Website: <http://www.springfieldfirerescue.com/>

Incident Description: Firefighter Terrebonne was assisting at the scene of a motor vehicle accident on an interstate highway bridge, when he was struck by another vehicle. Terrebonne passed away from his injuries the following day in the hospital.

Incident Location: Southbound Interstate – 55, on the “High Rise Bridge” over the river at Manchac (USNG: 15R YP 4936 5605)

Map View:

<http://floridadisaster.org/gis/kml/viewer.htm?zoom=14&usng=15RYP4936456050&disp=h>

Funeral Arrangements: Tentatively, visitation for Firefighter Terrebonne is scheduled for Friday, April 25 with full firefighter service and burial to take place on Saturday, April 26. (<http://www.springfieldfirerescue.com/>)

Memorial Fund Contact and Address: Pending (<http://www.springfieldfirerescue.com/>)

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

To date, 44 firefighter fatalities have been reported to USFA in 2008 as a result of incidents that occurred in 2008.

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

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

AND:

Name: Jeremy L. Jylka
Rank: Firefighter
Age: 34
Gender: Male
Status: Paid-on-Call
Years of Service: 1
Date of Incident: 04/29/2008
Time of Incident: 1700hrs
Date of Death: 04/29/2008

Fire Department: Pine City Fire Department
Address: 400 5th Street, SE, Pine City, MN 55063
Fire Department Chief: Tom Miller
Fire Department Website: <http://www.pinecityfire.com/2005.html>

Incident Description: Firefighter Jylka was responding to a wildland fire on board fire apparatus to a wildland fire when he suffered a medical emergency and went unresponsive.

Another Firefighter began CPR and he was transported by ambulance to the local hospital where he succumbed to his injuries.

Funeral Arrangements: Pending

Memorial Fund Contact and Address: Pending

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

To date, 45 firefighter fatalities have been reported to USFA in 2008 as a result of incidents that occurred in 2008.

Some more firefighter safety and training information, courtesy of Deputy Chief Billy Goldfeder and Gordon Graham, hosts of www.firefighterclosecalls.com

Hey....

In Georgia yesterday, a Ms. Ruby C. Flowers of Franklin was killed Saturday afternoon in a **head-on collision with a Coweta County fire apparatus**. The incident was reported by the crew of the fire apparatus at 1216 hours according to Coweta County 911 officials. Medic 1 and Medic 3 of the Coweta County EMS responded to the scene as well as CCFD officials and law enforcement authorities. The victim was pronounced dead at the scene by a Coweta County Deputy Coroner. The cause of the accident remains under investigation and there is no word on any injuries to the members or the circumstances as to what caused the crash.

FATAL AUSTRALIA APPARATUS CRASH: A girl, 13, has been killed and a man and child critically injured in a crash between a car and fire apparatus near the town of Buxton, north-east of Melbourne. The man, believed to be 40, was flown in an air ambulance with a broken femur and head injuries, while a nine-year-old boy was flown to the Royal Children's Hospital with "multi trauma". Two men in a Department of Sustainability and Environment fire service tanker, believed to be aged 24 and 22, were not hurt. The apparatus was involved in a controlled clearing burn.

VA. FF BURNED AT WILDLAND FIRE:

One Firefighter was helicoptered out after being burned while operating at a large wildfire in Buckingham County, VA yesterday. The fire blackened an estimated 600 acres just after noon Saturday. A total of 3 firefighters were injured: 1 was treated at the hospital while two others were treated on the scene for smoke inhalation.

UPDATE: FDNY FATAL APPARATUS CRASH. Witnesses state that Angela Johnson had crossed the intersection yesterday at 111th Avenue and 155th Street in Jamaica Queens when Engine 275 was responding to a house fire on 109th Avenue. The fire apparatus sirens and horns were operating, the lights were on but apparently Johnson still went thru and into the 4-way stop sign intersection. A witness said the truck did slow down, but Johnson's car just "kept going." The driver's side of her Nissan Maxima was hit and the car was "pushed
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100 feet up the block." FF's immediately attempted life saving measures on Johnson but she was pronounced dead at the hospital. All firefighters riding the apparatus suffered non-life-threatening injuries and there is no information yet related to seat belts. The FDNY says it will investigate the crash as will NYPD. The intersection, which only has a four-way stop sign, is considered treacherous to residents.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL. EXPECT civilians to NEVER hear us responding.

BillyG

The Secret List 4-20-08 / 1733 hours

AND:

Hey...

Eastbrook (Maine) Fire Chief Ric McNeil, was critically burned when a fire engulfed his trailer on Saturday. Chief McNeil's son, 13-year-old Thomas 'Tommy' McNeil, very tragically died in the fire. Chief McNeil, 35, is being treated for severe burns and smoke inhalation. A neighbor who is a Firefighter had already been alerted to the fire around 0500 hours and had taken off in his vehicle to the firehouse to staff the apparatus but the Chief's Brother who lives across the street, said he ran over, opened the door to the burning trailer and went inside to search for his brother and nephew. He found his brother lying on the floor, grabbed him and, struggling on his hands and knees to keep himself from passing out, fought to pull Chief McNeil to safety.

He said the fire was too intense to get to Tommy's room. Tommy's older brother, 14-year-old Richard, was spending the night across the road at his grandmother's house when the fire broke out. As of Sunday afternoon, state fire investigators had not indicated what caused the fire. Our condolences and prayers to all affected, especially the McNeil family.

A Burke County (ND) Firefighter was flown to a Minnesota burn center with injuries after operating at a fire that burned nearly 1,500 acres near Columbus on Saturday. The name and condition of the firefighter have not been released. The fire started Saturday afternoon when a man (who was later cited) used a torch to cut a swather to fit on a trailer. A barn and a garage were destroyed but the house on the farm was saved. Update on the FF's condition will be posted on our home page later.

And in a non-duty related death, we do want to offer our condolences to some friends and the family of Northport, L.I. Firefighter Charles Varese. Last week, 33-year-old Jason Curry was driving under the influence of drugs when he crossed over the double yellow line and struck FF Varese, 24, as he was riding a motorcycle. FF Varese, who comes from a family of firefighters, was pronounced dead at the scene. FF Varese was a member of the Northport FD along with his mother and brother. The victim's father, Chief Bob "Beefy" Varese, is the Chief of the department. Our sincere condolences to all affected but especially to the family of Chief Varese.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 4-21-08 / 1220 hours

AND:

LA. FF STRUCK AND KILLED: It is with deep regret we advise you that a Springfield (Louisiana) Livingston Parish FPD# 2 FF was killed in the Line of Duty in a secondary crash on I-55. While operating at the initial crash scene on Monday, FF Riley Joseph Terrebone Jr (29) was operating at the scene when another vehicle struck him and his nephew, also reported to be a Firefighter. The nephew has critical but NLT injuries. FF Terrebone's family has decided to respect his wishes and donate his organs. We will post additional details on FirefighterCloseCalls.com related to services and the crash as soon as they are made available.

PERHAPSsome of the news media in SW Florida would be able to better "get it" by reading the above story-or any of the numerous FIREFIGHTER STRUCK AND KILLED LODD stories, when they do reports and broadcasts such as the below one. In Lee County (FL) NBC2 TV had a "viewer" ask them why the Lehigh Acres FD spent "tens of thousands of dollars" to put safety stripes on its fire apparatus, despite a budget crunch. It must have been a slow news day...so NBC2 "tracked the tax dollars" and got (real good) answers from the FD and their PIO, who handled it real well. We aren't fans of wasted tax dollars-but their lame attempt to make this FD look bad was way off base:

<http://www.nbc-2.com/articles/readarticle.asp?articleid=18838>

CN. FIREFIGHTER KILLED AT BRUSH FIRE: A 64-year-old Glace Bay (Nova Scotia) Volunteer Firefighter has died after suffering severe burns to more than 75 per cent of his body before a passerby pulled him from a burning field on Sunday afternoon. The off duty FF, who took immediate action upon seeing the fire, was flown to the burn unit in Halifax on Sunday evening but succumbed to his injuries at about 1100 hours yesterday. The fire broke out at 1530 hours Sunday in a field and spread quickly. Third-degree burns covered the victim from his toes to his waist....second-degree burns covered him from his waist to his chest. The victim was a volunteer firefighter for about 20 years. It appears he came upon the fire and attempted to put it out. Our condolences to all affected.

OHIO FIRE TANKER CRASH: A Middleton Township Firefighter was injured yesterday when a water tanker he was driving to an injury crash overturned near I-75. The Firefighter, John Bondy, was trapped in the wreckage for about 20 minutes, rescued, treated and transported. The tanker was westbound on Route 582 when it slid off the right edge of the narrow road, went back onto the road, and rolled over onto its roof. The tanker then went off the left side of the road and hit a guardrail and a utility pole before coming to a rest. The tanker was heading to a crash on I-75 where a car went off the road, injuring the driver.

TENNESSEE FIRE TANKER BACKING UP-STRIKES FIREFIGHTER: In Wilson County, a Firefighter was backed over by a tanker yesterday, while that Firefighter was being a spotter for the driver. The Firefighter's leg was broken and was sent to the UMC medical center where she still remains. She suffered non-life threatening injuries.

AN ARTICLE WORTH READING...A DOSE OF REALITY: Below is an excellent story/video that jolts us into reality into understanding what the FF's go through in Detroit-and other than the elected officials and city hall dwellers that pretend to run that Citythe ones that pretend to have the best interests of the citizens in mind, the reader can be left with no doubt that it is

the Detroit Firefighters who are probably the only ones left in that City that have-and prove it daily-the real interest of the citizens at heart-even when some of the citizens don't want them to. Much of the below piece reminded me of Dennis Smith's great book: **Report from Engine Co 82**. For newer readers or newer firefighters who are not familiar with that book, here it is-it should be in every Firefighters library: <http://www.fire-police-ems.com/books/br1001.shtml>

Here is the article on the Detroit Firefighters:

<http://www.detnews.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20080422/METRO/804220377>

Take Care-BE CAREFUL,

BillyG

The Secret List 4-22-08 / 1020 hours

AND:

Hey...

While clearly there are very significant differences between what we do and what cops do, an article in today's USA Today points out how the nations police have been able to significantly reduce specific Line of Duty deaths. POLICY and TACTICAL operational change with related TRAINING have been identified as the keys to affecting the numbers. In our world, the key words:

- POLICY
- TACTICS
- TRAINING

...also match the manner in which we can reduce certain preventable Firefighter Line of Duty Deaths. For those of you that just attended our FDIC programs, Gordon again emphasized the 5 pillars of:

People, Policy, Training, Supervision and Discipline...as to being the key solutions to reducing most Firefighter LODD's (as well as many other issues we deal with on the job) as seen in the many case studies we used in the classes and have posted on our website. Here is the article:

http://www.usatoday.com/news/nation/2008-04-21-Officerdeath_N.htm

WTF!? # 1 : UPDATE: PA FIREFIGHTER STRUCK BY BLIND DRIVER (No Kidding)
That Marion, PA Firefighter who was airlifted by helicopter after he was hit by a car last week while investigating a previous car crash is recovering...but NOTE the circumstances. Greg Martin, a Marion Firefighter/EMT, was assessed as having moderate injury after being hit by a car that failed to stop at the direction of fire police officers. Actually, the driver completely ignored fire police. Dorcas Sharar, 70, failed to stop at the demand of fire police who were rerouting traffic...and continued at 55 mph into the scene and struck the Firefighter. She continued on to hit another vehicle, pushed it backward into a PA State Police car and a semi truck. Sharar was taken to Chambersburg Hospital for treatment for minor injury and was wearing a seatbelt. How could this have happened? Why, Sharar had just recently been declared legally blind. She was the only person in her car.

WTF!? # 2 : HERE IS HELP IN UNDERSTANDING DETROIT FIREFIGHTERS AND THE HORRIBLE CONDITIONS THEY WORK UNDER: While Detroit Firefighters clearly work under some very tough conditions, this video helps one understand the conditions leading the Firefighters at the elected officials level. The conditions both in the streets and in City Hall are both VERY risky and dangerous to Detroit FF's.

<http://www.clickondetroit.com/video/15859996/index.html>

And lastly....EMERGENCY SCENE SIZE UP AND COMMUNICATIONS: Thanks to my Daughter for this great clip. This video is perfect to demonstrate EMS size up and the challenges of communicating during EMERGENCY situations:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-fVDGu82FeQ> Enjoy.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 4-22-08 / 1330 hours

AND:

CHARLESTON S.C. LODD-CANCER RELATED: It is with deep regret that we advise you that Charleston Fire Captain Ronnie Campbell gave his life in the Line of Duty on Sunday April 20th, 2008. He fought a long tough battle with esophageal cancer and this is being treated by IAFF Local 61 as an LODD. Captain Campbell died at age 49, served 30 years in the Charleston FD and a member of Local 61 since 1996. He was diagnosed with the cancer 2 months after the tragic Sofa Super Store fire and began treatment at Cancer Treatment Center of America in Philadelphia, PA. Early on in his treatment there seemed to be hope for his recovery. But toward the end, the cancer and complications very sadly ended his life.

Captain Campbell was retired just one month before his passing and due to local insurance and coverage issues, has left significant medical bills. Help from Firefighters is very much needed. Please go to <http://local61.com/captrcampbell.htm> for additional information on assisting. Our sincere condolences to all affected, but especially the members of the CFD and the family of Captain Campbell.

UPDATE: CIVILIAN DRIVER WAS DRINKING: FATAL SACRAMENTO FIRE APPARATUS CRASH.

The 20-year-old driver of that car involved in the fatal crash with the fire apparatus in downtown Sacramento on April 12 **had measurable alcohol in her blood**, investigators said today. Kirsten Ross was driving her Honda Accord through an intersection around 0200 when she collided with a fire engine responding to a house fire. A passenger, Ross' friend Nancy Concepcion Gonzalez, 20, of Roseville, died in the crash. Ross, a California State University, Sacramento, student, remained on life support for two days before she died.

FIRE OFFICER CHARGED IN QUADRUPLE LODD: TRIAL NEXT WEEK: The trial for that wildland fire crew boss charged in connection with the **Line of Duty deaths of four Firefighters** in 2001 will likely get underway Monday. The Thirtymile Fire was located 20 miles north of Winthrop, WA on the Okanogan and Wenatchee National Forests. **Fire Crew Boss Ellreese Daniels, 47, is facing four counts of involuntary manslaughter and seven counts of making false statements** following the Thirtymile Wildland Fire near Wenatchee

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in July 2001. Daniels appeared in court Tuesday for the final pre-trial conference, during which the prosecution revealed their intent to call family members of the victims to the stand. The defense says they do not see the relevance in doing so and stated they will be revisiting the issue in their pre-trial briefing. It was also decided today that council members will visit the site of the wildfire and based on the judge's review, jurors may or may not be allowed to visit the site. The defense believes a visit by the jurors to the site is crucial.

PITTSBURGH FIREFIGHTERS TRAPPED-INJURED, RESCUED: This morning's early fire at Pittsburgh's Reinhold Ice Cream Company on the North Side sent 5 PBF Firefighters to the hospital. While members were operating interior, there was a collapse that briefly trapped them. The Firefighters were removed and taken to area hospitals for treatment, but none of their injuries were serious.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 4-23-08 / 2155 Hours

AND:

Hey...

While it's not called "STAND DOWN WEEK" any longer (reserving the term STAND DOWN for when we have a specific FF LODD, equipment failure or crisis), but the intent hasn't changed. It is now called:

2008 Fire/EMS Safety, Health and Survival Week (some call it FF Survival Week, for short).

This event is again sponsored jointly by the IAFC and the IAFF....the dates are: June 22-28, 2008.

The theme for this year is "Committed to Long Term Results" which encourages long term focus and investments by both Fire Chiefs, Fire Officers and Fire Fighters to enhance all of our survivability. The goal this year is to institute a strong culture of health and safety within the fire/EMS service, nationally but implemented locally, in 3 key and specific areas:

1. Initiate an emergency vehicle policy, to include:

- Always buckle up.
- Always stop at red lights and stop signs.
- Always drive at law dictated speed limits and defensively.
- Protecting your members on roadways.

2. Fully implement the Wellness-Fitness Initiative:

- Provide annual medical and physical evaluations.
- Provide equipment and time for exercise.
- Provide nutrition information.

3. Fully implement NFPA 1500, especially sections addressing PPE:

- Provide compliant PPE.
- Train and enforce use of PPE, including respiratory protection

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- Clean your PPE to minimize your Fire Fighters exposure to cancer causing carcinogens.

Go to www.iafc.org/safetyweek for more information on this year's program and planning resources. The program has been developed by the IAFC Safety Health and Survival Section www.IAFCSafety.org and co-sponsored by the IAFC and IAFF and supported by most other national fire service org's.

=DUI FIREFIGHTER: An Orange County (N.Y.) volunteer firefighter is facing charges after cops say he took a fire apparatus out for a drunken joy ride and crashed it into a phone pole. The Fort Montgomery Fire Chief got a phone call from one of his rookie volunteers, 23-year-old Matthew Maass. The Chief says Maass told him he'd been in a fight, but when he met him at the station he saw the banged-up fire truck. We posted some additional details on our news/updates area on our home page.

=FIREFIGHTERS AND GOLF...for a very good cause. There will be 25 Regional NFFF Fund Raising Golf Tournaments held across the U.S. from June 9 - 13, 2008 to support the families of Fallen Fire Fighters. Check it out: <http://golf.firehero.org/>

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 4-28-08 / 1230 Hours

AND:

It is with deep regret that we advise you that Pine City (MN) Firefighter Jeremy Jylka, 34, died in the Line of Duty yesterday afternoon while responding to a wildland fire. FF Jylka collapsed while riding in the fire apparatus on the way to the fire near Pine City. FF Jylka stopped breathing and another Firefighter started to perform CPR on him immediately. FF Jylka, 34, tragically, was pronounced dead at the hospital. Firefighter Jylka joined the fire department in 2007 and is survived by his wife, Kelly and their 4-year-old daughter, Anica. Additional details will be posted. As always, our sincere condolences to all affected, the PCFD but especially his family.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List

List 4-30-08 / 1440 Hours

AND:

Hey...

Recently, it's hard to not notice that many areas are "cutting" back on funding their fire departments. In one area we read where a city has decided to CUT funding from their volunteer fire department. That FD budget is about \$20,000 annually...and they have to make cuts. Cuts? Well, unless the FD has no runs, that's probably going to put them out of business in just the cost of fuel. The fuel costs. Now-everyone knows that's one of the biggest scams ever-fuel costs go up daily and everyone is Washington runs around not knowing what to do with their heads up their....never mind, back to the FD stuff. So anyway-here we see a city that wants to cut their cost of running their volunteer FD-as in everyone there

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works for free....and let's make cuts. Beware of city hall dwellers applying their Strategic Limitations by Under funding Tactical Services programs. City hall dwellers take great pride in their auto-applicable S.L.U.T.S. program to career or volunteer fire departments.

Funding a FD, any FD, requires decisions. Decisions by us to plan ahead that can often work for us (and ultimately those we protect) when we market our services, build our relations and reputations well before this stuff starts. They need to feel, and justifiably so, that they cannot live without us. Decisions have to be made by those the FD protects, the citizens, the taxpayers ...and then making sure that those who are elected to represent those people, carry out the wishes of those who voted for them. Classic Democracy. It is a simple formula:

The Fire Chief outlines the costs of running the FD. As a part of that, the Chief identifies what the FD can do (or deliver) for this much \$\$ (and this many FF's), what they can do for that much \$\$\$\$ and what they can do for this much \$. In other words, the Chief must provide the elected officials and the city hall dwellers with the clear facts of what they, as a FD can and cannot do, based upon support. Then the elected folks respond and make decisions based upon what they think is best for that city.

In some communities, if there are not many runs, and some will feel the cuts are OK, after all, in their uninformed logic they think, how often do they really use or need the FD? In other communities, they will understand that even if there are not many fires or related emergencies, a good well trained, well lead and properly turned out & staffed FD is like an good insurance policy. They have to determine the level of service they are willing to fund. Decisions. The issue is what we can and cannot do, should or should not do, once the decisions are made. And of course, doing and not doing ties directly into time. An example is that if a city wants 5-6 FF's on duty, total, then those 5-6 FF's can only perform certain tasks until the additional alarms or mutual aid arrive-and in some cases, where there are many FD's nearby-that's a non-issue. But during that, the clock ticks and the fire spreads when the resources aren't close. Nothing mysterious about that-it has been proven thousands of times. When someone has a fire, the quicker we can deploy the required resources, the better chance we have in giving them what they called for. Please out the fire out.

The issue continues to be that, we as FF's understanding that if we don't have the resources when we need them-we cannot normally perform the tasks when we should, the tasks we want to-or the tasks they expect us to. Take the emotion out of it. It is all about numbers. Give us fair numbers of \$\$ to provide a fair number of people and you have a better chance in us making a difference than if the numbers are not provided. Simple. Easy. Uncomplicated. Sorta.

The problem, like cheap insurance, is that during and after the "problem", everyone "wishes" they had better coverage...after the problem. Same with a poorly funded and poorly staffed FD-career or volunteer. And the problem continues because the city hall dwellers, when coming out of their murky, damp and nasty basements... (usually identified with a warning sign: Office of Management and Budget...don't let that sign fool you, it is a horrible place where good human beings turn into ghouls, vampires and monsters. Really, it's true), the "dwellers" KNOW and count on the fact that in so many areas, where they "cut" us, we will continue to "get the job done anyway". They absolutely take full advantage of the dedication and commitment we have to do the job...no matter what. And they laugh at us.

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They know what we will do. We will do it anyway. And sometimes we should. But sometimes we shouldn't -and can't. At some point the line has to be drawn.

At some point those in charge must understand that if they decided to fund the FD "that" way...the FD can only provide the services commensurate with the funding. If cuts are made, fire/rescue/EMS services are affected. It's plain and simple business. That is, of course assuming that the LAST place that cuts will be made will be at the service levels. I mean, if your FD is making cuts at the street level, but the staff is buying new cars, building parks and buying related toys-something is wrong. But let's just ASSUME that's not the case-and that the cuts are where the public ends up suffering. The line must be drawn.

When the city hall dwellers apply their secret plans, taught at the city hall dweller school as the S.L.U.T.S. program: (Strategic Limitations by Under funding Tactical Services), part of their success is that we go right ahead and deliver services in pretty much the same manner. And when we do that:

- = We prove them right.
- = We show that the funding we originally may not have been needed.
- = We allow our risk to be unfairly increased.

Departments currently being affected by S.L.U.T.S. and related programs, need to take a good look and make sure they can do what they claim they can do, based upon reasonable firefighting practices, without unreasonably risking their members. They also must clearly communicate what they can-and cannot do (within the "time ticking away" factors) when the often unknowing public are set up by the city hall dwellers applying their S.L.U.T.S. tactics.

Firefighters & Dedication? There has rarely ever been a question. We will always risk it for a life. That's not what we are talking about. It's all the other stuff we do that they have come to expect, even after cutting us...cutting away at their FD like Paul Bunyon on crack. I mean, take a look at what some Firefighters in Youngstown, Ohio, have proposed as a solution so THEY CAN SERVE the people in their community. So they can continue to work without the worries of losing their jobs. So they can again demonstrate their dedication for the job. They are now selling advertising space on the back of their bunker gear. No really, it is true...check it out:

<http://cgi.ebay.com/ws/eBayISAPI.dll?ViewItem&Item=120244670037&Category=102333&trksid=p3907.m29>

While they are clearly creative-how embarrassing is it that the members have to "come up with ways" in order to maintain services, when the city hall dwellers continue to cluelessly chip away. Again-decisions conflicting with true examples of dedication. The people of Youngstown have to decide what THEY want, make the message clear and then understand that's what they will get when they dial 9-1-1. In the meantime, on the back of bunker coats, you might see an ad from a local business, and under that ad, the small print will read "This Advertisement Made Possible By S.L.U.T.S."

Take Care,
BillyG
The Secret List 5-1-08 /
1530 hours

AND:

Hey...

Another Firefighter has been injured at a working car fire from "projectiles". While not a new problem, one other fairly recent event was when a FF in Windsor Locks, CT was seriously injured when a hood strut "took off" and shot into his leg, thru his bunker gear, seriously injuring him as well. **THAT CAR FIRE WAS ON Sunday November 21, 2004.** Upon arrival the fire was confined to the engine compartment. During companies gaining access to the engine compartment, a Firefighters had just released the hood safety latch when the hood shock strut exploded and fired into the Firefighter, striking him in his **upper thigh and piercing completely through bunker pants and his leg with the approximate 18 inch long strut.**

In the most recent event, an Oakland (CA) Firefighter remains hospitalized **today** with a broken leg when the front bumper of a burning car turned into a projectile late Wednesday. The Firefighter and crew had responded and was successfully and appropriately protecting a residential exposure from the fire, but while the car was burning, the front bumper blew off and struck the Firefighter in her left leg. She will be in the hospital several days and will require surgery. **As you are aware, the front bumpers of most cars are attached to shocks that are filled with gas, under pressure with a metal housing...and when they get heated up-they expand and blow up. Hood struts function-and fail-in a similar manner when heated.**

USE CAUTION and while lines may have to be positioned to protect exposures in some cases, in most cases, working car fires are stand alone write offs. Get geared up, charge the line but hit the fire from a position where you do not have to be an exposure yourself. Struts, bumpers, air bags etc-all pose a significant danger to Firefighters.

KEEP IN MIND: It is **JUST** a car fire...a rare reason for any of us to ever get hurt...is at a **BS** car fire.

RESOURCES:

www.firehouse.com/extrication (Ron Moore's columns on vehicles)

www.firefighterclosecalls.com/downloads.php (Scroll down to **BEWARE THE STRUT**)

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 5-2-08 / 0930 hours

AND:

Hey...

Early this morning Company 23 (Rockville, Montgomery Co. MD) responded for a building fire (multi-family) on Twinbrook Pkwy. The 1st due Chief had significant fire on the 2nd and 3rd floor extending to the attic space w/civilian rescues. Ultimately a civilian lost their life (more than likely before FD arrival) and 3 of their fire fighters were injured. Tower 723 engaged in rescues and Eng 723 started an aggressive fire attack. A second alarm was requested and ultimately a 3rd w/multiple additional EMS units.

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While the investigation is in its very preliminary stage, it appears early in the operation a catastrophic floor collapse occurred taking E723's three person attack crew with it. A Mayday was immediately called and all non-rescue ops were switched to a different talk group. Two crew members escaped the intense fire conditions by jumping out a second story window and the 3rd escaped through the interior.

Two were flown to MedStar by Trooper 8 and Eagle 1 and the third went by Medic 725. All three suffered injuries with the fire and fall. All three were evaluated and admitted to the Burn Center. The prognosis is very good for all three. More to follow as it becomes available. We wish a rapid recovery for all involved and thank long time TSL'r Chief Tom Carr for this initial details..

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 5-3-08 / 0630 Hours

AND:

Hey...

Update on the Firefighters from **Montgomery County, MD** as well as some tactical information, shown below re: this mornings fire Box 23-05 12817 Twinbrook Parkway in Rockville.

=INJURED FIREFIGHTERS UPDATE:

The 1st FF is in serious condition with burns to arms, legs, face and hands, lacerated liver and fractures to 2 or 3 vertebrae...he is in pain, but resting comfortably. The liver is expected to heal on its own, but he will remain in ICU until they are sure there is no additional damage. There is no neuro deficit from the spinal injury. His burns are clearly the most significant of the three personnel. He will likely remain in the hospital for 7 days or longer. **The 2nd FF** is in stable condition with burns to the arm and leg, and facial lacerations...and is also resting comfortably, but is obviously shaken from the experience. His burns are less serious, but still serious enough to require some longer term care. He will likely remain in the hospital through Tuesday.

The 3rd FF is in good condition with burns to the leg...and his burns are the least of the three, although his exposure was longer as he was the last one pulled from the building. He will probably be released by tomorrow.

=STRUCTURAL INFORMATION: We have been advised that this was a 1960's era wood frame, garden style, apartment building-this was not light weight truss, but did have a common attic.

=RADIO TRAFFIC LINK: <http://www.dcfirefeed.com/archives/12817twinbrook.wav>

=UPON THE MAYDAY: You will hear the IC (outstanding IC) transmit back to the MAYDAY: **YOUR LUNAR!**

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L Location, **U** Unit number, **N** Name, **A** Assignment, **R** Resources.

(Where are you?, What radio ID are you?, Who are you?, What was your assignment?, What do you need?).

=====**NOTE:** Good "**HEAVY**" 1st alarm assignments (and rapid transmission of the 2nd alarm) once again proves their value. We recently were told of one FD considering "reducing" 1st alarm assignments to reported structure fires to save fuel and related costs. **TO SAVE FUEL?! WTF?!!!**

There is **NO MORE IMPORTANT** of the most **BASIC CORE SERVICES** of any Local Government than to provide a well staffed, well trained, well lead **HEAVY** 1st alarm assignment when a citizen reports a fire. **What is HEAVY?** Enough FF's, command and support officers to perform all **POSSIBLE** tasks in a simultaneous, coordinated manner, based upon the structure/occupancy type reported to be on fire by the caller (and related pre-plan information). Anything less is blatantly scr*wing the taxpayers...as well as the 1st due Firefighters who themselves, may also be in need of the **immediate** rescue services of that **HEAVY** 1st alarm assignment. Our best wishes and prayers to the FF's and their families in Montgomery County for a rapid and peaceful recovery.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 5-3-08 / 2125 hours

AND:

Hey..

Naturally, there is strong concern on the delayed release of the final **Charleston Report** from the **Routley Panel**. In some respects, our initial thought was a mild: well, wha'dya expect ? When you get attorneys and politicians together on a critical issue such as a final report providing the absolute facts on the tragic Line Of Duty Deaths of their 9 Firefighters...**well, what did we expect they would do?** The equation includes: **Attorneys and Politicians**.

While factual information is vital for all aspects of preventing another tragic loss, in some respects we weren't surprised that the city has directed that the final report not be submitted to them yet (because then it becomes subject to FOIA) ...given some of their City Hall history. Unfortunately, what this does do is raise even more **un-needed** suspicion on the genuine intent by the City and it's leadership, as far as them truly wanting the facts in an unbiased and professional report. And that it will be: from the day the Routley Panelists were appointed, we have had full confidence they will be fair, accurate, direct, frank and provide information that Charleston, and all of us, can learn from.

Many FF's and FD's have already heard excellent presentations on Phase 1, or have used the initial document (below), as a template for evaluation and improvement (at their own FD's) ...and this final report will play an even more important role. There is no greater way to honor the "Charleston 9" than to allow everyone to learn at every opportunity what happened-and to never repeat whatever the report suggests never be repeated. **Phase 1 link:** http://www.firehouse.com/mz/images/2007/11/charleston_phase_one_report.pdf

Unless we are missing something, **maybe** the only reason to justifiably delay the report is for Chief Routley and his panel of experts to be able to first meet privately to present the facts to the families of the CFD Fallen Firefighters. By the City accepting and releasing the report (which will undoubtedly compliment the equally detailed and factual NIOSH and NIST reports), immediately after the families are briefed, the sooner Firefighters within and outside of Charleston, can avoid repeating that horrific event in our history. But we don't think we are missing anything else.

Related IAFF LINK: <http://www.iaff.org/08News/050408Charleston.htm>

-MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MD UPDATE: Captain Dutrow has been taken out of ICU, but remains in the Burn Unit. Captain Dutrow is the most seriously injured of the 3 FF's. The 38-year-old Dutrow, a 17-year veteran of MCFRS, is burned on his arms, legs, face and hands, as well as possible internal and orthopedic injuries. Captain Dutrow, along with FF's Heikka and Mechlin, fell from the top floor to the middle floor after a collapse. Both Captain Dutrow and FF Heikka were then further injured after escaping through a window to the ground, approximately 14-feet below. FF Heikka is 31 and an 8-year member and he has burns to the arm and leg, and facial lacerations. FF Mechlin is 23 and has been on the job for a year. His injuries are considered less serious, with a leg burn and he has been released from the hospital. Captain Dutrow and FF Heikka are in fair condition.

For photos & excellent coverage, go to:

<http://www.wusa9.com/news/columnist/blogs/davestatter.aspx>

-FF KILLED IN IRAQ: We regret to advise you that an Alabama Firefighter has been killed in Iraq. FF Brian Shrader was killed last Monday. He was serving as a department of defense firefighter in Mosul, Iraq. The 32-year old FF leaves behind his wife who was his high school sweetheart and their three children-our most sincere condolences. Shrader's funeral was yesterday. Reports are that FF Shrader was killed by an unexploded ordnance, which detonated upon his approach. No matter what the circumstances, his loss is tragic and reminds us of the sacrifices of our military as well as non-military personnel.

-INDIANA FF INJURED: FOOT TRAPPED IN AERIAL LADDER: A Marion (IN) Firefighter suffered a severe injury to his foot during a public fire equipment demo on their courthouse square Friday evening. Marion Fire Chief Steve Gorrell told the media that FF Brandon Eckstein's foot was crushed after it got caught in the aerial ladder as it was being extended during a demonstration. FF Eckstein's foot was saved after he was flown to Fort Wayne, where he underwent surgery Friday night to sew tendons back together. Marion FD made news previously when 2 firefighter trainees suffered minor burns a few years ago during a training fire. We wish a rapid recovery to FF Eckstein.

-INJURED KENTUCKY FIRE OFFICER DISPUTES FIRE REPORT: A Lexington (KY) Fire Officer is disputing a report that claims his own actions during a fire last year caused the serious injuries that left him hospitalized for weeks. Lt. Richard Carlin suffered thermal burns to his arms, legs, hands and abdomen during the fire Oct. 8. We have posted the most recent information on our home page and will be following up.

-OFF DUTY SEAT BELTS: A Firefighter and a civilian are dead and two civilians were seriously injured after an off duty head-on collision in Louisiana over the weekend. Of the victims was FF Shaunna Robinson, an off duty Firefighter, and passenger, were not wearing their seatbelts. Robinson was a Firefighter with the Maringoin VFD-our condolences to all. **Another reminder: On or Off the job....THINK...about whose pictures are in your wallet!**

-TANKER ROLLS WHILE RESPONDING IN WISCONSIN: Two Firefighters were injured after a fire tanker overturned on its way to a fire in the Town of Newark yesterday (Monday) and they became pinned inside. Rock County authorities said that the driver of the apparatus apparently took a curve too fast. One of the victims was taken by MedFlight to a hospital while the other was rushed to a local hospital. Both Firefighters suffered non-life threatening injuries.

-CONGRATS: NEW NFPA Sr. STAFF: Deputy Assistant Chief J. Curtis Varone of the Providence (R.I.) FD has accepted the position of **Director of Public Fire Protection with the NFPA**. Curt, a 3rd generation FF, who is a long time Secret List'er, has been a FF for over 36 years, and with Providence for the past 29. Well known for his hard push of firefighter safety, health and survival issues, he brings a wealth of hands-on practical, technical and educational knowledge to the NFPA. The Public Fire Protection Division oversees the development of approximately 80 fire service related standards. We believe Curt's appointment is a very important statement by the NFPA....they could have appointed someone with a non-hands-on fire service background. But they didn't. They picked a hall cra! wler. That's a good thing. Congrats Curt!

-And....CONGRATS TO ONE OF THE BEST OF THE BEST: To **IAFC President John Buckman (2001-2002)** who recently received an Indiana Governor's Awards for Outstanding Service and Contributions to the State of Indiana and IDHS. John leads the Indiana FF State Training Program and continues to serve the IAFC as the chair of the program planning committee. We salute John, one of the original Secret List'ers way back in 1998, for this wonderful achievement.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 5-6-08 / 0700 Hours

AND:

Hey....

A man and a child were killed early this morning and 4 Firefighters were injured when their vehicles collided in Massillon (Ohio) ...in a crash that stretched nearly a block. Onlookers identified the man as the grandfather of the baby. Both were riding in a Dodge Caravan that was struck in the side by a responding Massillon FD aerial truck company, which had sheared a utility pole in half. A Mr. Danny Clark witnessed the impact. He told local media that the driver of the fire truck was "barreling" down the street, which was marked by stop signs and a four-way, blinking traffic light. "That truck was pushing the car down the street," Clark said. "The big old sucker got to be going 50-60 miles per hour ..."

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Fire Chief Tom Burgasser said the truck was headed to a fully-involved vehicle fire...it never made it. Clark said he ran out into the street looking for the vehicle that was hit and saw the child lying alongside the street. Eyewitnesses said the child was thrown from the vehicle when it struck the pole. The fire truck had pushed the van nearly an entire block. The bottom half of the pole, lay where the wreck ended. The entire driver's side of the minivan was shoved into the passenger's side. The man and child were pronounced dead at the scene. Additional details to follow.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

SLOW DOWN-RESPECT INTERSECTIONS-STOP WHERE INDICATED.

BillyG

The Secret List 5-6-08 / 1131 Hours

AND:

Hey....

Yesterday was a day that related to the families of Firefighters in many ways.

FAMILY ISSUE 1 (Fatal Apparatus Crash--Apparatus Driver Related To Victims)- As you know, a horrific responding crash occurred yesterday in Massillon (Ohio) when apparatus that was responding to a car fire struck a van, killing a civilian and his grandson. Ronald Anderson, 72, died at the scene Tuesday morning along with Javarre Tate, 4. They were just a block from the child's school and the home of relatives. BUT IN A HORRIFIC TWIST OF REALITY, Mr. Anderson's cousin, Massillon Firefighter Susan Toles, was driving the responding ladder truck that struck his van and was one of four Firefighters who suffered minor injuries in the crash. The apparatus struck the driver's side door of Anderson's Caravan and pushed the vehicle about 110 yards before stopping. **The intersection is a four-way stop with signs and flashing overhead red lights and is in a 25 mph zone.** "The van pulled out directly in front of the fire truck" said Lt. Joel Smith-Ohio State Patrol. Lt. Smith later confirmed that the apparatus had activated its emergency lights, sirens and horns but the civilian driver was hearing impaired. We have posted more information and photos on our news/updates area on the home page.

FAMILY ISSUE 2 - (Releasing of the Charleston Report)...off again...on again. There was strong concern on the delayed release of the final Routley Panel Charleston Report. But after the community, the Union and especially the Firefighters spoke up: what choice did he actually have? Actually-he had a choice and this was the right one. Maybe it was the "speaking up" but also the thinking inside of "Hizzoner's" head...and heart.

We originally thought that **maybe** the only reason to justifiably delay the report is was to be able to first meet privately to present the facts to the families of the CFD Fallen Firefighters. By the City accepting and releasing the report immediately after the families are briefed, the sooner Firefighters within and outside of Charleston can learn the truth. And that is pretty much what is now happening. The steps will be something like this:

-The City will get the Routley report next week.

-The Media will probably respect the fact that the families are entitled to their own private briefing.

Chabot College Fire & EMS News

- There will be a private briefing for the families by Chief Routley and the Panel Members.
- There will be a presentation to the Charleston Firefighters by Chief Routley and the Panel Members.
- There will be a presentation to the City Council Chief Routley and the Panel Members.
- The report will be out.
- Chief Routley and the Panel Members then start working on Phase 3-the implementation of the recommendations with the City of Charleston.

While there will be many reasons firefighters and non-firefighters alike will think the Mayor made that decision, we would like to think that it was out of respect for the surviving **FAMILIES** of the Charleston 9...as well as the surviving Firefighters from that fire...that he was thinking about when he decided to do the right thing. As noted, he did pay an unexpected visit to a Charleston firehouse the other day and the members there clearly helped get the Mayor to "get it". It would have to be near impossible to be Mayor in a City as long as he has to simply not care about the people-and especially the families of "his" Fallen Firefighters. When the "head and the heart" communicate...often the "right thing" happens. **Those who have gotten to know the Mayor might even state: well, wha'dya expect ?**

IAFF General President Harold Schaitberger strongly praised the mayor's announcement yesterday as well, saying the report is badly needed "to make the necessary changes within the CFD and to let the healing continue for the entire community." "Over the past two days, I have had some in-depth conversations with Mayor Riley, and I found in those very frank yet respectful discussions that he is a man who really listens to all sides of an argument, because he truly cares about the well-being of the City of Charleston and its great citizens and firefighters," Schaitberger said in a prepared statement.

UPDATES:

MONTGOMERY COUNTY MAYDAY: Lot's more to learn including more new photos, new videos, interviews with IC etc posted are here at our Washington DC area affiliate:
<http://www.wusa9.com/news/columnist/blogs/2008/05/panel-to-review-md-fire-two-ffs-remain.html>

SEATBELTS DO IT 2 MORE TIMES:

In Oklahoma, three Tulsa firefighters were hospitalized yesterday after their apparatus crashed while responding to a call. The rig hit a guardrail, snapped a utility pole and struck a pickup parked in front of a house. All three firefighters in the truck were injured. A spokesman said there is "nothing to indicate" that another vehicle played a role in the crash. **The three men were wearing their seat belts.**

And in Wisconsin, one Firefighter remained in the hospital in good condition last evening after an Orfordville (WI) tanker truck rolled on an 80 degree turn Monday on the way to a fire. The passenger in the apparatus, FF Chad Cleasby, 31, was in good condition at the hospital. The driver, FF Michael Ponkauskas, 54, was treated and released that day. **Both we belted in.**

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 5-7-08 / 0728 hours

AND:

Hey...

While naturally, no one can yet determine if it will be declared federally as an official LODD, we have been advised that a Fire Explorer in West Haven (CT) was killed after he was struck by an SUV, as he was going to a car crash run on Monday. **The Fire Explorer was 14 year old Ralph Russo of West Haven.**

(See TV video links below)

Russo was riding his bike with a friend when they reportedly headed to a dispatched car crash, when Russo was tragically struck by a Jeep. Efforts to save his life were not successful and he died from his injuries. Russo was a middle school student and a part of the Fire Explorer program in West Haven. The SUV driver involved was obeying all traffic laws and is not facing any charges.

This appears to be a very tragic accident involving a fine and wonderful community minded teenager who loved many things-including his role at the WHFD. And while the issue of LODD/non-LODD is an emotional one, you will remember the case of **Junior Firefighter Chris Kangas** from Brookhaven, Pennsylvania, who lost his life in what appears to be a similar fashion, just a few years ago. That claim as an LODD was denied by PSOB...but has been challenged and is now in the hands of the Courts. Here are some details:

<http://brookhavenfireco.com/custom.html?id=1143>

The issue and definition of what an LODD is, and what it is not, is dependent upon who you ask. At first glance it seems clear, but it isn't. For example, the PSOB folks at DOJ, who are the bottom line as far as benefits, have their definitions. Furthermore, the NFPA has their definitions of an LODD, while the USFA and NFFF have theirs. And at the local level, there are also diverse local definitions.

There are many "Junior" members who play an important role in providing service much the same as there are many very "Senior" members, who as active members of their FD, also play critical roles locally....all whose services are very important. All good people wanting to help.

Personally, we see a significant difference in various, yet all tragic LODD's, **as examples:**

=a member losing their life while attempting the search or rescue of trapped victims at a fire,

=a member being ejected because they chose to not wear their seat belt,

=a member driving who blows a red traffic signal/stop sign,

=a member lost in an unoccupied structure that was a write off upon their entry,

=a member working out and having a heart attack,

=a member lost during a fire training burn,

=a member struck while operating on a scene...**as well as the many other LODD's (which these all are) that fall on all ranges of the wide scale of definition.** Don't read into this-these are all horrible losses of wonderful people who just wanted to help-and are all LODD's as defined by most.

Chabot College Fire & EMS News

The one thing that is clear and well defined is that **these are** terrible, local-duty related losses to those who knew/loved them ...and those who are left behind. The PSOB folks and the Courts will figure out the rest. What **we can** do-especially at the local level, is to take the action at all rank levels (Chief to Probie) to PREVENT the need for the LODD/Non-LODD debates...meaning to take local action to eliminate the **unnecessary LODD's**.

We will never eliminate all LODD's because sometimes, as sad as it sounds, Firefighters must, on rare occasion, lose their lives in heroic manners. **Sometimes we get killed in the Line of Duty where it was NOT preventable** and sometimes, we tragically die when doing the job...**Not Everyone Goes Home**. But those numbers are the small numbers...the clear minority. It's the numerous tragic, but sometimes so obvious and unnecessary "**that didn't have to happen**" big number LODD's that we are talking about. That's where it can be managed and where change can happen. Giving credit to the late politician Tip O'Neil, who stated that "All politics are local"..it also applies to us, that "All LODD Prevention Is Local"...from the Chief to the Probie.

Our most sincere and heartfelt condolences go out to all affected, but especially the family of WHFD Explorer Ralph Russo on the horrible loss of a fine young man who just wanted to help.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 5-8-08 / 0630 Hours

www.FireFighterCloseCalls.com

VIDEO LINKS TO THE ABOVE INCIDENT:

<http://www.courant.com/news/custom/topnews/hcu-whvcrash-0506,0,2429721.story>

<http://www.wtnh.com/global/video/flash/popupplayer.asp?ClipID1=2457253&h1=West%20Haven%20kid%20struck%2C%20killed%20by%20carstory%20by%20Jodi%20Latina&vt1=v&at1=News&d1=116033&LaunchPageAdTag=News&activePane=info&rnd=38605334>

AND:

Hey...

In a surprising (whadya expect?!) move this evening, **the Mayor of Charleston decided to release the DRAFT version of the NIOSH report on the Super Store Fire** where those 9 CFD Firefighters gave their lives. As we said, it's kinda hard to keep score as far as what will happen next from Charleston City Hall ...and the past week has more than proven that.

In almost every case, the NIOSH DRAFT report of any LODD is sent to the agency having jurisdiction and in many cases, the Union local. This allows the two to review and provide factual input for the NIOSH LODD Investigators to consider. It is simply input for consideration. Changes are not automatically made but it is a chance for factual verification. Then, once that input is provided, NIOSH generally provides the DRAFT report to outside fire service expert reviewers-for an outside technical perspective. Once that is done, the report is compiled and the final is released. There are other steps internally, but that's generally what happens.

Chabot College Fire & EMS News

Unless I missed something, this may be the first time any Mayor has decided to release a DRAFT NIOSH LODD Report, prior to the entire process being fulfilled, But, that's what's been done and now it is available for anyone to read. As you will see, the report identifies some very serious and significant facts. Either way-the DRAFT is out and as you will read, there are no recommendations for changes listed yet. The City of Charleston and the IAFF Local in Charleston will still have the chance to make suggestions before NIOSH releases their final report as a part of the above outlined process.

DRAFT NIOSH CHARLESTON LODD REPORT: <http://static.wciv.com/niosh.pdf>

NIOSH FIREFIGHTER SAFETY WARNING:

Improper Set-up of Aerial Ladders with a Locking Waterway May Put Fire Fighters at Risk

TODAY-NIOSH released another excellent SAFETY BULLETIN related to potential waterway failures. This report was prompted by the horrific LODD of Lawrence Park (PA) Asst Chief Mike Crotty-who recently gave his life when a waterway literally flew off the end of an aerial ladder that was flowing at a working fire.

Here is that NIOSH WARNING:

<http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/fire/SafetyAdvisory05052008.html>

Take Care-BE CAREFUL,
BillyG
The Secret List 5-8-08 / 2345 Hours

AND:

Hey...

In light of this weeks URGENT NIOSH SAFETY ADVISORY (**link below**) related to AERIAL WATERWAYS, there has been another aerial ladder waterway failure. While the **Fairfax City (VA) FD** was performing Driver/Operator training with the ladder truck, the nozzle, fly section of the waterway and associated metal structure separated from the aerial ladder and fell 70 to 80 feet to the ground. Fortunately, no one was in the vicinity and all of these components landed in a wooded area.

Their preliminary investigation indicates possible human error. The device used to secure the nozzle, after moving it from the "rescue position" to the "waterway position," was not correctly secured in either position. It was also determined that the gate valve for the waterway inlet was in the ! closed position when water was being pumped to the ladder. When it was opened, a significant force of water, under pressure, was introduced to the waterway. This likely provided the energy to eject the waterway and nozzle assembly. A representative from the manufacturer will be in Fairfax City next week to take a look at the device and vehicle. For further information, contact A/C Tim Butters at 703-385-7845.

NIOSH URGENT SAFETY ADVISORY:Improper Set-up of Aerial Ladders with a Locking Waterway May Put Fire Fighters at Risk

<http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/fire/SafetyAdvisory05052008.html>

ANOTHER FIREFIGHTER CANCER STUDY:

May 12, 2008

www.chabotfire.com

A number of studies have found that firefighters have elevated cancer rates, though they have not always been consistent in the specific types of cancer. In the current study, researchers found that career firefighters had higher-than-expected rates of colon cancer and brain cancer. There was also evidence, albeit weaker, that they had elevated risks of bladder and kidney cancers, as well as Hodgkin's lymphoma.

Dr. Letitia Davis with the Massachusetts Department of Public Health in Boston, and colleagues report the findings in the American Journal of Industrial Medicine. Firefighters are exposed to many potentially cancer-causing chemicals released from burning materials. At the scene of the fire, toxic substances such as benzene, lead, uranium and asbestos can be inhaled or absorbed through the skin.

Though firefighters wear a breathing apparatus and other protective equipment while battling blazes, they typically do not wear the gear when they're merely in the vicinity of the fire. There can also be health hazards at the firehouse, where idling trucks expose firefighters to diesel exhaust.

For their study, the researcher combed through nearly two decades' worth of data from the Massachusetts cancer registry. Between 1986 and 2003, the registry recorded 2,125 cancer diagnoses among professional male firefighters. The researchers found that, compared with men in other occupations, firefighters had nearly twice the risk of brain cancer and a 36 percent higher risk of colon cancer. They also showed higher risks of bladder cancer, kidney cancer and Hodgkin's lymphoma, but the evidence was weaker due, in part, to the relatively small number of cases.

Other researchers have called for greater efforts to protect firefighters from the toxic substances that may be fueling these elevated cancer rates -- including less cumbersome protective equipment that firefighters can keep on when they are near a fire. **Experts also recommend that firefighters shower as soon as they return to the firehouse, in order to remove contaminated soot from their skin.** SOURCE: American Journal of Industrial Medicine, May 2008.

BOTTOM LINE: Regular medical check-ups/screening, full PPE with no exposed skin, never breathe that stuff, properly clean your PPE after every exposure.

JUNIOR FIREFIGHTERS? YO! FREE MONEY. The National Junior Firefighter Program is offering ten \$5,000 scholarships to junior firefighters nationwide. **The FD of each of the winning students will also receive a grant of \$5,000.** The deadline for applications is **May 15 at 1700 hours EDT. Here is the link:**

http://nvfc.org/page/1083/Scholarship_and_Grant_Program.htm

FD CUTS: While we cannot list most of the fire service cuts that are going on right now or being threatened in so many areas, The City of Hackensack, NJ (yeah...**THAT** Hackensack) is attempting to cut their fire-based EMS service, lay off 8 FD members and turn over EMS responsibility to a local hospital's sub-contractor. Here is the link: www.savehfdems.com . Difficult times in our business for a variety of reasons.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 5-9-08 / 2250 hours

AND:

Hey...

University of Wisconsin Hospital personnel are confirming that 3 people have died when a UW Med Flight hospital helicopter crashed near La Crosse last night. Med Flight left Madison around 2030 last night to transport a patient to a La Crosse hospital. After dropping the patient off, the helicopter left around 2230 hours. There was no other radio communication from the crew. The last message was a software signal sending confirmation that the aircraft took off. The crash site was found around 0845 this morning about 4 to 5 miles away from the area airport. Preliminary results show that the helicopter may have struck a hill or trees. Details to follow later. Our condolences to all affected.

FIRE TRAINEE INJURED-CITY PAYS \$1.8 MILLION:

Seattle (WA) has ended its efforts to fight a lawsuit it lost in 2004 by paying about \$1.8 million to a firefighter injured during training. Firefighter Kevin Locke, now a department dispatcher, was critically hurt after passing out and falling from a ladder during a 2000 training accident. His attorneys argued successfully at trial that those running the training class were negligent for failing to provide adequate breaks, including water breaks, during the warm summer weather, leading to the heat stress that caused Locke to pass out on a ladder and fall. Jurors awarded Locke \$1.8 million at trial, but the city fought the judgment, appealing all the way to the Washington State Supreme Court. **Here is a link to more information, details and opinion:**

<http://seattlepi.nwsource.com/soundoff/comment.asp?articleID=362489>

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

HAPPY MOTHERS DAY TO THE SECRET LIST MOMS.

BillyG

The Secret List 5-11-08 / 1155 Hours

AND:

Hey...

Of those lost in the earlier reported **EMS helicopter crash was Dr. Darren Beene, the Medical Director of the Madison FD**, as well as Flight Nurse Mark Coyne and Pilot Steve Lipperer. Our condolences to all affected.

FF CRITICAL: Seneca (MO) Firefighter Tyler Casey, age 21, was critically injured last night while assigned to "storm spotter duties" in the Seneca area when he was caught in the path of a horrific killer tornado. As of early this morning FF Casey was on life support. Our prayers to his family and the members of his FD. We have been advised that some FD's send their members out looking for signs of tornados....**WTF !?!** Unless we are missing something, we can think of few more predictable ways of FF's getting in trouble. FF's or not-when it comes to tornadoes, it can wipe out towns (and people) in seconds....and of course, like you, we have seen some non-FD "storm spotting" folks in their vans with what appears to

be the entire inventory of Radio Shack mounted on their roof ...so they can track storms-but using Firefighters?? Perhaps there should probably be a better way in 2008.

UPDATE: FF FOOT TRAPPED IN AERIAL-MARION, IN. Last week, a Marion (IN) FF was critically injured when his foot became trapped between the rungs of an extending aerial ladder during a public demo. We have been advised that the Marion Fire and PD were to "perform" at a public event called First Friday in downtown Marion. The skit was practiced for two days prior. When arriving downtown on the Friday, a crane had been dropped off in the same spot they chose to perform the skit, causing the fire apparatus to have to park further away from the building than originally planned. The FD was expected to rescue a "character" from the top of building showing kids that the FD is there to help regardless if the person is good or bad.

As the stunt started, for whatever reason, a FF started running up the ladder at the same time that the ladder was extending, causing the climbing FF's foot to be caught in the rungs--nearly severing it. That FF has been hospitalized with potential career ending injuries. We have been advised that Indiana OSHA is investigating this unfortunate event and we will be following up as facts become available.

3 DUTCH FIREFIGHTERS KILLED IN THE LINE OF DUTY: Three members of the Eelde Volunteer Fire Brigade were killed in the Drentse De, area near the City Groningen yesterday. Initial reports are that they were ages 29, 38 and 49 years old and were operating in a warehouse type building used for ship working-when they were lost in heavy fire and smoke conditions. One report is that the speed of the fire spread overtook the crews with little warning. We will have more details and have post pictures on our home page. Our condolences to all affected.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 5-11-08 / 2307 Hours

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

A woman dies after colliding with an FDNY apparatus; six firefighters were hospitalized.

For the full story, go to: <http://www.ny1.com/ny1/content/index.jsp?stid=1&aid=80690>

Firefighters in training face a live fire burn, with some good video to go along with the inspiring story.

For the full story, go to:

http://www.cbs8.com/features/special_assignment/story.php?id=125504

A Wisconsin Fire Chief has halted drinking at the local volunteer fire department. This article was dated April 2008; while this may seem amazing that drinking was still acceptable up to that point, the real question is how many fire departments still allow drinking or the possession of alcohol at the fire stations? Here is a great answer to those personnel that wonder why we struggle at being looked at as professionals and why we aren't always taken seriously, especially by the general public or our elected/appointed officials.

For the full story, go to: <http://www.firerescue1.com/news/397476-Chief-curbs-drinking-at-Wis-station/>

And another great public relations story – "New York Firefighter Allegedly Took Drunken Joy Ride":

<http://cms.firehouse.com/content/article/article.jsp?sectionId=46&id=59275>

A must read for every current and future company officer and chief officer, titled "What'cha Gonna Do When They Come For You?" – a story about the importance of holding your personnel accountable and ensuring they are doing their jobs as safely as they can and to the best of their abilities.

For the full story, go to: <http://www.firerescue1.com/Columnists/Fire-Department-Safety-Officers-Association/articles/397928-Whatcha-Gonna-Do-When-They-Come-For-You/>

A retired Deputy Chief of the Portland (OR) Fire & Rescue Bureau is suing the department and the city for harassment.

For the full story, go to:

<http://www.oregonlive.com/news/oregonian/index.ssf?/base/news/1209092109176180.xml&coll=7>

The budget woes continue, in various forms and fashions:

The City of Vallejo (CA) is still struggling to keep from going bankrupt, something we may see more of around the country.

For the full story, go to: <http://www.kcra.com/news/15954553/detail.html>

And a related story from Vallejo: <http://www.kcra.com/news/15954553/detail.html>

And another story relating to the increased response times from the closed fire stations: http://www.timesheraldonline.com/ci_9001231

Chabot College Fire & EMS News

The latest from Vallejo where the City Council unanimously votes for bankruptcy:
http://www.timesheraldonline.com/ci_9180430?source=most_viewed

And now Vallejo is bracing for firefighters to jump ship to other fire departments:
http://www.timesheraldonline.com/ci_9203740

The Edmonds (WA) Fire Department hopes an upcoming tax levy will be approved by the voters to keep their current level of service. If it doesn't pass, cutbacks (staffing) will have to occur.
http://www.charleston.net/news/2008/apr/25/fire_report_expected_weeks38532/

The Keizer (OR) Fire District is evaluating the need for putting a tax measure on the ballots this fall; not doing so may cause service levels to decrease (staffing, longer response times, etc.):
<http://www.statesmanjournal.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20080423/COMMUNITIES/804230342/1106>

King County (WA) is looking at a significant budget shortfall that may reduce public safety services:
<http://www.argusobserver.com/articles/2008/04/09/news/doc47fcfac336ec5578881172.txt>

The Coos Bay (OR) Fire Department is having to ponder putting a bond levy on the ballots just to be able to modernize and expand their fire station:
<http://www.registerguard.com/csp/cms/sites/dt.cms.support.viewStory.cls?cid=97187&sid=4&fid=1>

A Washington State Fire Department is seriously considering merging with another area department to help save money and provide a more efficient level of service to it's community: <http://www.fireengineering.com/news/newsArticleDisplay.html?id=161371>

Three (3) fire departments in Monterey County (CA) – Monterey City, Pacific Grove, and Carmel, are seriously considering merging to provide a better level of service to their community and ultimately increase firefighter safety and opportunities for the firefighters within those respective fire departments:
http://www.montereycountyweekly.com/archives/2008/2008-May-08/carmel-firefighters-push-city-officials-on-a-threecity-fire-department-merger/1/@_@index

“The Weber County (Utah) Fire Station catches fire.” What else do I need to say except “don't let this happen to you or your department!”

For the full story, go to: <http://www.ksl.com/?nid=148&sid=3159366>

More fire departments looking at consolidating into one to increase the efficiency and level of service delivery for an area; this time the Parker Fire District and the South

Metro Fire District outside of Denver, Colorado have agreed on a plan to join forces. Another win-win situation for the firefighters and the customers they serve.

For the full story, go to: http://www.denverpost.com/ci_9047194

A case ALL of us in the fire service, especially company officers and chief officers, need to pay attention to. The Manslaughter trial is set for May in Spokane. Ellreese Daniels, 47, is accused of making decisions "in wanton and reckless disregard for human life" that led to the deaths of four firefighters during the Thirtymile Fire near Wenatchee in July 2001. He is charged with four counts of involuntary manslaughter. He is accused of failing to order his firefighters to a safe area as flames advanced. He is also charged with seven counts of making false statements to investigators. The outcome of this case will have a severe impact on how we do business.

For the full story, go to:

http://hosted.ap.org/dynamic/stories/W/WA_THIRTYMILE_FIRE_WAOL-?SITE=OKPON&SECTION=HOME&TEMPLATE=DEFAULT

And a related article how he pleaded guilty to the charges:

<http://cms.firehouse.com/content/article/article.jsp?id=59325§ionId=46>

Great information to share from the Los Angeles (CA) Fire Department, courtesy of my good friend Brian Humphrey:

Dear Friend of the LAFD:

Periodically, we share a digest of *non-incident* articles from the Los Angeles Fire Department blog. We welcome you to click the links below. But first, please save these dates:

This weekend...

Saturday, May 10, 2008:

- Fire Service Day, Annual Open House at ALL LAFD Neighborhood Fire Stations**
10:00 AM to 4:00 PM

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

** Pancake Breakfast at LAFD Museum in Hollywood starts Saturday at 8:30 AM!

<http://lafdmuseum.org/pancake08.html>

Saturday, May 31, 2008:

- Grand Opening of LAFD Air Operations at Van Nuys Airport
10:00 AM to 2:00 PM

**NOTE: We will send more info soon about this event!

Thursday, June 5, 2008:

- Hope For Firefighters

11:30 AM to 2:30 PM

<http://hopeforfirefighters.org>

Recently on the LAFD Blog...

- LAFD Insight: The Brush Clearance Process in Los Angeles

<http://snipurl.com/280f5>

- Novelty Lighters: Playing With Fire

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

- Will You Get A Round Tuit Before Disaster Strikes?

<http://snipurl.com/280f7>

- North American Occupational Safety & Health Week

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

- NHL Kings Demonstrate Benevolence to Firefighters

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

- LAFD Supports RSS Awareness Day

<http://snipurl.com/280f9>

- Firefighters Salute America's 9-1-1 Dispatchers

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

- ATF National Response Team Joins Hollywood Fire Investigation

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

Do you know someone who would like to join (or leave) our e-mail list? Simply have them visit:

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

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 agencies in the Phoenix (AZ) area are joining forces to unite on standard operating procedures, to ensure consistency around the Phoenix Valley. What a concept – standardization and regionalization! Why more fire departments don't do this is beyond me.

For the full story, go to:

<http://www.azcentral.com/news/articles/2008/05/09/20080509wvcommittee09.html>

The Poway (CA) Fire Department is in the news for their overtime costs; when budget and fiscal times are tight, it is not uncommon to see news articles such as this.

For the full story, go to: <http://www.10news.com/news/16031011/detail.html>

A unique, yet positive story from the Livermore-Pleasanton (CA) Fire Department. I realize it really isn't a public relations story per se (I know, some may argue that), but at least it is positive and doesn't shed a negative light on their department. One of their claim to fame is that they have at station 1, a light bulb that has been burning continuously for 107 years.

For the full story, go to: <http://www.heraldnet.com/article/20080507/NEWS02/815711863/-1/news02>

An educational article on scene control at motor vehicle accidents, courtesy of www.firerescue1.com –

For the full story, go to:

<http://www.firerescue1.com/Columnists/Jason-Porembo/articles/400106-Scene-Control-at-Motor-Vehicle-Accidents/>

Another educational article on career development and becoming a better firefighter, courtesy of www.firerescue1.com – it is titled “Orient, observe, decide act...and repeat as necessary until the emergency is over”

For the full story, go to:

<http://www.firerescue1.com/Columnists/Charles-Bailey/articles/400152-Orient-Observe-Decide-Act/>

The Australian Fire Service has taken a very interesting stance the U.S. Fire Service should look more into regarding our actions at wildland fires. The title of the article is “stay or go.”

For the full story, go to: <http://www.firerescue1.com/urban-interface/articles/398216-Stay-or-Go-Australian-approaches-to-wildfire/>

Eight Senior Fire Officials have been selected for this year’s Harvard Executive Fellowship Program, a prestigious, three-week program for senior fire service officers. If you are aspiring to be a fire chief or a senior fire official (deputy chief, assistant chief, etc.), this is something you should strongly look into competing for.

For the full story, go to:
http://www.fireengineering.com/display_article/326640/25/none/none/GOVMT/Eight-senior-fire-officials-selected-for-Harvard-program

An ex-Phoenix (AZ) Firefighter admits to arson charges.

For the full story, go to: http://www.abc15.com/news/local/story.aspx?content_id=5089dd94-b0b6-4e71-9dc5-1d6dff7ece02

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

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

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



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Chabot College Fire Technology & EMS web site: www.chabotfire.com
Chabot College web site: www.chabotcollege.edu

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

The Fine Print:

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