



# ***FIRE & EMS NEWS***

**January 21, 2008**

**Volume 6 – Issue 9**

**H**appy New Year to everyone - may all of you have a very prosperous 2008, both personally and professionally!

**S**ome of the features of this issue include:

- Firefighter safety information
- Numerous firefighter employment opportunities!
- Numerous firefighter training opportunities!
- CPAT testing information!
- Volunteers needed around the Bay Area – various EMS classes and opportunities
- Numerous fire service news stories to learn from – both positive and not-so-positive

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## **FIRE SERVICE TRAINING & SAFETY INFORMATION** **TO LEARN FROM:**

**T**he numbers are in, and it appears that the number of on duty firefighter fatalities has increased to 115 in 2007, up from 106 in 2006. Here is the information received from the United States Fire Academy:

[http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/fireservice/fatalities/statistics/ff\\_stats.shtm](http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/fireservice/fatalities/statistics/ff_stats.shtm)

USFA Releases Provisional 2007 Firefighter Fatality Statistics

EMMITSBURG, MD – The United States Fire Administration (USFA) announced today there were 115 on-duty firefighter fatalities in the United States in 2007. In 2007, there were firefighters lost in 33 states and Washington, DC. South Carolina experienced the highest number of fatalities (11) while Pennsylvania, New York, North Carolina, and California each suffered more than 5 on-duty losses.

"This past year will be remembered by the entire fire service as one of the most tragic years for firefighters in recent memory," United States Fire Administrator Greg Cade said. "We are committed to continuing our dedicated efforts with the International Association of Fire Chiefs, National Volunteer Fire Council, International Association of Firefighters, and the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation to make sure 2008 is not a repeat of 2007 and a year in which [\*Everyone Goes Home\*](#) at the end of their emergency response assignments."

Heart attacks and vehicle accidents were responsible for the deaths of 54 firefighters (47%) in 2007, down from 54 of the 106 (51%) firefighters in 2006. In 2007, 10 on-duty firefighters died in association with wildland fires.

On June 18<sup>th</sup>, Charleston, SC lost 9 firefighters while working to control a fire in a large sofa warehouse facility. Each year, firefighters becoming trapped and disoriented represent the largest portion of structural fireground fatalities. For 2007, 64% of all firefighter fatalities occurred while performing emergency duties. Almost 42% were at structure fires with 19 caught or trapped (16.5%).

Speed and a lack of seat belts contributed to many deaths as well. More than 2 of every 10 firefighter fatalities in 2007 occurred when responding to or returning from an incident. While seat belts and speed were not necessarily factors in all of these fatalities, they were contributing factors for most of them.

These fatality statistics for 2007 are provisional and very much subject to change as the USFA contacts State Fire Marshals to verify the names of firefighters reported to have died on-duty during 2007. The final, annual firefighter fatality report for 2007 is expected to be available by early June.

For additional information on firefighter fatalities, including the [annual fatality reports](#) from 1986 through 2006 and the [Firefighter Fatality Retrospective Study 1990–2000](#), please visit the [USFA Web site](#).

**A PROVISIONAL REPORT:**  
**ON-DUTY FIREFIGHTER FATALITIES IN THE UNITED STATES**

Date Range: 1/1/2007 to 12/31/2007  
Number of On-Duty Firefighter Fatalities: 115  
Count of Hometown Heroes: 8

Classification:

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49 Career 42.6%	59 Volunteer 51.3%
3 Wildland Full-Time 2.60%	1 Wildland Contract 0.86%
2 Paid-on-Call 1.73%	1 Industrial 0.86%

Number of Multiple Firefighter Fatality Incidents: 7  
Number of Firefighter Fatalities Associated with Wildland Incidents: 10

Type of Duty:

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24 Responding 20.8%	13 After 11.3%
11 Training 9.56%	20 Other On-Duty 17.3%
37 On-Scene Fire 32.1%	2 Returning 1.73%
8 On-Scene Non-Fire 6.95%	

Percent of Fatalities Related to Emergency Duty: 64.3%  
Number of firefighter fatalities associated with suspicious/arson fires: 2

Type of Incident:

5 Wildland 4.34%	1 Outside Fire 0.86%
48 Structure Fire 41.7%	1 False Alarm 0.86%
7 MVA 6.08%	41 Not Incident Related 35.6%
3 Hazmat 2.60%	1 Other 0.86%
6 EMS 5.21%	1 Unknown 0.86%
1 Tech Rescue 0.86%	

Cause of Fatal Injury:

19 Caught/Trapped 16.5%	3 Struck by 2.60%
1 Contact with 0.86%	26 Vehicle Collision 22.6%
4 Fall 3.47%	2 Lost 1.73%
55 Stress/Overexertion 47.8%	1 Other 0.86%
4 Collapse 3.47%	

Nature of Fatal Injury:

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16 Asphyxiation 13.9%	2 CVA 1.73%	52 Heart Attack 45.2%
3 Crushed 2.60%	33 Trauma 28.6%	1 Other 0.86%
7 Burns 6.08%	1 Electrocutation 0.86%	

Age of Firefighter When the Fatal Injury Was Sustained:

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5 - Under 21	21 - 51 to 60
6 - 21 to 25	16 - 61 and Over
9 - 26 to 30	Percent of Firefighter Fatalities Under Age
26 - 31 to 40	40 37.4%
31 - 41 to 50	

Type of Activity:

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14 S&R 12.1%	1 Standby 0.86%	1 Scene Safety 0.86%
2 IC 1.73%	3 Ventilation 2.60%	2 Other 1.73%
11 Advance Hose Lines 9.56%	24 Responding 20.8%	2 Unknown 1.73%
2 Extrication 1.73%	3 Support 2.60%	46 Not On Scene 40%
	3 Water Supply 2.60%	1 Unknown 0.86%

Time of Fatal Injury:

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9 0100-0259	13 1100-1259	6 2100-2259
4 0300-0459	7 1300-1459	11 2300-0059
3 0500-0659	12 1500-1659	5 Unknown
4 0700-0859	8 1700-1859	
14 0900-1059	19 1900-2059	

### Month of the Year:

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8 January 6.95%	13 May 11.3%	10 September 8.69%
11 February 9.56%	15 June 13.0%	5 October 4.34%
7 March 6.08%	13 July 11.3%	6 November 5.21%
7 April 6.08%	14 August 12.1%	6 December 5.21%

### Firefighter Fatalities by State by Location of Fire Service Organization:

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3 Alabama 2.60%	5 Kansas 4.34%	5 Ohio 4.34%
1 Arkansas 0.86%	3 Kentucky 2.60%	1 Oklahoma 0.86%
1 Arizona 0.86%	1 Louisiana 0.86%	10 Pennsylvania 8.69%
8 California 6.95%	4 Massachusetts 3.47%	11 South Carolina 9.56%
1 Connecticut 0.86%	1 Maryland 0.86%	3 Tennessee 2.60%
1 District of Columbia 0.86%	1 Maine 0.86%	3 Texas 2.60%
4 Florida 3.47%	5 Michigan 4.34%	1 Utah 0.86%
1 Georgia 0.86%	1 Mississippi 0.86%	1 Virginia 0.86%
2 Idaho 1.73%	8 North Carolina 6.95%	1 Washington 0.86%
5 Illinois 4.34%	1 Nebraska 0.86%	2 Wisconsin 1.73%
3 Indiana 2.60%	5 New Jersey 4.34%	3 West Virginia 2.60%
	9 New York 7.82%	

### Firefighter Fatalities by State by Location of Fatal Incident:

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3 Alabama 2.60%	5 Kansas 4.34%	5 Ohio 4.34%
1 Arkansas 0.86%	3 Kentucky 2.60%	1 Oklahoma 0.86%
1 Arizona 0.86%	1 Louisiana 0.86%	10 Pennsylvania 8.69%
9 California 7.82%	4 Massachusetts 3.47%	11 South Carolina 9.56%
1 Connecticut 0.86%	2 Maryland 1.73%	3 Tennessee 2.60%
1 District of Columbia 0.86%	1 Maine 0.86%	3 Texas 2.60%
4 Florida 3.47%	5 Michigan 4.34%	1 Utah 0.86%
1 Georgia 0.86%	1 Mississippi 0.86%	1 Virginia 0.86%
1 Idaho 0.86%	8 North Carolina 6.95%	1 Washington 0.86%
5 Illinois 4.34%	1 Nebraska 0.86%	2 Wisconsin 1.73%
3 Indiana 2.60%	5 New Jersey 4.34%	3 West Virginia 2.60%
	8 New York 6.95%	

### ALSO:

Firehouse Magazine's website – [www.firehouse.com](http://www.firehouse.com) has an extensive article relating to the 2007 data:

[http://cms.firehouse.com/web/online/News/2007-On-Duty-Deaths--the-Details/46\\$57752](http://cms.firehouse.com/web/online/News/2007-On-Duty-Deaths--the-Details/46$57752)

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

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

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

**T**he **Torrance (CA) Fire Department** will be accepting 2,000 applications for the position of **Firefighter**, from February 20 through March 4, 2008.

Here is the information found within the job flyer, note **EMT is only required prior to the end of probation**. Thus, virtually everyone over the age of 21 should be eligible to apply!

### **FIREFIGHTER**

(JOB CODE 07127112)

A PREMIERE FIRE DEPARTMENT IN A PREMIERE CITY

We invite you to start a **REWARDING** career as a Firefighter with the City of Torrance! The Torrance Fire Department is dedicated to protecting the community and providing for life safety, environmental protection, and property conservation through education, hazard reduction, and emergency response.

### **REQUIREMENTS**

- **Age:** *Must be at least 21 years of age by final filing date of March 4, 2008, and show proof of age at the time of the Written Test.*
- **Smoking:** *Must be a non-smoker; smoking on or off duty is prohibited.*
- **EMT:** *New employees must obtain a California Emergency Medical Technician 1 Certificate prior to the completion of probation (the first year of employment following Academy training).*
- **Education:** *Equivalent to graduation from high school.*
- **License:** *Valid driver's license. Must obtain a Firefighter Restricted Class B license prior to the completion of probation.*
- **Medical:** *Must meet NFPA Standard 1582, "Medical Requirements for Fire Fighters."*

## **EXAMPLES OF DUTIES**

For a comprehensive list of duties for Firefighter, go to: [www.torndnet.com](http://www.torndnet.com), click "Job Opportunities," (under QuickLinks), then click "Job Descriptions." For information about the Torrance Fire Department, please access [www.tfd.torndnet.com](http://www.tfd.torndnet.com).

## **SPECIAL NOTES**

After the Written Test used in this selection process, successful candidates must qualify on a physical ability test, department oral interview(s), background investigation (including polygraph), psychological exam, and medical exam prior to selection. The requirement to participate in the physical ability test will be waived for candidates who submit proof of a currently valid PAT or CPAT certificate by **Tuesday, March 4, 2008**.

## **SALARY**

All candidates for Firefighter will be initially hired into the temporary position of Fire Trainee while assigned to the Training Academy (approximately 11 weeks). During training, Recruits are paid \$3,758/month plus a City contribution of up to \$695/month for family health care coverage. Upon graduation, Firefighters are paid \$3758- \$4,568/month (base pay) PLUS full benefits listed below, as well as any applicable premiums.

## **SALARY STRUCTURE**

- ✓ \$4141/month max. upon shift assignment after training period (\$3758/month plus 7% Haz Mat First Responder Premium of \$263/month plus EMT Premium of \$120/month if applicable)
- ✓ \$4342/month max. at start of Month 7 (\$3946/month plus 7% Haz Mat First Responder Premium of \$276/month plus EMT Premium of \$120/month if applicable)
- ✓ \$4553/month max. at start of Year 2 (end of 12-month Probation Period) (\$4143/month plus 7% Haz Mat First Responder Premium of \$290/month plus EMT Premium of \$120/month if applicable)
- ✓ Educational Incentive Pay at start of Year 2 of up to 9% (up to \$373/month) if applicable

## **BENEFIT HIGHLIGHTS**

Notable benefits specific to Firefighters include:

- ✓ 100% City-paid PERS retirement using 3% @ 50 formula
- ✓ Premium Pay for Special Assignments: Paramedic – up to 19%; Haz Mat Team – up to 13%
- ✓ 48/96 Schedule (Mandatory)

For a comprehensive list of benefits, go to: [www.torndnet.com](http://www.torndnet.com), click "Job Opportunities," (under QuickLinks), then click "Employee Benefits."

## **APPLICATION PROCEDURE**

Candidates must submit a scantron application form. Applications are currently available, but cannot be submitted until February 20, 2008. To obtain an application, please call (310) 618-2969, or e-mail [cvs@torndnet.com](mailto:cvs@torndnet.com).

**ONLY 2,000 APPLICATIONS WILL BE ACCEPTED at:**

City of Torrance  
Personnel Building  
3231 Torrance Blvd  
Torrance, California 90503

Applications will be accepted beginning Tuesday, February 20, 2008 at 7:30 a.m. The Application deadline is 5:30 P.M. Tuesday, March 4, 2008, or when 2,000 applications have been filed, whichever comes first. Applications of past and present Torrance Fire Department auxiliaries are automatically accepted. Auxiliaries must apply in person on or after February 20, 2008 after 7:30 a.m..

**SELECTION PROCESS**

The examination will consist of a Written Test, weighted 100%, covering a range of skills and abilities that are important for the job. Handouts detailing online practice test information will be available at the Personnel Building following the sessions. The Written Test is published by Ergometrics.

**Testing will take place on Wednesday, March 19, 2008.** Three test sessions will be conducted at the Marriott Hotel in Torrance. Candidates will have a choice of test session appointment times at the time of application.

Candidates with disabilities who require special testing arrangements must contact the Human Resources Department.

**PHYSICAL ABILITY TESTING**

To increase chances of passing the physical ability test, candidates are strongly encouraged to train in advance and take advantage of preparatory sessions offered by physical ability testing facilities. For more information, contact the Santa Ana College Fire Technology Office at (714) 564-6845 for the PAT or California Firefighter JAC at [www.cffjac.org](http://www.cffjac.org) for the CPAT.

**F**or more information about the **City of Torrance**, visit their website at:  
[www.ci.torrance.ca.us](http://www.ci.torrance.ca.us)

**F**or more information about the **Torrance Fire Department**, visit their website at:  
[www.ci.torrance.ca.us/TFD/108.htm](http://www.ci.torrance.ca.us/TFD/108.htm)

**F**or more information about the **Torrance Firefighters Association, I.A.F.F. Local 1138**, visit their website at [www.torrancefirefighters.org](http://www.torrancefirefighters.org)

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# **FIREFIGHTER TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES:**

The CONTRA COSTA COUNTY FIRE TRAINING OFFICERS

Present

## **Lessons Learned**

### **Line of Duty Deaths on the Denver Fire Department**

By Denver Fire Department District Chief Dave McGrail

And

### **A Review of the ESPERANZA BURNOVER INCIDENT**

By Investigation Team Members CalFire Chief Jeff Brand and Unit Chief Brad Harris

**January 23, 2008**

**0900-1700**

**San Ramon Community Center  
12501 Alcosta Boulevard  
San Ramon CA**

In the early morning hours of September 28<sup>th</sup>, 1992, Engineer Mark Langvardt made the supreme sacrifice, while operating at a commercial building fire in south Denver. His memory lives on as firefighters across the American fire service continue to learn and practice the so called "Denver Drill".

This tragedy, along with numerous other close calls and near misses would remind us that "There has never been a more dangerous time to be a firefighter, than today!" There will always be countless dangers and operational factors which we cannot control. However, our attitude, mind-set, and preparation, those factors, we have complete control over.

Chief McGrail will highlight many of the critical lessons learned from past line of duty deaths and close calls on the DFD. Most importantly, he will provide real solutions to help firefighters prevent injuries and deaths. We can only achieve the goal of "everyone comes home" through a lifelong commitment to excellence and the consistent application of good fireground habits, every time.

The Esperanza Fire was reported on October 26, 2006 at 1:11 a.m. in Cabazon, California, within the jurisdiction of the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE). At approximately 7:15 a.m., five wildland firefighters from Forest Service Fire Engine 57 were overrun by the fire, while they were positioned near an isolated, vacant residential structure. All five firefighters were fatally burned by a sudden, intense fire run up a steep drainage below their location.



**\$45 per person in advance  
\$50 per person at door  
Includes: Continental Breakfast  
& Lunch**

**PROCEEDS DONATED TO:  
The National Fallen Firefighters  
Foundation**



**Checks payable to:  
Contra Costa County Fire Training  
Officers  
1500 Bollinger Canyon Road  
San Ramon CA 94583**

Registration Contact:  
Captain Ame Blackshear  
925-567-6935  
[CCCTOevents@srvfire.ca.gov](mailto:CCCTOevents@srvfire.ca.gov)



**Never forget; striving to achieve "everyone goes home."**

----- AND -----

***The Contra Costa County Training & Safety Officers' Association invites you to spend a day with renowned fire service expert & author Dave Dodson as he presents:***

## ***The Art of Reading Smoke***

**February 19<sup>th</sup> or 20<sup>th</sup> 2008 - 9am-5pm  
Walnut Creek - Civic Arts  
111 Wiget Lane, Walnut Creek, CA**

**Your Instructor:** Dave Dodson, Former Battalion Chief and Safety Officer. Dave has over 24 years in the firefighting business and is the author of the book, "*Fire Department Safety Officer*," (Delmar, 1999). His "Art of Reading Smoke" class was a standing-room only presentation at FDIC. Dave is the recipient of the 1997 George D. Post *Instructor of the Year*. The Art of Reading Smoke tells us how to read a fire and predict its progress. This class packages information to help firefighters stay safe. Come prepared to practice an easy-to-remember approach to rapid size-up leading to good decisions. You don't want to miss this class!

**Seminar Fee:** \$45 Per Person in Advance or \$50 Per Person at the Door  
**Includes:** Lecture Notes & Handouts, Breakfast and Lunch, Certificate of Attendance  
**Questions:** Contact Captain Sidney Salesky - 925-941-3574

Space is Limited!

January 21, 2008

Chabot College Fire & EMS News

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**Mail Check or Money Order to:** Contra Costa Training & Safety Officers' Association  
 2010 Geary Road  
 Pleasant Hill, CA 94523  
 Telephone: 925-941-3630

## **FIREFIGHTER EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES:**

<p><b>Yosemite National Park</b> is recruiting seasonal firefighters for the 2008 fire season.</p> <p>The park covers 1,182 square miles ranging from 1900 feet to 13,000 feet elevation. The park is open year round with the majority of activities occurring from March to October. Yosemite receives more than 3 million visitors each year.</p> <p>Yosemite National Park is located in the Sierra Nevada mountains. It is 208 miles from San Francisco, 81 miles from Merced and 94 miles from Fresno.</p>	
	<p>Yosemite's fire management program is diverse and complex. Fire management tools include suppression, wildland fire use, prescribed fire and mechanical thinning.</p> <p>The parks fire crews operate out of 3 structure / wildland stations, 1 interagency wildland station, and one helibase. During the peak season the park employs 80-100 firefighters and fire support staff.</p>
<p>The crews work a 40 hour week and overtime is frequently available. Crews are available for off park fire assignments and may be away from home for extended periods of time.</p> <p>Seasonal firefighters typically start work in late May and usually end their season in October, but may work longer in dry years.</p> <p>Shopping, dental, medical, and postal services are available in the park. Government housing may be available.</p>	
	<p>Enrollment or completion of a basic 32-40 hour wildland firefighting course meeting NWCG standards is recommended.</p> <p>Completion of a Firefighter 1 recruit academy, Emergency Medical Technician, hazmat operations or other fire / rescue related classes are desirable but not required.</p>

Instructions to apply for these positions can be found at USAJOBS using the announcement number DOI-FIRE-2008-006

<http://www.usajobs.gov/>

This announcement is also being used to fill positions at other National Parks as well as positions with the Bureau of Land Management.

First consideration for Yosemite National Park positions will go to applications submitted before January 10, 2008.



Further information may be found at Yosemite's website <http://www.nps.gov/yose/index.htm> or by calling the fire stations.

El Portal Fire Station 209-379-1903

Valley Fire Station 209-372-0416

Wawona Fire Station 209-375-9515

The Hodgedon interagency station and Crane Flat helibase are seasonal and usually closed between October and April.

Yosemite National Park offers a unique opportunity to work in one of California's most scenic locations. The park is an independent jurisdiction providing all emergency services within the park boundaries. Search and Rescue and EMS are primarily provided by the parks law enforcement rangers. Wildland and structural fire response is provided by the parks fire crews. A 24 hour ALS ambulance is staffed at the clinic in Yosemite Valley; ambulances in the other districts are cross staffed by fire crews or rangers as needed. The park employs a mix of basic, intermediate and advanced life support providers.

Park resources include:

- 5 Type 1 engines located in El Portal, Wawona, and Yosemite Valley
- 1 Type 2 engine located in Yosemite Valley
- 4 Type 3 wildland engines located in El Portal, Hodgedon Meadow, Wawona and Yosemite Valley
- 4 Type 4 wildland engines located in El Portal, Wawona and Yosemite Valley
- 1 Type 2 water tender located in Wawona
- 1 Type 2 Helicopter (7 person flight crew) located at Crane Flat
- 1 Type 2 crew (18-20 people) located in El Portal
- 1 Fire Use crew (7 people) located in Wawona
- 1 Fire Effects crew (5 people) located in Wawona
- 6 Ambulances located in El Portal, Hodgedon, Tuolumne, Wawona and Yosemite Valley
- 1 Rescue truck located in El Portal
- 1 Hazmat truck located in Yosemite Valley
- 1 Command bus located in Yosemite Valley
- 2 Search & Rescue trucks located in Yosemite Valley

The park helicopter is rappel and short haul capable. In addition to flying in support of fire operations it is frequently utilized for search & rescue, medivac and law enforcement missions.

Yosemite Search & Rescue (YOSAR) is organized through the main SAR cache in Yosemite Valley. Each of the outlying districts has a SAR coordinator. Personnel for major SAR operations is drawn from the core group of SAR members, park rangers, fire crews, SAR volunteers and search dog teams.

As a fire crew member, employees will work a 40 hour week, generally five 8 hour days on the engine crews or four 10 hour days on the hand crews. The engine crews and helicopter are staffed to provide 7 day coverage. During the peak fire season it is not unusual for the crews to work extended hours and / or an overtime day. This occasionally results in employees working 6 days, and 50-60 hours in a week. During the seasonal firefighters 5-7 month period of employment it is not unusual for an employee to work 200-600 hours of over time.

When fire crews respond to an off park assignment they can work 14 days or more without a day off. During these assignments they may work up to 16 hours a day. When travel time to and from an incident is included crews may be away from home for a total of 16-20 days. When crews respond to an incident off park, they are occasionally provided with motel rooms but most of the time they will sleep on the ground in a fire camp. Tents, sleeping bags and food are provided when the crews are away at an incident. Crews assigned to remote fires may live under very primitive conditions.

During a typical work day the crews will begin with cleaning and inspection of the station and equipment, followed by 1 hour of physical training. Through the rest of the day the crew may complete training evolutions, equipment maintenance or project work. The fire crews will conduct many pre-suppression projects including hazard fuels reduction, hydrant testing, and maintenance of the 30-100 foot vegetation clearances around park buildings. All of the parks fire stations are older buildings, so various repair and remodeling projects are common.

The engine crews at the El Portal, Wawona and Yosemite Valley stations also provide structure fire response in the park. Properly trained and certified seasonal firefighters may be outfitted with structural PPE and utilized on the structure engines at their supervisor's discretion.

Yosemite fire often, but not always provides additional training to their seasonal work force. The type and quantity of training varies each year based on the overall experience of the parks crews and how busy the fire season is. In the past this training has included one or more of the following classes, S211 Portable pumps & water use, S212 Wildfire power saws, S215 Fire operations in the wildland / urban interface, S271 Helicopter crew member, S290 Intermediate wildland fire behavior and S131 Advanced firefighter. Additionally search and rescue often provides swift water and rope rescue training to the fire crews so they can better assist with search and rescue operations.

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# **FIRE SERVICE TRAINING OPPORTUNITY:**

## ***Student Recruitment for Management of Emergency Medical Services (Pilot Offering)***

The United States Fire Administration (USFA), Department of Homeland Security, is conducting a pilot class at the National Emergency Training Center (NETC) in Emmitsburg, Maryland, for its newly revised 2-week course, *P150 - Management of Emergency Medical Services (MEMS)*.

The purpose of a pilot class is to assure that the materials are appropriate and accurate prior to replacing the old course in the normal course rotation. Students will be asked to provide feedback and comments on the course throughout its delivery. Students will receive a National Fire Academy course completion certificate.

The pilot class is scheduled to be delivered June 9-20, 2008 with students to arrive Sunday, June 8 and depart Friday, June 20, 2008.

### **Course Description**

This course focuses on management practices as they relate to emergency medical services (EMS). This interactive and fast-moving course will enable participants to deal more effectively with day-to-day management issues that supervisory-level managers are likely to encounter. Personnel, resource management, research and quality improvement techniques are some of the major components of this course. Upon completion of this course, the students will be able to enhance the quality and overall effectiveness of their EMS operation through the use of management techniques.

### **Selection Criteria**

Individuals with management responsibility for part of an EMS delivery system, e.g., a fire department, a hospital, or a public or private EMS agency. Individuals with decisionmaking responsibility within an EMS system, e.g., EMS council membership, EMS program management/coordination, training, medical control, etc.

**Prerequisites:** IS700 and IS800; ICS-100 and ICS-200 or equivalent.

Examples for ICS100 and ICS200 are:

- Q462 - *Introduction to ICS for Operations Responders* (available through [NFA Online](http://www.nfaonline.dhs.gov) at [www.nfaonline.dhs.gov](http://www.nfaonline.dhs.gov))
- Q463 - *Basic ICS for Operational Responders* (available through [NFA Online](http://www.nfaonline.dhs.gov) at [www.nfaonline.dhs.gov](http://www.nfaonline.dhs.gov))
- F806 - *National Incident Management System (NIMS) Incident Command System (ICS) for the Fire Service*
- F163 - *NIMS ICS for EMS*

### **How to Apply:**

- Students must complete FEMA Form 75-5, General Admissions Application (available for download at: <http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/nfa/about/attend/apply.shtm>)
- Applications will be accepted until April 1, 2008 and should be submitted to:



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

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

For additional information on this course delivery, please contact the Training Specialist, John Brasko at [john.brasko@dhs.gov](mailto:john.brasko@dhs.gov)

## **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 -**

<b>Dates / Locations / Times:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Tuesday <b>February 12, 2008</b> from 1200 to 1700 hours</li> <li>- Wednesday <b>February 13, 2008</b> from 1200 to 1700 hours</li> <li>- Friday <b>March 7, 2008</b> from 1200 to 1700 hours</li> <li>- Saturday <b>March 8, 2008</b> from 1200 to 1700 hours</li> <li>- Thursday <b>April 24, 2008</b> from 1200 to 1700 hours</li> <li>- Friday <b>April 25, 2008</b> from 1200 to 1700 hours</li> <li>- Thursday <b>May 8, 2008</b> from 1200 to 1700 hours</li> <li>- Friday <b>May 9, 2008</b> from 1200 to 1700 hours</li> <li>- Wednesday <b>June 25, 2008</b> from 1200 to 1700 hours</li> <li>- Thursday <b>June 26, 2008</b> from 1200 to 1700 hours</li> </ul> <p style="text-align: center;">**Go to their website at <a href="http://www.sfparamedics.org">www.sfparamedics.org</a> and click on Volunteer Info (under About) to confirm the above dates and times.</p> <p><b>NOTE:</b> All of the above classes will be held at the Bay Model Visitor Center in Sausalito (2100 Bridgeway, Sausalito)</p>
<b>You will receive:</b>	Valuable experience watching paramedic level (or higher) students perform patient assessments. Learn from their plusses and minuses. You will also receive a free San Francisco Paramedic Association t-shirt.
<b>Your role:</b>	As a volunteer, you will be moulaged and designated to role-play a victim of a trauma emergency scenario. Please wear loose, old, comfortable clothing, as you may be on the floor for some scenarios.
<b>Contact person(s):</b>	Call the San Francisco Paramedic Association for more information or to sign-up at (415) 543-1161 (tell them Steve at Chabot sent you) or email them at <a href="mailto:director@sfparamedics.org">director@sfparamedics.org</a> or visit their website section on volunteer opportunities at <a href="http://www.sfparamedics.org/pages/about/volunteer.php">www.sfparamedics.org/pages/about/volunteer.php</a>

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

<p><b>Dates / Locations / Times:</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Saturday <b>April 12,, 2008</b> from 1230 to 1800 hours</li> <li>- Sunday <b>April 13, 2008</b> from 1030 to 1630 hours</li> <li>- Thursday <b>June 19, 2008</b> from 1230 to 1800 hours</li> <li>- Friday <b>June 20, 2008</b> from 1030 to 1630 hours</li> </ul> <p><b>NOTE:</b> 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 <a href="http://www.sfparamedics.org">www.sfparamedics.org</a> and click on Volunteer Info (under About) to confirm the above dates and times.</p>
<p><b>You will receive:</b></p>	<p>Valuable experience watching paramedic level (or higher) students perform patient assessments. Learn from their plusses and minuses. You will also receive a free San Francisco Paramedic Association t-shirt.</p>
<p><b>Your role:</b></p>	<p>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.</p>
<p><b>Contact person(s):</b></p>	<p>Call the San Francisco Paramedic Association for more information or to sign-up at (415) 543-1161 (tell them Steve at Chabot sent you) or email them at <a href="mailto:director@sfparamedics.org">director@sfparamedics.org</a> or visit their website section on volunteer opportunities at <a href="http://www.sfparamedics.org/pages/about/volunteer.php">www.sfparamedics.org/pages/about/volunteer.php</a></p>

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## **FIRE & EMS TRAINING OPPORTUNITY:**

The San Francisco Paramedic Association is adding 2 new classes designed for **Paramedics**. If you or someone you know is interested in registering please forward this email and ask them to register via our website or call the registration office at 415.543.1161 ext 0.

As a current paramedic you might be interested in the **PARAMEDIC REFRESHER:**

This program fulfills the mandatory 48 hour refresher component of the National Registry Paramedic registration. Instruction will be provided in both lecture and workshop format. As part of the course, participants will recertify both ACLS and BLS certifications. You must have online access prior to participating in this course; computers are available at the SFPA for your use if needed.

View dates and/or register at [www.sfpaonline.org/detail.lasso?ClassID=AJD18MH50DI3](http://www.sfpaonline.org/detail.lasso?ClassID=AJD18MH50DI3)

If you need to take the National Registry test then consider the **NATIONAL REGISTRY**

### **PREP COURSE FOR PARAMEDICS:**

This intense 4 hour workshop will help Paramedic students prepare for the National Registry computer-adaptive examination. Using an innovative evaluation process, students will be able to identify their personal strengths and weaknesses, and learn test preparation and test-taking strategies to improve their ability to pass the rigorous exam on the first attempt. Pre-class computer access is desirable, but not required for this workshop.

### **View dates and/or register at:**

[www.sfpaonline.org/detail.lasso?ClassID=AJD27AJ3DK0Y](http://www.sfpaonline.org/detail.lasso?ClassID=AJD27AJ3DK0Y)

**F**or more information about the San Francisco Paramedic association, visit their website at [www.sfparamedics.org](http://www.sfparamedics.org) – they offer numerous initial and continuing education courses for EMT's, paramedics, and health care professionals.

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## **FIREFIGHTER TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES:**

### **TAKE FIRE OFFICER & FIRE TECH CLASSES ON THE INTERNET!**

### **REGISTER FOR SPRING 2008 CLASSES NOW!**

Fax your enrollment and registration forms, and a copy of this message, as the required permission from Dan Coffman to enroll in this class, to 805-925-2093.

Please insure you have applied for admission before submitting your registration materials, info starts on Page 6 of the Spring schedule of classes. To register by fax you must complete the worksheet for fees and the credit registration form located on pages 22-23 of the Spring schedule of classes:

[http://www.hancockcollege.edu/schedules/Spring-08/Sched1-57\\_135-141-SP08.pdf](http://www.hancockcollege.edu/schedules/Spring-08/Sched1-57_135-141-SP08.pdf).

For additional information contact Dan Coffman at [dcoffman@hancockcollege.edu](mailto:dcoffman@hancockcollege.edu)

The following classes will delivered On-line and in a Hybrid (Internet\Classroom) format, starting on January 22<sup>nd</sup> and throughout the Spring 2008. Except for Management 1, you will be able to register for Spring classes throughout January and for Term # 4 classes until March.

### **CFSTES Fire Officer Classes**

- Fire Command 1A: Command Principles For Company Officers
- Fire Command 1B: Incident Management For Company Officers
- Fire Command 1C: I-Zone Fire Fighting For Company Officers
- Fire Instructor 1A: Instructional Techniques, Part 1 Session 3 Closed, Session 4 Pending



- Fire Instructor 1B: Instructional Techniques, Part 2 Session 3 Closed, Session 4 Pending
- Fire Prevention 1A: Introduction To The California Fire Code Session 3 Full, Session 4 Open
- Fire Prevention 1B: Introduction To The California Fire Code Session 3 Full, Session 4 Open
- Fire Investigation 1A: Fire Origin & Cause Determination Pending Session 4

Due to overwhelming demand, A full slate of CFSTES Classes is possible starting in May.

### 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
- Wildland Fire Technology and EMS classes will also be offered on-line.

After prospective students have applied to the college, they may register for classes on the internet (WebReg), by fax, mail or in person starting November 26<sup>th</sup>.

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

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

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

- January 22
- February 2, 19
- March 1, 17

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:**

- January 22, 23
- February 2, 5, 19, 20
- March 1, 4, 17, 18

**TEST DATES:**

- January 24
- February 9, 22
- March 8, 20

Additional test dates will be scheduled as needed. Allow up to 1 hour to complete the process.

**Southern California 2008 Schedule:**

**ORIENTATION DATES:**

- February 2, 11
- March 1, 17

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:**

- January 22
- February 5, 12, 19
- March 4, 11, 18, 25

**TEST DATES:**

- January 26
- February 7, 15, 23
- March 6, 13, 22, 27

Additional test dates will be scheduled as needed. Allow up to 1 hour to complete the process. Practice sessions are only \$25.00. 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.com](http://www.cpatonline.com)

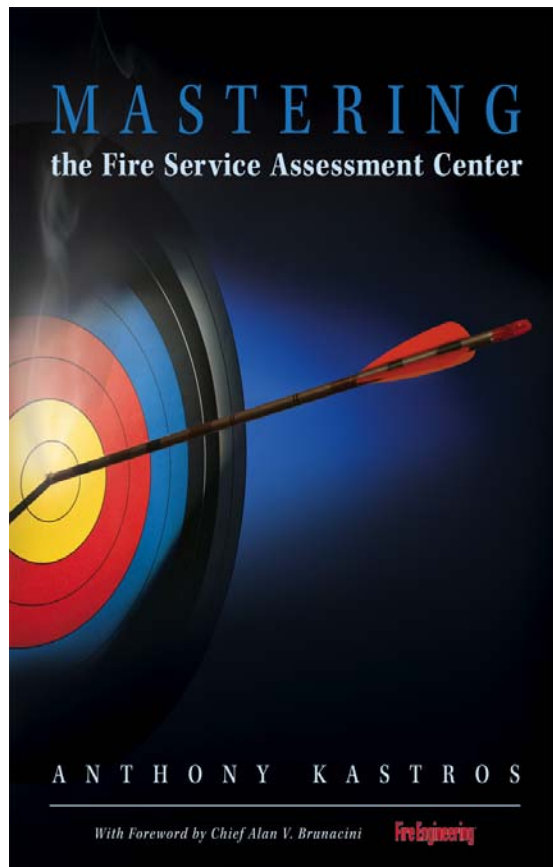
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# **FIREFIGHTER PROMOTIONAL PREPARATION**

## **CLASS:**

### **MASTERING THE FIRE SERVICE ASSESSMENT CENTER**

4-DAY WORKSHOP



INSTRUCTOR: ANTHONY KASTROS, AUTHOR OF  
**MASTERING THE FIRE SERVICE ASSESSMENT CENTER**  
**BY FIRE ENGINEERING**

- PARTICIPATE IN EMERGENCY SIMULATIONS, ORAL PRESENTATIONS, PROMOTIONAL INTERVIEWS, COUNSELING SESSIONS, IN-BASKETS, AND SUPERVISORY EXERCISES.
- LEARN THE PROPER MENTALITY FOR THE TEST, INCLUDING HOW TO SHED BAGGAGE AT THE DOOR.
- FOCUS ON BECOMING POSITION ORIENTED VS. TEST ORIENTED.
- LEARN ABOUT THE 27 KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS AND ABILITIES THAT SPAN THE DIMENSIONS OF LEADERSHIP, MANAGEMENT AND EMERGENCY OPERATIONS.
- ASSESS AND BE ASSESSED USING SCORING CRITERIA UTILIZED IN TODAY'S ASSESSMENT CENTERS.
- LEARN EXERCISE-SPECIFIC TOOLS AND CANDIDATE PITFALLS.
- \* INCLUDES **FIRE ENGINEERING** BOOK.

*ANTHONY KASTROS IS A 20-YEAR VETERAN OF THE FIRE SERVICE. HE IS A BATTALION CHIEF WITH SACRAMENTO METRO FIRE DISTRICT, AND FOUNDER OF FIREFIGHTER INSPIRATION READINESS AND EDUCATION (FIRE). THROUGH FIRE, HE HAS COACHED HUNDREDS OF FIREFIGHTERS ON ASSESSMENT CENTERS, INTERVIEWS, AND PROMOTIONAL TECHNIQUES. CHIEF KASTROS IS AN FDIC INSTRUCTOR, TEACHES LEADERSHIP/TEAM BUILDING FOR FIRE DEPARTMENTS THROUGHOUT CALIFORNIA AND FIRE MANAGEMENT 1 AT THE COMMUNITY COLLEGE LEVEL. HE IS A CALIFORNIA STATE CERTIFIED INSTRUCTOR FOR INCIDENT COMMAND, RAPID INTERVENTION TACTICS, DRIVER/OPERATOR, AND CONFINED SPACE RESCUE. AS A USAR LOGISTICS TEAM MANAGER WITH SACRAMENTO TASK FORCE 7, HE DEPLOYED TO NEW YORK ON 9/11, AND SPENT 4 YEARS WITH A TYPE 1 INCIDENT MANAGEMENT TEAM. ANTHONY HOLDS A BACHELOR OF SCIENCE DEGREE IN BUSINESS/HUMAN RESOURCE MANAGEMENT, AN ASSOCIATE'S DEGREE IN FIRE TECHNOLOGY, AND IS A CERTIFIED FIRE OFFICER.*

**MARCH 11-14, 2008**

**FOLSOM FIRE DEPARTMENT**

**\$495.00\* - GO TO [WWW.TRAINFIREFIGHTERS.COM](http://WWW.TRAINFIREFIGHTERS.COM) FOR REGISTRATION**

**CLASS SIZE LIMITED DUE TO DEPTH OF INSTRUCTION**

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# **FIREFIGHTER EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY – California Department of Forestry & Fire Protection (CDF):**



**T**he California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CDF) – now known as **Cal Fire**, is now accepting applications for **Firefighter I**. Applications will be accepted **until January 31, 2008** for the 2008 fire season, which generally starts in the end of May and generally goes through October. If you are interested in applying you must complete a Firefighter I application (CDF Form 215) and mail it or deliver it in person to the North Coast Region I and Cascade Region II units (see next page for locations). Applications will be accepted on a file in person basis only for the units in Southern California Region III and Central Sierra Region IV. Applications must be filed at each unit in which you wish to be considered for appointment.

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

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

## **What you can expect working as a firefighter for CDF:**

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

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

**I**n addition to being assigned to working on an engine, a firefighter 1 may be assigned to work at an Air Attack Base refueling aircraft, and reloading tankers with retardant. Another

opportunity that is available to firefighter I is to work as a helitack firefighter assigned to one of nine helicopters throughout the state.

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

### **The hiring process:**

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

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

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

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

### **What CDF can offer you?**

**C**DF is an all risk fire department. They respond to an average of 6,400 wildland fires annually and more than 275,000 non-wildfire emergencies each year. As a firefighter I you will gain experience in working on an engine as part of an engine company. You will get experience working at emergencies under stressful situation. You will learn what station life is like and how to work with people of different backgrounds in that environment.

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

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

**To view the job flyer and download an application, go to the CDF Careers website at:**  
[http://www.fire.ca.gov/careers\\_seasonal.php](http://www.fire.ca.gov/careers_seasonal.php)

**For a list of Contacts including units and stations with in units:**  
[http://www.fire.ca.gov/about\\_contacts.asp](http://www.fire.ca.gov/about_contacts.asp)

**Minimum Qualifications for Seasonal Firefighter positions:**

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

**For additional information, contact:**

North Coast Headquarters: (707) 576-2275  
Human Resources Office: (916) 445-7801  
Southern Region Headquarters: (559) 243-4100  
Sierra Region IV: (559) 222-3714  
Equal Employment Opportunity: (916) 445-8113

**NORTHERN REGION**

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

**Amador-El Dorado Unit**  
2840 Mt. Danaher Road  
Camino, CA 95709  
(530) 644-2345

**Lassen-Modoc Unit**  
697-345 Highway 36  
Susanville, CA 96130  
(530) 257-4171

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

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

**Humboldt-Del Norte Unit**  
118 S. Fortuna Blvd.  
Fortuna, CA 95540  
(707) 725-4413

**Nevada-Yuba-Placer Unit**  
13760 Lincoln Way  
Auburn, CA 95603  
(530) 823-4904



**San Mateo-Santa Cruz Unit**

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

**Siskiyou Unit**

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

**Santa Clara Unit**

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

**Sonoma-Lake-Napa Unit**

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

**Shasta-Trinity Unit**

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

**Tehama-Glenn Unit**

604 Antelope Blvd.  
Red Bluff, CA 96080  
(530) 529-8548

## **SOUTHERN REGION**

**Applications accepted on a FILE-IN-PERSON basis ONLY at the units listed below.  
Each applicant must appear in person Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.**

**Fresno-Kings Unit**

210 S. Academy Avenue  
Sanger, CA 93657  
(559) 485-7500

**San Benito-Monterey Unit**

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

**San Luis Obispo Unit**

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

**Madera-Mariposa-Merced Unit**

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

**San Bernardino Unit**

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

**Tulare Unit**

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

**Riverside Unit**

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

**San Diego Unit**

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

**Tuolumne-Calaveras Unit**

785 Mountain Ranch Road  
San Andreas, CA 95249  
(209) 754-3831

**NOTE:**

A special thank you to Andrew Hunter, former Chabot College Fire Technology student for providing me with this information. Andrew works for the Modesto Fire Department and used to be a Firefighter with CDF. I appreciate your time and assistance!

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## **FIREFIGHTER EMPLOYMENT INFORMATION – January – March Firehire.com Newsletter:**

**O**ver 25 fire departments are currently using [www.firehire.com](http://www.firehire.com) to hire firefighters from – they are now taking applications – what are you waiting for? See below for the latest firehire newsletter with valuable firefighter hiring info!





## FIREHIRE® Inc. Newsletter

JANUARY 15, 2008 *Where Your Fire Service Career Begins!™*

### APPLICATION REVIEW DATES

The next application review date is May 31st, 2008. Please remember that we **MUST** have your application packet and payment postmarked by the posted application review date. If it is not received by the application review date, your application will be carried over to the next application period. Applications are available to download from [www.firehire.com/downloads.htm](http://www.firehire.com/downloads.htm)

### WRITTEN EXAMINATION DATES/TIMES

The written examinations will be held at the Barbara Morse Wackford Community Center. The address is 9014 Bruceville Road in Elk Grove, California. The next written examination is going to be administered on July 14th, 2008, and is weighed at 100%.

### CPAT/FPAT INFORMATION

We will accept a copy of a valid CPAT card/certificate. There will NO charge to submit a copy of a valid CPAT card/certificate. If you turn in a copy of a CPAT card/certificate, it must be filed with FIREHIRE® Inc. on/or before the date of the written. **The CPAT card/certificate must be dated LESS THAN ONE YEAR OLD from the date of the written examination that you are participating in.** The Registry is established semi-annually.

If you do not submit a valid CPAT card or certificate by the required date, you will be scheduled to participate in the FPAT (FIREHIRE® Inc. Physical Ability Test). The fee for participating in the FPAT is \$25.00. This fee will not be required until you pass the written examination and scheduled for the FPAT. **We will only accept money orders, cashiers checks or MasterCard/Visa payments. NO PERSONAL CHECKS will be accepted.**

### FIREHIRE Written Examination Study Guide

The written examination material is taken directly from a new FIREHIRE® Inc. Study Guide is available for purchase. **To score well, it is highly recommended that the candidates purchase the study guide.**

### RECENT FIREHIRE CANDIDATE HIRINGS

As of January 15th, 2008, Mill Valley hired 2 Firefighter/EMTs, Ross Valley hired 1 Firefighter/Paramedic, Palo Alto hired 3 Firefighter/Paramedics, Piedmont hired 1 Firefighter/EMT, Redwood City hired 1 Firefighter/EMT, El Cerrito hired 1 Firefighter/Paramedic. The Newark and San Mateo Fire Departments are currently conducting backgrounds on several candidates. **COULD YOU BE NEXT?**

### Fee Schedule

The fee to participate in the written examination is \$50.00. There is a hardship fee of \$30.00. The EMT-Paramedics are required to participate in an Advanced Life Support Mega-Code Assessment Center, which will be considered Pass/Fail. There is no fee for the candidates in this phase of the examination process.

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## **INFORMATION FOR ALL INSTRUCTORS WHO TEACH CALIFORNIA STATE FIRE TRAINING CERTIFIED CLASSES:**

The following information was taken from the California State Fire Training website – <http://osfm.fire.ca.gov/StateFireTraining.html> and applies to any current or pending instructor who is teaching or wants to teach State Fire Training Certified courses:

The deadline for completion of Ethical Leadership in the Classroom (ELC) was 12/31/2007. If you have not successfully completed the class and submitted your signed Code of Ethics, your instructor status has been placed in suspension and you will not be approved to teach any State Fire Marshal courses – no exceptions.

In order to restore your status as an active instructor, you must complete the course and have a signed Code of Ethics on file with us by **March 31, 2008**. After that date, your privileges as an instructor will be permanently revoked and you will need to submit a new instructor application and be re-evaluated by the PACE II Committee. (Please be aware, your database record will not be updated immediately upon completion of the course. There is a short processing delay. We cannot respond to telephone inquiries regarding your status due to limited staffing; however, you may submit course requests once you've completed the ELC and we will check your status if you write the date you attended ELC and your instructor at the top of the course request form.)

Please see the [Class Schedule](#) to locate upcoming classes. All classes currently approved will be listed there.

We recognize that classes may be full due to the deadline; however, this will not be considered in requests for exceptions, as the requirement was made public over a year ago. We made a concerted effort to make classes available statewide by funding 20 classes last year and an additional 14 this year through a grant.

Thank you in advance for your cooperation and for your participation in State Fire Training.

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## **FIREFIGHTER EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES:**

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

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

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

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

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

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## **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: Theresa Maria Lynn  
Rank: Assistant Captain  
Age: 38  
Gender: Female  
Status: Volunteer  
Years of Service: 6 months  
Date of Incident: 12/21/2007  
Time of Incident: 0900hrs  
Date of Death: 12/21/2007

Fire Department: Luminary-Frostbite Volunteer Fire Department, Inc.  
Address: 13002 Summer City Road, [Spring City, TN](#) 37381  
F.D. Chief: Jim Sprouse

Incident Description: At approximately 0900, Assistant Captain Lynn responded in her POV to a reported MVA with rollover. While responding in rain and fog conditions, she lost control of

her POV in an 'S-turn'. Her vehicle ran off the roadway and struck a tree. She succumbed to her injuries at the scene.

Funeral Arrangements: 12/24/2007

Memorial Fund Contact and Address: In honor of Assistant Captain Theresa Maria Lynn, C/o Luminary-Frostbite Volunteer Fire Department, Inc., 13002 Summer City Road, [Spring City, TN](#) 37381

Tribute is being paid to Assistant Captain Theresa Maria Lynn at <http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/fireservice/fatalities/>

To date, 113 firefighter fatalities have been reported to USFA in 2007 as a result of incidents that occurred in 2007.

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](http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/fireservice/fatalities/statistics/ff_stats.shtm)).

Firefighter fatalities in USFA reports are summarized by date/year-of-incident. Initial notices posted online (<http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/fireservice/fatalities/>) and distributed via USFA listserv do not represent the final "on-duty" firefighter fatality determination by USFA for such reports, nor Line-of-Duty-Death (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: Walter Fagan  
Rank: Firefighter  
Age: 48  
Gender: Male  
Status: Volunteer  
Years of Service: 7  
Date of Incident: 12/28/2007  
Time of Incident: 2353hrs  
Date of Death: 12/29/2007

Fire Department: East Greenwich Twp Fire/Rescue  
Address: 159 Democrat Road, Mickleton, NJ 08056  
Fire Department Chief: Nelson W. Wiest  
Fire Department Website: <http://www.egtfr.org/>

Incident Description: Firefighter Fagan was responding on FD apparatus to a reported dwelling fire. He went into cardiac arrest, was transported to a local hospital by EMS and pronounced shortly after arrival.

Funeral Arrangements: The services will be held at the McBride-Foley Funeral Home, 228 W. Broad St., Paulsboro, NJ 08066. Viewings will be held Thursday evening from 6-9 PM and Friday from 9-10:30 AM. The funeral service will begin at 10:30 AM. Burial will be in Eglington Cemetery, 320 Kings Hwy, Clarksboro, NJ 08020.

Memorial Fund Contact and Address: Memorial donations may be sent to the American Diabetes Association, Box 11454, Alexandria, Va. 22312.

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

To date, 114 firefighter fatalities have been reported to USFA in 2007 as a result of incidents that occurred in 2007.

**AND:**

Name: Paul Lewis Ellington  
Rank: Firefighter  
Age: 36  
Gender: Male  
Status: Volunteer  
Years of Service: 17  
Date of Incident: 01/01/2008  
Time of Incident: 0730hrs  
Date of Death: 01/01/2008

Fire Department: Oregon Hill Volunteer Fire Department  
Address: [858 Mount Carmel Church Road, Reidsville, NC 27320](#)  
F.D. Chief: Dewayne Strader

Incident Description: Vehicle accident while operating POV in response to a residential structure fire.

Funeral Arrangements: Visitation 01/03/2008, 1800-2100hrs at Wilkerson Funeral Home, [1909 Richardson Drive, Reidsville, NC](#). Funeral 01/04/2008 @ 1500hrs at Mount Carmel United Methodist Church, [361 Mount Carmel Church Road, Reidsville, NC](#).

Memorial Fund Contact and Address: In honor of Firefighter Paul Lewis Ellington, C/o Oregon Hill Volunteer Fire Department, [858 Mount Carmel Church Road, Reidsville, NC 27320](#).

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

To date, one firefighter fatality has been reported to USFA in 2008 as a result of incidents that occurred in 2008.

**AND:**

Name: Donald G. Paterson  
Rank: Firefighter  
Age: 65  
Gender: Male  
Status: Volunteer  
Years of Service: 35  
Date of Incident: 01/01/2008  
Time of Incident: 0616hrs  
Date of Death: 01/01/2008

Fire Department: Kimball Township Fire Dept  
Address: [1970 N Allen RD., Kimball, MI 48074](#)  
F.D. Chief: John Gorski

Incident Description: Firefighter Paterson, in the middle of a serious winter storm, responded to the firehouse for a wires down call where he stayed on standby working station duties. A short time after returning home, Patterson experienced chest pains. He was taken to Port Huron Hospital for treatment but passed away during surgery.

Funeral Arrangements: Visitation will be held from 1800-2000hrs, 01/03/2008, and 1400-1600hrs and 1800-2100hrs on 01/04/2008 at Maryville Funeral Home ([1200 Michigan Ave., Marysville, MI 48040](#); Tele. (810)364-7100). A firefighter memorial service will be conducted at 2000hrs, 01/04/2008. Funeral services will be held at 1100hrs, 01/05/2008. ([Obituary](#))

Memorial Fund Contact and Address: [Memorial donations may be made to the wishes of the family.](#)

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

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

**AND:**

Name: John H. Martinson  
Rank: Lieutenant  
Age: 40  
Gender: Male  
Status: Career  
Years of Service: 14  
Date of Incident: 1/03/2008  
Time of Incident: 1916hrs



Date of Death: 1/03/2008  
Fire Department: Fire Department City of New York  
Address: 9 Metro Tech Center, Brooklyn, New York 11201  
F.D. Chief: Fire Commissioner Nicholas Scoppetta  
F.D. Website: <http://www.nyc.gov/html/fdny/html/home2.shtml>

Incident Description: While battling a 25-story apartment blaze in Brooklyn, Lt. Martinson became trapped and was in cardiac arrest. He was transported to Kings County Hospital where he was pronounced dead.

Funeral Arrangements: Pending

Memorial Fund Contact and Address: Pending

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

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

**AND:**

Name: Jim Robeson  
Rank: Captain  
Age: 50  
Gender: Male  
Status: Career  
Years of Service: 25  
Date of Incident: 01/06/2008  
Time of Incident: 07:20hrs  
Date of Death: 01/06/2008

Fire Department: Scranton Fire Department  
Address: 340 N Washington Ave, Scranton, PA 18503  
F.D. Chief: Superintendent Tom Davis  
F.D. Website: [http://www.scrantonpa.gov/fire\\_department.html](http://www.scrantonpa.gov/fire_department.html)

Incident Description: While operating at the scene of a structural fire, Captain Robeson and another firefighter ascended to a higher elevation in the bucket lift of a ladder truck. When the bucket lift reached a height that put it near power lines, there was an arc of electricity from those lines to the truck, electrocuting Capt. Robeson, the other firefighter in the bucket, and two other firefighters who were near the truck. Captain Robeson was taken to the Community Medical Center but passed away from injuries. The other three firefighters' injuries were not life-threatening.

Funeral Arrangements: Visitation for Captain Robeson will be held Tuesday, Jan 8 from 6 to 9 p.m. and Wednesday, Jan. 9 from 3 to 8 p.m. Thomas J. Hughes Funeral Home Inc., 1240 St. Ann's Street, Scranton, PA. Funeral services will be Thursday, Jan. 10 at 10 a.m. at the

funeral home with Mass of Christian Burial to be celebrated at 10:30 a.m. in St. Patrick's Church, Jackson Street, Scranton, PA.

Memorial Fund Contact and Address: Pending

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

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

**AND:**

Name: Harvey Jordan  
Rank: Firefighter  
Age: 71  
Gender: Male  
Status: Volunteer  
Years of Service: 5  
Date of Incident: 01/07/2008  
Time of Incident: 0836hrs  
Date of Death: 01/07/2008

Fire Department: [Penn Hills #1 Volunteer Fire Department](#)  
Address: [7520 Mount Carmel Rd., Pittsburgh, PA 15235](#)  
Fire Department Chief: Steve Jasper  
Fire Department Website: <http://www.phvfd221.org/>

Incident Description: While responding to the station for an automatic fire alarm on January 7, 2008 he experienced shortness of breath. Fellow firefighters administered CPR and he was transported to UPMC/St. Margaret's Hospital where he passed away.

Funeral Arrangements: A Firefighter Memorial Service will be held on Wednesday, January 9, 2008 at 7:00 pm @ Wesley Center AME Zion Church, [2701 Center Ave., Pittsburgh, PA 15219 \(USNG: 17TNE79307745\)](#). Those wishing to attend the Memorial Service are asked to arrive at the Church no later than 6:20 pm; Pittsburgh PD will assist with parking of Fire Apparatus in that area.

Memorial Fund Contact and Address: The family requests that any monetary donations be made to: [Penn Hills #1 Volunteer Fire Department](#) in Harvey's memory ([7520 Mount Carmel Rd., Pittsburgh, PA 15235](#)).

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

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



**AND:**

Name: Jarrett A. Dixon  
Rank: Fire Apparatus Driver Operator (FADO)  
Age: 36  
Gender: Male  
Status: Career  
Years of Service: 11  
Date of Incident: 01/09/2008  
Time of Incident: Pending  
Date of Death: 01/13/2008

Fire Department: Baltimore County Fire Department  
Address: [700 E Joppa RD., Towson, MD 21286-5500](#)  
Telephone: (410) 887-4500  
Fire Department Chief: John Hohman  
POC Email Address: [fireinfo@co.ba.md.us](mailto:fireinfo@co.ba.md.us)  
Fire Department Website: <http://www.co.ba.md.us/fire>

Incident Description: FADO Dixon was performing physical fitness training while on duty at his station when he experienced chest pain. Dixon was treated and transported to the hospital. He was subsequently taken to a second hospital/heart center for further treatment to include a cardiac catheterization, then cleared for release and allowed to go home. While at home on 01/13, FADO Dixon suffered a seizure, followed by cardiac arrest while being transported by his volunteer company (Liberty Road Vol. FD) EMS to a local hospital where he passed away.

Funeral Arrangements: Pending

Memorial Fund Contact and Address: Pending

Tribute is being paid to Fire Apparatus Driver Operator Jarrett Dixon at <http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/fireservice/fatalities/>

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

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**Some more firefighter safety and training information, courtesy of Deputy Chief Billy Goldfeder and Gordon Graham, hosts of [www.firefighterclosecalls.com](http://www.firefighterclosecalls.com)**

Hey....

Federal agents broke up an Ohio drug distribution ring on Friday, arresting 12 people, including Cincinnati Fire Lt. Michael Ferguson, who was a key part of the illegal drug operation.

"The firefighter played just as significant a role as the others," said a special agent in charge of the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration office in Cincinnati. "He wasn't the leader, but he was in there with all the rest." Federal drug agents broke up the illegal drug distribution ring this week, making the arrests in Greater Cincinnati on Thursday and Friday. The Cincinnati FD has suspended Ferguson without pay.

So in the above case, a Firefighter was involved in providing/selling drugs (off duty) that allow people to abuse it and use it illegally. Mind altering illegal drugs. Drugs, like alcohol - stuff that screws your head up and creates situations for Firefighters to RESPOND to all day long. Think about how many calls you or your crews respond to involving booze and or drugs.

So in contrast, in another situation involving a Firefighter and illegal or abused substances....a 16-year veteran Firefighter of DC Fire & EMS, Lawrence Borders, was a VICTIM as he was KILLED BY A DRUNK DRIVER this afternoon in a car crash in the College Park/Branchville area of Prince George's County, Maryland. 44-year-old Borders was driving a convertible and was struck by a Ford Bronco....the Bronco blew a red light and Borders was ejected from the car....responding Prince George's County Fire/EMS crews found him in traumatic arrest and worked him...but he was pronounced dead at the hospital. The driver of the Bronco is at fault and alcohol was a factor in the crash. Borders was assigned to the DCFD Haz-Mat unit....and he leaves behind a Wife and 3 Children.

So while one FF is arrested (yesterday) for selling illegal substance that so often causes harm....another firefighter is murdered in a crash just a few hours ago because of alcohol abuse-a victim of the stuff that causes harm....a tragic relationship with loads of lessons. Our sincere condolences go out to the members of the DCFD as well as his wife and 3 kids...on the tragic loss, and as far as we are concerned, murder, of FF Lawrence Borders.

Take Care...

BillyG

The Secret List 12-23-07 / 0023 Hours

**AND:**

Hey...

A Firefighter was flown out to a trauma center last night around 2200 hours in Hill County, Texas after several companies responded to a house fire south of the town of Blum. The home was well involved and multiple tankers and other units were dispatched. One incoming unit, an engine company was involved in a roll-over accident on FM 933. Several Firefighters were on board and they were injured in the crash. One Firefighter suffered serious injuries requiring a medical helicopter response to transport him to a trauma center. More details will follow and be posted as we get them.

And...2 Manatee County (FLA) EMT's suffered neck and back injuries after their ambulance overturned driving to an emergency this afternoon. The ambulance overturned after a pickup truck did not get out of the way. They were driving with lights and sirens on to a respiratory medical emergency call and witnesses said the pickup failed to yield to the ambulance. In order to avoid a collision, the ambulance swerved right, hitting soft sand, and tipped over.

IMPORTANT FINAL NOTE: Looking to do something as a LAST MINUTE Christmas Gift? Consider a donation in that persons name here:

<http://firefightercancersupport.org/osb/showitem.cfm?Category=1>

It honors your friend or loved one, it is better than a gift card that they may never use-and most importantly, your donation ABSOLUTELY MATTERS and is money very well spent. Please consider it.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL, SLOW DOWN...and EXPECT THE CLUELESS to not see or hear us when we are responding.

BillyG

The Secret List-Christmas Eve 2007 1858 Hours

**AND**

Hey...

When we think of staffing and Firefighters who gave their lives (especially where staffing was a contributing factor) ...we remember Keokuk, Iowa. Saturday was the anniversary of the Line of Duty Deaths of Keokuk Assistant Fire Chief Dave McNally, 48, Firefighter Jason Biting, 29, and Firefighter Nate Tuck, 39...all of whom were killed while attempting the rescue of three trapped kids-who also perished. These 3 Firefighters left eight kids of their own behind.

The Firefighters died when a flashover occurred while the 3 were doing their interior search. Staffing is a major issue in Keokuk, and that morning, 4 of the 5 on-duty firefighters arrived on scene and upon hearing the mother screaming that her children were trapped inside, they immediately went in after them. When "Mom" screams that her kids are inside...we go in.

Here is an interview with Chief Mark Wessell of the Keokuk FD:

<http://www.firefighternation.com/profiles/blog/show?id=889755%3ABlogPost%3A205169>

provided in the memory of Dave McNally, Jason Biting and Nate Tuck.

**THROWING LADDERS.** The term we use to place ground ladders in position so we can get in, get out and for us to get trapped civilians out. If we train and train and train on doing that and have enough people to do it-it generally works pretty well on the fire scene. A recent video from Massachusetts shows FF's not doing it as well as could have been...with a civilian trapped. Before we saw the video, we wrote a commentary on how important staffing is when responding to a fire. Staffing on your apparatus or as a part of an automatic mutual aid program for the first alarm assignment-which is reality these days-is critical. Very few small and medium size FD's (and even some bigger ones) can meet the staffing goals of NFPA 1710-but it can be done way better by combining resources as a part of an area or regional 1st alarm assignment. What's the goal? As we have stated for years, to have plenty of FF's to (at minimum) establish water, vent, enter, search/rescue and hit the fire when reports have people are inside....and to attempt to do it simultaneously under a boss (and support functions) in command and in control.

But when we saw that video of the FF's attempting to raise the large ground ladder-we started to think about FD's who ask for more staffing-but then perhaps aren't training the staffing they have to the max. In other words, it could be said by those who oppose more

staffing "why do you need more when you aren't training the ones you have to do the job as best as possible when needed" ?

Any FD fighting for more staffing would have trouble arguing the point. By asking the question: What are we doing to train and safely use the current personnel we have...can go a long way in being a key ingredient in justifying more personnel. If aggressive training is happening and companies are operating as "as effectively and as safely as possible" on the fireground with what we have to work with, we can then show "those who decide" how much more good we can do if we were provided more staffing...or given more companies on the 1st alarm assignment. No matter what the staffing-a regularly trained FF is always going to be a better bet than one who has not been training.

FDNY has the best staffing and the best written and trained upon operating procedures we have seen. Of course, like anywhere, it doesn't always work perfectly, but for the most part, they have a good system of operating that a probie is taught from the start. If you are on a truck company and you are assigned to "this" task-that's how you will do that task. If you are on an engine, and are assigned a task-that's how they expect that task to be done. From the Chief to the probie-they all speak the same "operating" language so there is a level of expectation and consistency with time proven outcomes. Companies and the officers of those companies know what is expected and what to do. Chiefs overseeing them expect tasks to be performed automatically-because the members have been trained that way from the start...and the staffing matches the required functions.

There are always going to be some that don't like one FD or another-usually for some pretty dumb reasons like "their trucks are green" or "their Deputy Chief's mustache needs trimming" ...you know what I mean. Of course, there are some who have never even been to NY but don't like how FDNY operates. But like them or not, it is hard to argue that FDNY "gets it" when it comes to staffing and they "get it" when it comes to the functions of a fire company. Take a few seconds and watch this video sent to me by a friend this morning that shows the urgency as well as the efficiency required when people are trapped in a fire and ground ladders are used to make the rescue. Throwing ladders is a basic task taught in probie school-but if we haven't drilled on it or don't have enough companies on the 1st alarm to throw the ladders (no matter what color trucks they arrive in or what town they come from)...the outcome is predictable. Here is the video:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ugot3sLPTKU>

Take Care,  
BillyG  
The Secret List 12-27-07/1145 hours

**AND**

Hey...

"Respond for the smell of gas"...or a "respond to the gas leak"...that's a transmission all of us have heard many, many times on the speaker as our companies are dispatched to "check it out"....

Well, the next time you are dispatched for that, remember the North Division Street Explosion in Buffalo N.Y. on December 27, 1983 where 5 Buffalo Firefighters were killed just as they arrived at a building to investigate the report of a 500 gal LP Gas tank leaking.

BFD members Mike Austin, Mickey Catanzaro, Red Lickfeld, Tony Waszkielewicz, and Matty Colpoys were killed instantly. The three engines, two trucks, rescue and 3rd Battalion were responding to a report of the large propane tank leaking in the building. Engine 32 arrived and reported nothing showing, but they were talking to some workmen from the four-story, heavy-timber warehouse (approx. 50' x 100'). Truck 5, Engine 1 and BC Harvey Supple (who was critically injured) arrived right behind E-32.

Thirty-seven seconds after the chief arrived, there was a massive explosion. It completely leveled the 4 story building and it demolished many buildings on 4 different blocks. It seriously damaged buildings that were over a half a mile away. The ensuing fireball started buildings burning on a number of streets. A large gothic church on the next block had a huge section ripped out of it. For 2 excellent articles on this tragic fire by then new firefighter-and now, BFD Fire Commissioner Mike Lombardo, check out:

<http://cms.firehouse.com/content/article/article.jsp?id=2596&sectionId=6>  
<http://cms.firehouse.com/content/article/article.jsp?id=2596&sectionId=6>

Take Care-BE CAREFUL,  
BillyG  
The Secret List 12-27-07 / 1410 Hours

**AND**

It is with deep regret that we advise you that a Firefighter with East Greenwich Township (N.J.) died in the Line of Duty this morning while responding to a fire call. Companies were dispatched to a reported dwelling fire where a neighbor was seeing flames in the window. Police arrived on location and advised that it was just a salamander (a unit used for heating a house under construction) in the residence-and was a good intent call. While en-route, the Engine Company pulled over, calling Gloucester County Fire Radio requesting a medic and BLS, to their current location for an unresponsive Firefighter. With a BLS unit on the way to the fire call, they were with the FF in less than a minute and, along with the FF's, began early defib and CPR. EMS transported the Firefighter, reported to be in his 40's, to the hospital where he never recovered and passed away. Check out [www.PhillyFireNews.com](http://www.PhillyFireNews.com) for updates as well as on our home page.

As always our deepest sympathies to all affected.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL,  
BillyG  
The Secret List 12-29-07 / 0815 hours

**AND**

Hey...  
The Fire Apparatus Driver of the Baltimore City apparatus and the Fire Officer supervising that driver and crew on the rig at the time of the fatal crash earlier this month, were both

suspended without pay on Friday. In that crash, 3 civilians were killed. The Fire Apparatus Driver, FF Nathaniel D. Moore, and the Company Officer, Lt. Thomas Moore (no relation), were suspended pending a hearing on administrative charges that will be held soon. Baltimore City Truck 27 was 3rd of 4 fire vehicles responding on Dec. 9 to a report of a fire. The truck company collided with the SUV as the apparatus came through the intersection against the red traffic signal. In Baltimore City, all emergency vehicles responding are required to stop at traffic signals and make sure it is clear before proceeding though.

This is a tough and horrific situation for all affected. Clearly these FF's didn't do this intentionally...but on the other hand, 3 civilians tragically lost their lives.

**Drivers-STOP at red lights and stop signs when responding without exception...Officers-supervise your drivers and enforce the policies without exception.**

Odd's are that if anyone involved in this nightmare could turn back time, it would be handled differently. This is the last thing any of us ever want to experience.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 12-30-07 / 0015 Hours

**AND:**

An Air Evac helicopter searching for a lost hunter crashed around 0300 today in a wooded area in Colbert County, Alabama with no survivors. Air Evac is an air ambulance service, which also assists in search and rescue details. A man involved in the search said the Air Evac crew had spotted the man just before 0300 and were holding a spotlight on him to show ground searchers where to find him. Suddenly, the helicopter crashed, causing a huge explosion. Lost in the crash were:

Pilot - Michael Baker

Nurse - Tiffany Miles

Paramedic- Allan Bragwell

The Underwood-Petersville VFD and the Lauderdale County Association of Volunteer Fire Departments are advising that in addition to working on the Air Evac flight team, Allan Bragwell was acting director of the Helen Keller Ambulance Service, and a Firefighter with the UPVFD.

As always, our most sincere condolences to all affected-especially the families of those killed in the crash.

Take Care,

BillyG

The Secret List 12-30-07 / 1138 hours

**AND:**

Hey...

While we cannot confirm if this is an LODD or not, we are friends with the folks involved and knew the victim, so we wanted to pass this on. Early this morning there was a crash involving a tractor trailer and a Jeep Cherokee on the U.S. 15 bridge over the Potomac River in Frederick County (MD) which is on the border of Loudoun County, VA. Loudoun County Fire Lieutenant Alex Keepers, 31, the driver of the Jeep, was killed in that crash. Lt. Keepers was traveling south on U.S. 15 heading to his fire station when cops say he lost control of his vehicle on the icy bridge. He then slid into the northbound lane and was struck by the semi near the Maryland and Virginia border.

Lt. Keepers, a Frederick resident and Volunteer Firefighter with the Independent Hose Company in Frederick, Maryland, was on his way to work as a Career Fire Lieutenant with Loudoun County. He is survived by his parents, two brothers and two sisters.

As always, our sincere sympathies go out to the family of Lt. Keepers as well as the members of Independent Hose Company, Loudoun County Fire Rescue and LCFR IAFF Local 3756.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 12-31-07 / 1716 hours

**AND:**

Hey...

Well-here we go again, another new year. 2008, wow...at least to me, it's amazing how time flies by...way too fast. Kinda like that song. Have you ever heard the song called "Don't Blink" by Kenny Chesney? If not, here it is, enjoy it with our compliments:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=p4ySSg4QG8g>

LISTEN to that song....it will help you understand what I mean about, Don't Blink.

Anyway-back to this e-mail.

**A LITTLE HISTORY:**

Time has flown by since the 1st issue of The Secret List-which will be 10 years old in 2008. It was started as a very informal e-mailing by me amongst some close friends back in 1998 following a tradition of similar "snail mail" packages a number of us used to get from Jack McElfish-who is now the Fire Chief of Sandy Spring, GA. Jack used to send us fire service "stuff" he thought we would be interested in-and shared it. Sometimes it was vital info, news clippings and articles-that arrived by mail. Other times it was **real** important stuff like pencil shavings, a cup, an old IAFC campaign button, a photocopied article from 20 years prior or perhaps a sample Christmas card where Jack crossed out the word "sample" and wrote in his name. It all depended on what was on his desk-we got it. And that's kinda how The Secret List e-mail got started.

I got a computer and really just started searching for fire and rescue information that I thought my friends would be interested in-sent it out-and the list grew. And it grew...and it grew, out of an old tradition to a new one, started by Jack. Passing on what we hope is valuable information from Firefighter to Firefighter.



Now, 10 years later (don't blink) our subscribers far exceed and go well into 6 digits and people sign up everyday...and we couldn't be more thankful or glad that the interest by Firefighters is there. The more we share-the better the job gets for all of us.

The offers to "buy" it are there-but it's not for sale. The consistent interest in advertising is there-but we don't want that. We just want to keep it between us...and that's what we will do.

A few years after we started The Secret List, Gordon Graham (click the "visit our site sponsor" link on our home page if you don't know Gordon) approached and asked why we didn't have a web site? He was a long time subscriber to TSL and he wanted to help further assist us in not getting hurt or worse. He said if we did it-he would fund it. Well, anytime we have a chance to take \$\$ from a cop, we jump on THAT opportunity and not long after, [www.FireFighterCloseCalls.com](http://www.FireFighterCloseCalls.com) was born. Whoa...don't blink. And to this day, we have never accepted any advertising on the website. The site is 100% privately funded so we can say and do pretty much what we feel is the right thing. Like TSL, we are blown away by the numbers of people that go to FFCC...from all over the world-everyday. Those who know the value of the internet tell us our numbers are phenomenal. When others tell us the value of TSL and FFCC from a fiscal standpoint, we just shake our heads in amazement. But, it isn't for sale. With so much changing in the world, we want FireFighterCloseCalls.com, EMSCloseCalls.com and The Secret List to be consistent; a "something" you can count on, without a lot of change and without spending a nickel. And we will continue to do what we do in pretty much the same manner...and pass it all on to you as time goes by, so we can learn and do this job just a bit smarter...so don't blink.

A sincere thanks for your support and for the information that is passed on to us to be shared. And thanks to GG for allowing this to be the way it is.

HAPPY NEW YEAR

So as expected, the e-mail boxes around here have been filling up with "well, the LODD's are no better-the numbers are even up higher!!"..."all this \$\$ is being spent on Firefighter safety, but it's no better!!"..."it's horrible-we keep getting killed-and nothing is changing!!"..."what can we do-what will we do" !?!

Settle down.

I am not a scientific person and I don't know alotta big words...so I am going to follow that tradition and tell you that IT IS getting better. The job is safer and Firefighters are ABSOLUTELY operating smarter and safer these days compared to 5, 10 and many more years ago. We are doing more in the firehouses these days to work on curbing the numbers than ever before. The below list shows what we are doing more of-but also what we have to keep doing more of. And no letting up now.

When we talk about 100+ Firefighters killed in the line of duty, as the man in our business who is scientific and knows a lot of big words, Bobby Halton from Fire Engineering, says: We have to look at the numbers...and use the numbers to solve the problems. Pass the Advil.



But when we do look at the numbers, as horrific as 100 lost Firefighters a year is, remember that we are trying to reduce that number out of about ONE MILLION of us...so it isn't going to happen very quickly-because the LODD's are "the last number" followed by the injured, the close calls and near misses...within one million of us. We are trying to fix 100 out of one million. Do the math.

So, in order to get the message of what oughta change through to the Chiefs, Officers and Firefighters-all of us, it is simply going to take more time and effort. Time to train and educate us. Time to re-train and re-educate us more. Time to continue to establish the stuff needed to minimize the problem. And time to re-culturize. It is also going to take some retirements, terminations and suspensions. And in some places, if that's what it takes, arrivederci. Some people in our business have no business being in, operating within-and especially leading our business if they are that careless with how we are taken care of. As we know, while all Firefighters lead heroic lives, sadly, the majority of our Line of Duty Deaths are sadly not due to heroic circumstances.

Should we die? Sometimes. Sometimes Firefighters do die-and the loss, while tragic, is justifiable and heroic. When a Firefighter is doing what they are trained to do and while attempting a search, a rescue or other genuine life-saving tasks, and tragically lose their life: sometimes it is justifiable and heroic. We are in a risky business and sometimes we have to give up our life in order to save another, as done by Kevin Apuzzio from N.J. and Howie Carpluk from N.Y. last year. It's the un-justified and often predictable and avoidable LODD's that are causing the problem, not the heroic ones.

So, at the risk of over-simplifying the issue, we think that:

- If we recruit, hire and promote the best possible people with strict and tough hiring standards and very tough and certifiable training...
- If we operate and train to proven standards and modern firefighting practices...
- If we wear all our PPE without excuse...head to toe with no exposed skin and no longer breathe crap...
- If we send the correct amount of Firefighters on the 1st alarm (based on pre-plans and what's reported)..
- If we promote Fire Officers that are highly motivated, gung-ho, educated as well as highly trained, skilled and understand that they must enforce the SOP's as supervisors...
- If we train on and understand building construction and fire behavior...
- If we use ICS with strict and respected command, control and accountability on the FG...
- If we drive smart, always wear seat belts and never blow red traffic lights or stop signs w/o stopping first...
- If we pull the right size hose lines w/the needed water and control the fire as quick as possible...
- If we understand when it is worth risking our Firefighters lives and when it is not...(risk vs benefit)...
- If we develop strict fire safe building codes and mandatory fire sprinkler systems...

- and if we especially understand the issues related to firefighter health, diet, wellness and fitness.....we can probably reduce firefighter line of duty deaths by 75% or so....
- if we want to and when we are ready to change our culture and related behaviors. And although all the national programs are excellent tools-until the Chief in the Department, the Officer in the front seat and the Firefighters riding backwards want this to change at THEIR FD, on their apparatus and on their FG, not much else will matter-or change. Don't blink.

#### THE NEXT MAJOR CHALLENGE:

Much of the above stuff involves the exciting things we do. Turning out, responding to and operating at fire and emergency calls-things like that. The things that are the real reasons you joined the FD. The next major challenge is not exciting by any means although you do think about it, you do know about it, odds are it has affected you directly or someone you know...and you HATE to talk about it. Cancer.

Firefighters getting cancer.

Our future and related "Firefighters and cancer" numbers (they directly affect you, me and us)...are scary. Don't skip this part. Just read it. You won't get cancer by reading about it or talking about it although we seem to act like we could.

#### HOW MANY FIREFIGHTERS HAVE OR HAVE HAD CANCER?

During 2008, we are going to be dedicating additional efforts to assist organizations such as FCSN: [www.FireFighterCancerSupport.org](http://www.FireFighterCancerSupport.org) , IAFC: [www.IAFCSafety.org](http://www.IAFCSafety.org) , IAFF: [www.IAFF.org/hs/index.htm](http://www.IAFF.org/hs/index.htm) and others in educating as many Firefighters and their families as possible about the prevention as well as the treatment of Firefighters with cancer. Cancer CLEARLY is and will continue growing to be a major concern to Firefighters and our ability to survive.

According to FCSN, the American Cancer Society is predicting one half million deaths annually to cancer, alone. We will have the numbers related to Firefighters with cancer and Firefighters who have lost their lives to cancer available to you soon, but just to get an idea, do you know a FF who had or has cancer? See what I mean. Odds are you do. As Firefighters, we are at a much higher risk of many cancers including testicular cancer, brain cancer, multiple myeloma, non-Hodgkin's lymphoma, prostate and lung.

Nasty stuff. Don't blink.

Sometimes you may have to deal with cancer if there are genetic ties. But many times, again, as Firefighters: we don't have to have cancer. Between not breathing the crap, ignoring firehouse apparatus and vehicle exhaust system hookups (if you have them--use them--use them all the time), wear all your PPE (soot absorption on our skin and thru our ears is a major issue) and physicals with specific cancer screenings...we can do a few things to avoid getting cancer.

We are going to work with all the above organizations as well as Fire Engineering, Firehouse, Fire-Rescue, Fire Chief Magazines and their .coms along with all the others to feed information to whoever will listen on how Firefighters can avoid cancer-and if diagnosed for whatever reason, attack it. Much more to follow.

SO, DON'T BLINK...or be around to BLINK as long as possible?

If the above video was of any value to you, it's cause you can probably relate. And the relation is the feelings we have for life with our family and friends. And if you are reading this, you probably LOVE being a Firefighter. So while the LODD issues and how to avoid them should be clear, one more reason to avoid doing some of the dumb things we do to get hurt or killed...is in your wallet. Take a look at the pictures of those in your wallet, on your desk or wherever. Now think about those who died heroically in 2007 and those that did not have to die...and who was in their wallets. They blinked, and that chapter was over, way too quickly.

Listen pal, just to make the simple stuff we write even simpler for you: The goal is to keep being a Firefighter as long as possible and to enjoy the time we have with those we care about, as long as possible. Actually, it's to be around so we CAN blink and blink and blink...for as long as possible.

That's some of our thoughts as we leave 2007 and jump into 2008. On behalf of Gordon, Brian, Forest and Chris as well as Tom, Dan and Craig from FireCompanies.com (our webmasters) along with all of our families and I, we wish you the happiest, healthiest and "WTF-free" year ever...with loads of blinks ahead.

Take Care,  
BillyG  
The Secret List 12-31-07 / 2210 Hours

**AND:**

It is with deep regret that we advise you that a Firefighter with the Oregon Hill Volunteer Fire Department was killed in a rollover crash early this morning while responding to a run. Oregon Hill VFD is located in Rockingham County, North Carolina. We will have more details posted later but initial reports are that he was in his POV and was ejected.

ALSO-While not a Firefighter-this could absolutely happen to any of us. A Maryland Transportation Authority Police Officer is dead following a hit & run this morning in Baltimore. Corporal Courtney Brooks was struck while setting out flares to control traffic on Interstate 95 near the Interstate 395 interchange. Cpl. Brooks was taken to Baltimore Shock Trauma, where he was pronounced dead on arrival. For more information with specific details and guidelines on the dangers of operating on roads, go to: [www.ResponderSafety.com](http://www.ResponderSafety.com)  
Our deepest sympathies to all those affected by these losses.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.  
BillyG  
The Secret List 1-1-08 / 1005 Hours

**AND:**

January 21, 2008

Chabot College Fire & EMS News

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Hey...

Updating the earlier N.C. LODD information, Oregon Hill Volunteer FF Paul Lewis Ellington, 36, was killed around 0730 this morning while responding to a working dwelling fire. FF Ellington lost control of his pickup truck, it overturned and it went down an embankment...he was pronounced DOA. FF Ellington was reported by investigators as to have not been wearing a seat belt and was exceeding the speed limit.

TEXAS FD Involved Fatality:

In a very tragic accident, Firefighters in San Antonio (Texas) responding to a fire call Monday evening accidentally struck and killed a woman in a wheelchair. The woman was struck as the apparatus was leaving a bank parking lot. The crew from SAFD Station No. 44 was responding to a brush fire when they thought they hit something, but reportedly didn't see anything until they noticed sparks coming from underneath their fire apparatus. When they stopped to check their rig, Firefighters found an empty wheelchair under the vehicle...and when the crew returned to the scene, they found the victim lying decapitated in the street.

ANOTHER FIREFIGHTER: ON DUTY DUI & DRUG POSSESSION:

A West Wilmerding (PA) Volunteer Firefighter drove fire apparatus to an early morning fire call on Sunday and was then arrested on charges of drug possession and driving under the influence.

According to the North Versailles PD, FF Shawn Dixon, 27, was arrested at the scene of the fire in North Versailles after cops said they smelled alcohol on his breath and he failed a field sobriety test. According to police, cocaine was also found on Dixon. Wonderful.

ESCAPE DEVICE SAVE FIREFIGHTERS LIFE:

An FDNY Firefighter's life was saved yesterday by equipment used for the 1st time since the city issued it to prevent another "Black Sunday" tragic event. FF Raymond Pollard, 51, was trapped on the top floor of a 4 story building in Brooklyn at a fast moving 3rd alarm fire. FF Pollard, a 24-year member, hooked his new rope "Personal Safety System" to a window and climbed out. He was rescued moments later...and the building's roof eventually collapsed.

"Without the new equipment, within seconds, he would have been killed up there," said Chief Stephen Raynis of the FDNY Safety Battalion. The new equipment was introduced to prevent a repeat of the January 23, 2005 tragedy, when several FDNY Firefighters were forced to jump from a working MFD fire. FDNY Rescue 3 Firefighters Jeff Cool and Joe DiBernardo and Ladder 27 Firefighters Brendan Cawley and Eugene Stalowski survived when they jumped...but Lt. Curtis Meyran and Firefighter John Bellew were tragically killed in the Line of Duty. The surviving Firefighters (who were very seriously injured) have worked hard to raise the critical issue of FF's being issued the correct equipment...just in case history repeats itself.

As predicted, history DID repeat itself and a FF is alive today because of their efforts and the support by those in charge.

Here is a link to an INTERVIEW we did with FDNY FF Jeff Cool-who survived in The Bronx on BLACK SUNDAY: <http://dynamic.firehouse.com/broadcast/2006/11/14/firefighter-escape-part-i/>

Additionally on that Sunday, a Brooklyn firefighter, Richard Sclafani, 37, was also killed in the Line of Duty after being injured at a 2 alarm fire in the East New York section of Brooklyn.

Take care-BE CAREFUL,  
BillyG  
The Secret List 1-1-08 / 1454 hours

**AND:**

It is with deep regret that we advise you that a 66 year old Kimball Township (MI) Volunteer Firefighter died in the Line of Duty from a heart attack yesterday. 36 year veteran Firefighter Donald Patterson, responded to the firehouse after his FD was dispatched for wires down. A short time after returning home, he experienced chest pains, he was taken to a hospital for treatment and passed away during surgery.

Visitation will be held from 6-8 p.m. Thursday, and 2-4 and 6-9 on Friday at Maryville Funeral Home. A firefighter memorial service will be conducted at 8 p.m. Friday. Funeral services will be held at 11 a.m. Saturday.

And in just the last 24 hours, there have been several very serious apparatus related crashes:

NEW JERSEY: Apparatus vs apparatus responding with FF's trapped.  
MARYLAND: Overturned rescue truck responding with 1 FF choppered out  
VIRGINIA: Apparatus responding crash with several FF's transported  
ALABAMA: A FF fell from apparatus is in critical condition....and in...  
IDAHO....additionally, a Firefighter in Boise was a near drowning victim during a training detail.

....we have posted information and photos of these events on our News/Updates section on the home page. The good news is that ALL Firefighters are expected to survive.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL. SLOW DOWN, BELT IN, ICE IS SLIPPERY.  
BillyG  
The Secret List 1-2-08 2110 Hours

**AND:**

Hey...

At least 2 Firefighters have been killed in the Line of Duty at a major fire in a shopping and office tower block in northwestern China. One other Firefighter is missing in the fire that burned for more than 15 hours in the city of Urumqi. The 2 Firefighters died while searching for people trapped. The 12-story Dehui International Plaza normally houses thousands of people in its shopping center and the upper office floors. We have posted more along with photos on our home page. As always, our condolences in the loss of these Firefighters.

UPDATE: FF's DUI: PA: In light of charges that a North Versailles FF drove fire apparatus while drunk, the Police Chief said he will ask Commissioners to review training procedures

and background checks. "They should not be coming to fires if they're intoxicated," The Police Chief said yesterday: "You know what kills me? Why are we having this conversation?" We have posted the entire story-of which there is much more of, also on our home page, under News/Updates including that the FF driving the rig was a probie, not a qualified driver and the Fire Chiefs comments related to FD DUI's....past and present.

**ENGINE COMPANY ROLLS OVER:** This morning in Florida, E-51 with the Jacksonville (FL) Fire and Rescue Department overturned on the way to a fire call. A rookie firefighter is in critical condition after the crash. 3 Firefighters were treated for minor injuries. The one Firefighter, who just graduated from the academy a few weeks ago, was trapped and had to be extricated and was flown to Shands Trauma.

**RESCUE COMPANY ROLLS OVER:** And in Maryland, a rescue truck from the Waldorf VFD in Charles County overturned while responding to a call this morning. 1 Firefighter was flown out and 3 others were transported by ground EMS.

Pictures are here: <http://www.nbc4.com/slideshow/news/14969908/detail.html>

**IMPORTANT VIDEO:** In an excellent program, in the spirit of Never Forgetting...here are 2 videos (Part 1 and 2) about how FDNY Engine 6 was chosen for a 9/11 exhibit.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8HaUSMDirdk>

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

We will post updates on the above CLOSE CALLS on our home page.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 1-3-07 / 1229 hours

**AND:**

It is with deep regret that we advise you that a Lieutenant from Engine Company 249 in Brooklyn was killed in the Line of Duty this evening. Initial reports are that companies were operating at a hi-rise fire and had wind driven fire and heavy smoke conditions. Other Firefighters have been injured and we will provide additional details as they become available. Our condolences to all affected.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 1-3-08 / 2245 hours

**AND:**

Here is an update on FDNY Fire Lieutenant John Martinson, of Engine Company 249 of Brooklyn, who died in the Line of Duty last evening after operating on the 14th floor of the 25-story working apartment building fire.

Lt. Martinson spent most of his career with Engine Company 80 in Harlem before being transferred to Engine 249 in Flatbush, where he spent the past year. A Staten Island resident, Lt. Martinson tragically leaves behind a wife, Jessica, and a baby son, John Patrick, age 22 months, and his wife is pregnant with their second child. 4 other firefighters were hospitalized,

two with smoke inhalation and two with burns during the fire at the Ebbets Field apartments. They were expected to be released from the hospital by Saturday.

The 2nd alarm fire trapped residents on upper floors, filled hallways with heavy smoke and heat conditions and was reported to be wind driven. The residents of the apartment where the fire started had exited their apartment, but had left the door open, potentially contributing to the spread and conditions.

100+ FDNY Firefighters responded to the building fire, which has 400 apartments. The call came in about 1916 hours and was brought under control around 2030 hours.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 1-4-08 / 0055 Hours

**AND:**

Arrangements for Lieutenant John H. Martinson of Engine Company 249 in Brooklyn who died in the line of duty at Brooklyn Box 2-2-10-77-3762 on January 3, 2008 are as follows:

Funeral Arrangements:

Tuesday, January 8, 2008 from Casey McCallum Rice Funeral Home:  
30 Nelson Avenue, Staten Island, NY

Followed by a Mass at 1100 hours at St. Clare's RC Church: 110 Nelson Avenue, Staten Island, NY

Viewing Hours:

Sunday, January 6, 2008: 1400 to 1700 Hours and 1900 to 2100 Hours

Monday, January 7, 2008: 1400 to 1700 Hours and 1900 to 2100 Hours

For further information: <http://ufalocal94.org/5555/index.php>

Take Care,

BillyG

The Secret List 1-5-08 / 0123 Hours

**AND:**

It is with deep regret that we advise you that a Fire Captain with the City of Scranton (PA) FD was killed in the Line of Duty this morning during a working house fire, in Scranton. 3 other Firefighters are also in the Hospital with injuries after the Job, but are non-life threatening. SFD Fire Captain Jim Robson was killed fighting the fire while in the bucket of a truck company when the bucket came in contact with power lines. An elderly couple died in the fire. Additional details will follow, As always, our deepest sympathies.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 1-6-08 / 1140 hours



**AND:**

PA. LODD-CARDIAC ARREST AT FIRE STATION: It is with deep regret that we advise you that this morning, a Firefighter from the Penn Hills VFD Lincoln Park in Allegheny County PA suffered a cardiac arrest at the fire station upon returning from an automatic fire alarm call. He was transported to the hospital where he passed away. Our sincere condolences to all affected.

PA. LODD UPDATE: SCRANTON FIRE CAPTAIN ROBESON (From PA Fire Commissioners Office)

INCIDENT DETAILS: While fighting the fire, SFD Captain Robeson and Firefighter Jennifer Hawker ascended to a higher elevation in the bucket of a ladder truck. When the bucket reached a height that put it near power lines, electricity jumped from those lines to the truck, electrocuting Capt. Robeson, shocking Firefighter Hawker and 2 others who had been near the truck, FF's Richard Czyzyk and Thomas Owens.

Captain Robeson was employed by the Scranton Fire Department and also by Master Water Conditioner, Pottstown. He was a member of the International Association of Fire Fighters. He enjoyed bowling, golf, hunting, skiing, boating and photography. He was an avid New Orleans Saints football fan.

James and Linda were very proud to watch their son compete in many sporting events. James was respected and loved by Linda, who was proud to be his wife. He will always be missed by his wife, son, parents, brothers, sister and extended family and friends. Known as "The Jimmer" to his nieces, nephews and friends, he was a kind, compassionate and gentle soul.

Also surviving are a son, Ryan J., at home; two brothers, David Robeson, Scranton; and Paul Robeson, Lake Ariel; a sister, Tami Holman, Taylor, nieces, nephews and cousins.

The funeral will be Thursday at 10 a.m. from the Thomas J. Hughes Funeral Home Inc., 1240 St. Ann's St., with Mass of Christian Burial to be celebrated at 10:30 in St. Patrick's Church, Jackson Street. Interment, Cathedral Cemetery. Friends attending the funeral are asked to go directly to the church.

Friends may call Tuesday, 6 to 9 p.m., and Wednesday, 3 to 8 p.m.

Take Care,  
BillyG

The Secret List 1-7-07 / 1353 Hours

**AND:**

Hey...

The following is information from an AP article where they are stating that the Scranton FD and an electrical utility apparently had a breakdown in communication prior to the death of a veteran Fire Captain, who was electrocuted yesterday while at a house fire that killed two elderly residents. We have also posted some related photos of the aerial device at the scene on our home page at News/Updates.

Scranton Fire Capt. James Robeson, a 25-year veteran, was in the bucket lift of a fire truck, trying to prevent flames from spreading to neighboring houses, when he came into contact with an arc from a power line and suffered a fatal shock. Three other firefighters suffered electrical burns and were hospitalized. "This is just a tragic, tragic (case of) what appears to be miscommunication," Deputy Fire Chief Terry Osborne said Monday.

He said the fire department planned to meet soon with the Allentown-based utility, PPL Corp. "That doesn't bring back Jimmy Robeson, but we want to assure this never happens again," he said. Osborne declined to say more about the circumstances surrounding Robeson's death, or explain departmental procedures for dealing with electrical lines, citing the ongoing investigation. PPL spokesman Rich Beasley said Monday that the lineman who had been dispatched to the blaze met with firefighters on the scene and "it was agreed that he'd cut electrical service to a structure on Ash Street where the fire was occurring. He cut the service to the house, and reported back to fire department officials that he had done so."

Beasley declined to say whether the fire department also asked PPL to cut power to the overhead lines running down the street, not just to the wire connecting the house. State Police Trooper Bill Satkowski said the cause of the fire itself officially remains undetermined. State police are expected to announce the results of their investigation on Tuesday. The fire, which broke out shortly after 7 a.m., killed residents Richard Fenstermacher, 82, and Maria Fenstermacher, 87.

Despite the hazard posed by live wires, firefighter electrocutions are rare. Between 1997 and 2006, 13 firefighters in 10 separate incidents nationwide were killed by electric shock, according to the National Fire Protection Association. Some of those cases involved downed wires.

Carl Peterson, director of the association's Public Fire Protection Division, said it's standard operating procedure to have the electricity shut off to an engulfed structure, and to cut power to any overhead transmission lines that might be in the way of fighting the blaze. "If the layout of the building and power lines are such that you're going to have to operate ladders around it, you're going to want to try to get the overhead lines running down the street shut off," he said. It's unclear why that didn't happen in this case.

Mike Wieder, assistant director of the International Fire Service Training Association, said standard practice requires firefighters to stay at least 10 feet from a live wire to avoid the possibility of being touched by an electrical arc, as apparently happened to Robeson.

"Unless you have absolutely been assured the power has been shut off, there is absolutely no way you should put an aerial device within 10 feet of a live wire," said Wieder, an expert in aerial firefighting.

Captain Robeson, 50, was the first member of the fire department to be killed in the line of duty in more than 25 years. At an age when many firefighters start to think about retirement, Robeson had no desire to quit, said Osborne, who joined the fire department on the same day in 1983 as Robeson. "When we talked about retirement, he'd say, 'I'm staying, I'm staying.' This was his life, this was his job and he loved it," Osborne said.

A huge turnout is expected at Robeson's funeral on Thursday, with Firefighters from around the nation calling the SFD to inquire about hotel accommodations. Also, FD's in the region have offered to staff city firehouses to allow Robeson's colleagues to attend his funeral.

Memorial site: <http://www.scrantonfire.com/>

Our deepest condolences to the members of the SFD, Local # 60 and especially the family and friends of Captain James Robeson.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.....

BillyG

The Secret List 1-7-08 / 1958 hours

**AND:**

Hey....

Short Span Of Attention: It applies in a lot of areas from administrative to tactical operations. Actually it's a societal issue....society has a short span of attention with nearly everything being "instant" and "rapid gratification" these days. But all we care about is what we do on this job.

It's our challenge of remembering what happened "before"...so it doesn't happen "again" ...because we die for about the same dozen or so same reasons each year.

But it's not always that simple. Since Firefighter LODD is rare in comparison to the number of Firefighters that exist, the message of "what happened and what can we learn from it" has been surprisingly slow to get out to some. While some FD's make decisions that makes perfect sense to them, (or it's worked well so far...) others read about those decisions and think out loud that "we stopped doing that" years ago. Booster line. 2.5" supply lines. Riding outside the rig. No background checks. No training. No drug/booze prevention programs. Questionable promotions. 1 person engine companies. Understaffed 1st alarm assignments. Whatever. Some change and some don't for a variety of reasons...but almost always, it falls, or has to fall at the self level, company or organizational leadership level for responsibility.

Look at the issue of Firefighter training...some FD's find it so hard to do some training. But with the Internet, it should almost be "excuse free"...I mean, have you seen this? How cool is this:

<http://www.fireengineering.com/videos/index.html> (Play video "Punch Technique")

The above is just 6 and a half minutes of "we'll show you how to do it" outstanding Firefighter training...and then, you and your troops get up from the chair and go out and practice doing it. Simple. Easy, FREE Firefighter training from Fire Engineering/FDIC with some of the BEST instructors in our business. PERFECT HELP for those of us (most of us) with a short span of attention. Piece o'cake learning.

All of us this week learned in horror when a very popular and beloved Fire Captain was killed in an electrocution when a tower ladder came close in between street power lines...the power arced and charged the apparatus. A horrible loss in so many ways. The community had

similar CLOSE CALL situations in '69 and '96 and a nearby community had a similar LODD in 1982. In addition, hundreds of other Firefighters have been shocked in recent years but fortunately, the related LODD's have been relatively low....while the injuries have been measurable.

In the City of Philadelphia (PA), 3 Firefighters of a RIT team received electrical shock and time-loss injuries. Members were "in-contact" with an apparatus that was raising a ladder pipe. The metal tip of ladder pipe touched electrical power line and sent current throughout apparatus and into members. RIC was positioned near command post and needed immediate rescue. The entire story was published by Fire Engineering Magazine in Nov.2006, look for "Rescue of RIT" by Deputy Chief William Shouldis. Quick article with great info for short spans of attention. Here are other examples:

<http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/fire/reports/face9946.html>

<http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/injury/traumaelface.html>

Or just GOOGLE "Firefighter Electrocuted"

As the facts come out on the most recent electrocution, we have a chance to LEARN what happened so we don't have to experience it personally. And in doing that, there is no greater way to HONOR those who gave their lives, and especially this week, Scranton Fire Captain James Robeson.

If it weren't for the Internet helping us with our short span of attention, we wouldn't have the chances we do to quickly learn what has happened-so it doesn't happen to us. In another example, who would have thought that we could learn from this FAST FOOD RESTAURANT fire simulation from Chief Frank Montagna...for FREE...and at the click of a button?

[http://www.fireengineering.com/display\\_article/314571/25/none/none/SIMUL/December-Simulation:-Fast-Food-Restaurant-Fire](http://www.fireengineering.com/display_article/314571/25/none/none/SIMUL/December-Simulation:-Fast-Food-Restaurant-Fire)

INSTANT training for those of us with short spans of attention-so we learn, and not repeat history.

SHORT SPAN OF ATTENTION applies to us individually as well as organizationally. We can learn from a ladder company blowing a red light at 40+ mph and tragically killing civilians, or we can ignore it and then just do the same thing and perhaps end up with more dead civilians...or lost Firefighters. And then there are the Attorneys who will come knocking. It all depends. Either we learn from it or not.

And it is not always TACTICS.

For example, the City of Los Angeles has spent millions of dollars settling lawsuits that could have been avoided if effective risk management programs had been in place. EFFECTIVE RISK MANAGEMENT PROGRAMS. That's TRAINING and the systems that support TRAINING. Training to not repeat the bad parts of our history.

How about this? L.A. City spent \$35 million on liability claims, settlements and court judgments in 2006 and has been faulted in what is being called the city's "lack of oversight, coordination and political will" to manage risk. The review was prompted by the case of Firefighter Tennie Pierce, who sued the city over alleged discrimination and fire station

harassment. The Mayor vetoed a proposed \$2.7 million settlement in the case, but the city ultimately paid even more than that amount when legal fees were included. This isn't the first time for them paying out big taxpayer bucks. Short span of attention.

Say what you want about some "ridiculous" lawsuits-and some are VERY ridiculous...but they exist and because they do exist, there are some things we can all do to avoid them for all the right reasons. As our partner here, Gordon Graham says: "we have no excuses to not train our employees, supervisors, and managers why things generally go wrong and how to prevent these unfortunate situations from happening"

With so many ONLINE firefighter training programs, articles and programs, there are few excuses on us not "getting it" even better in 2008. From [www.FireEngineering.com](http://www.FireEngineering.com) above to the superb programs at <http://www.firehouse.com/live/> , it's all good, all free and it all matters.

Speaking of "getting it" ..here are some upcoming "get out of town" training opportunities:

[www.FDSOA.org](http://www.FDSOA.org) (FDSOA's excellent fire apparatus focused symposium in Orlando, JANUARY 20th)

[www.local786.org](http://www.local786.org) (Stamford CT. FF's are hosting a 1 day training seminar on JANUARY 26th featuring FDNY Chiefs and Captains for a GREAT day of TRUCK COMPANY & RESCUE training for \$20.00 (includes lunch) with some outstanding instructors. This is a FUNDRAISER for Firefighters battling cancer. If you are in the MD, DE, PA, NJ, NY or New England area...this is a 1 day, not to be missed program for a great cause.

...and of course, FIREHOUSE WORLD in San Diego, FEBRUARY 3-7, which has become THE West Coast fire conference: [www.FirehouseWorld.com](http://www.FirehouseWorld.com) .

From tactics to management to the keynote, which will be about the Charleston Superstore Fire that Tragically killed 9 FF's, the training opportunities at FirehouseWorld are endless.

Take Care,  
BillyG  
The Secret List 1-8-08 / 1755 hours

**AND:**

Hey....

Missouri Volunteer Firefighter Dominic Gillen received a 3 year prison sentence yesterday for a fatal responding traffic crash that happened in November of 2006. Gillen pleaded guilty last summer for voluntary manslaughter for the death of 17 year old Jacob Yeates. The Missouri Highway Patrol estimates Gillen was speeding at 84 mph and he passed a family of four in a no-passing zone on a blind hill on Missouri 76. His car hit head-on a car driven by Yeates, a high school Junior. Gillen, a member of the Goodhope FD, was responding to a brush fire in a POV with no lights or siren. He received minor injuries in the crash.

3 years in prison is what Prosecutors recommended. At the sentencing hearing, the victim's mother gave a victim impact statement and urged the judge not to grant probation.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL. SLOW DOWN.

January 21, 2008

Chabot College Fire & EMS News

52

BillyG

The Secret List 1-9-08 / 1540 hours

**AND:**

Hey....

3 Firefighters suffered burns this afternoon while fighting a natural gas-fed fire at the scene of a car crash in Gaston County, N.C. around 1330 hours. One of the cars in the crash hit a guide wire to a power pole, then a live power line dropped and sparked a grass fire. New Hope VFD Firefighters responded to the grass fire, but they didn't realize an underground gas line had also ruptured.

One Firefighter suffered 2nd and 3rd degree burns to the right side of his face. Another suffered second-degree burns to his face, and a third suffered first-degree burns on his neck. All of their injuries are considered not life threatening. The fire burned for a while until the gas company could turn the gas off.

Here is a link to video: <http://www.wcnc.com/>

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 1-11-08 / 1701 hours

**AND:**

A Lakeland (Florida) Firefighter was flown out to Tampa General Hospital tonight after operating at a structural fire when there was a collapse. The Firefighter was operating at the single family dwelling fire around 2315 hours this evening. He and another Firefighter were inside the structure when it collapsed, trapping them inside. We have been advised that 1 Firefighter was flown to the hospital. Updates to follow or posted as needed.

And it is with deep regret that we advise you that at approximately 1300 hours, Fire Apparatus Driver Operator Jarrett Dixon, 36 years old, of the Baltimore County Fire Department suffered cardiac arrest and was not revived. FADO Dixon had developed chest pains at work while conducting physical training at his assigned duty Fire Station 5 "B" Shift on Wednesday. He was treated and transported by EMS personnel from his career station to a local hospital. Following a "negative" cardiac catheterization on Thursday, he was released to home. While at home, Jarrett tragically suffered a seizure followed by Cardiac Arrest while being transported by his volunteer company (Liberty Road Vol. FD) EMS to a local hospital. Fire Apparatus Driver Operator Jarrett Dixon is survived by his 5 year old son, his girlfriend and his parents. At this time arrangements are incomplete. Our sincere condolences to the members of the Baltimore County FD, Station 5 crew, the Liberty Road VFD (Baltimore County 46), his family...but especially his surviving 5 year old Son.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 1-13-07 / 0135 hours

**AND:**

We regret to advise you that a 20 year old Volunteer Firefighter from Cambria (WI) was killed in the Line of Duty yesterday afternoon when his car crossed into opposing traffic and collided with two semi-trucks on the scene of a previous incident.

Firefighter Ryan Jones, a 2005 Cambria-Friesland H.S. graduate and "star running back" in his community was killed almost instantly after crashing with first one, then the other truck just after 1400 hours.

The drivers of the two semi-trucks were not injured. FF Jones was traveling west on the highway when, without warning, Jones's car crossed the center line and collided head-on with an eastbound semi-truck, which veered off into a ditch.

Additional details will be posted. Our sincere sympathy to all affected, especially the family of FF Ryan Jones.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 1-16-08 / 0733 Hours

**AND:**

Hey...

First of all, a clarification. This mornings Wisconsin crash was not an LODD as initially reported, but was an off duty Firefighter where his own FD responded and discovered it was, very sadly, one of their own.

**BOSTON LODD's FOLLOWUP:** The President of the Boston IAFF Local # 718 is charging that the city administration is trying to alter an independent report on the deaths of two firefighters in late August. At the heart of the issue is the drug and alcohol issue both related to the Line of Duty Deaths of Firefighters Paul Cahill and Warren Payne who were tragically killed in the Aug. 29....as well as the issue of drug and alcohol testing of Boston Firefighters. We will post the entire article on the site.

**SCBA CONCERN:** (Also note the IMPORTANCE of ladders being thrown...)

On Monday night a Rochester (NY) Firefighter ran out of air while operating interior at a fire...but Tuesday night, he was fortunately, back on the job. FF Jeff Simpson stated to the media: "My vibralert was going off and then it stopped," It's something he had never experienced, leaning outside a window, gasping for air. "And my face piece started sucking to my face as I took a breath I could only take about half breaths," he said. In his years of fire fighting, his SCBA has never run out. "At that time I told my boss, I needed to exit the building I needed to get out cause I was low on air it was hard to breathe....I found a window, cleared the window out, as I looked out the window, there was a ladder there," Simpson said. Simpson never thought that ladder would be how he got out of the house.

"I thought I was going to come out the same way I came in," he said. When Simpson's tank stopped vibrating, he felt the push of air in his mask. "I thought I had a lot more time lot more time," Simpson said. "It was only a minute to two minutes tops that the vibralert went off, I knew I had to get out."



He said he's just lucky he had guys on the outside to help him out. The RFD is investigating. We will be posting additional details on our home page.

**CRASH:** On Long Island, an Asst Chief with the Centereach FD was injured in a crash last night while responding to an initial car crash. Assistant Chief Garrett Schor's department vehicle collided with another vehicle at the intersection. He was transported and has NLT injuries.

**MULTIPLE FF's DOWN:** Five firefighters who were injured while fighting a multi-alarm fire in Maryland were taken to Dorchester General Hospital for treatment. 2 of those Firefighters were treated for smoke inhalation, a 3rd for an injured leg, a 4th suffered a heart attack and the 5th Firefighter experienced a seizure. [www.Statter911.com](http://www.Statter911.com) has video of that fire.

**MONEY: College Scholarships:** A group called America's 9/11 Foundation, Inc funds a college scholarship fund for children of first responders. This year, the Foundation will award \$2,000.00 scholarships to 15 children of first responders. In 2007, they awarded 15 scholarships worth \$2,000.00 each. Complete instructions and scholarship applications are available on the Foundation's website at <http://www.americas911foundation.org/> . Click on the "Scholarship Info" link on the left side of the page.

**A MERGER:** Women in the Fire Service and the Women Chief Fire Officers have merged organizations and they are now the International Association of Women in Fire and Emergency Services (IAWFES). Their annual CONFERENCE is coming up in April, check it out at: [http://www.wfsi.org/news\\_and\\_events/events.php?event\\_id=19](http://www.wfsi.org/news_and_events/events.php?event_id=19)

**FLORIDA FIREFIGHTER TRAINING:** Check out the 7th annual Orlando Fire Conference, which is coming up on Feb 21-23, 2008: [www.OrlandoFireConference.com](http://www.OrlandoFireConference.com)

**MEMORIAL FUND RAISER:** And has previously mentioned, a Firefighter safety symposium fundraiser has been scheduled to raise funds to create a memorial for the 9 Firefighters that were killed in the Line of Duty in Charleston, S.C. Here is that info: [www.firefighterssafetysymposium.com](http://www.firefighterssafetysymposium.com)

Take Care,  
BillyG  
The Secret List 1-16-08 / 1235 hours

**AND:**

FDNY Engine 311 was involved in a very serious crash this afternoon. The Firefighters on the apparatus were injured but are non-life threatening.

Reports are that a tractor trailer collided with the apparatus in Queens around 1515 hours at the intersection of South Conduit Avenue and 225th street. Media is reporting that a witness at the scene said a taxicab cut off a U.S. Mail tractor-trailer, causing the tractor-trailer to broadside the fire apparatus.

Five firefighters were injured and taken to Jamaica Hospital and are in stable condition. Three civilians were also injured and the driver of the tractor trailer is reported to have been killed.

We have photos of the crash posted on the home page and will post more details as they become available.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL,  
BillyG  
The Secret List 1-17-08 / 1753 hours

**AND:**

We regret to advise you that a West County EMS & Fire Protection District (MO) FF/PM Lou Berra died on duty yesterday, as he was found in his bed Friday morning during the shift change. FF/PM Berra served the district for 11 years and also served with the Frontenac FD for 12 years. FF/PM Berra is survived by his wife and two children.

Visitation will be held Sunday, January 20, 2008 from 3 p.m. to 8 p.m. at Kriegshauser West Funeral Home, 9450 Olive Blvd., St. Louis, MO. The Firefighters Casket Vigil will occur during visitation at 6 p.m. and a Full Firefighter Honor Funeral Services is scheduled for Monday, January 21, 2008 at St. Monica's Catholic Church at 10 a.m....12136 Olive Blvd., St. Louis, MO 63141. A procession will follow to the burial site at Resurrection Cemetery.

Our condolences to all affected, especially the family of FF/PM Berra.

Take Care,  
BillyG  
The Secret List 1-19-08 / 1049 hours

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

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**Some great examples of firefighters giving back to their communities, something we can all probably do more of. It never hurts to have good, positive public relations stories like these, especially when the public are our bosses!**

For one story from Tucson, AZ:  
[http://www.kold.com/Global/story.asp?S=7541482&nav=menu86\\_13\\_19](http://www.kold.com/Global/story.asp?S=7541482&nav=menu86_13_19)

And another story from Washington:  
<http://www.enterprisewspapers.com/article/20071228/ETP03/807875255/-1/ETP&template%3DETPZoneLTart>

And from North Las Vegas, NV:  
<http://www.klas-tv.com/Global/story.asp?S=7539963&nav=168XDWn7>

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**A story from Sparks, Nevada where firefighters saved some family dogs with the assistance of their pet resuscitation masks. So, you think your department is progressive? Do they have items such as these to take care of pets – who many people consider to be true family members, especially if they don't have children.**

For the full story, go to:

<http://news.rgj.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20071225/NEWS06/712250353/1321/NEWS>

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**A story from Boise, Idaho where firefighters from Station 8 had to fight a fire at their own firehouse on Christmas Eve. Whatever you do, don't let your own firehouse catch on fire!**

For the full story, go to: <http://www.idahostatesman.com/newsupdates/story/247785.html>

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**A story from Washington where a fire department receives land for a new fire station – as a donation. What a creative way to save what would have cost them well over a million dollars. Think outside the box, and you never know what you might find!**

For the full story, go to:

[http://www.columbian.com/news/localNews/2007/12/12262007\\_County-donates-land-for-new-fire-station.cfm](http://www.columbian.com/news/localNews/2007/12/12262007_County-donates-land-for-new-fire-station.cfm)

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**A Utah Fire Department is fuming over an audit; if you have nothing to hide, what's wrong with an audit? If nothing else, it may provide your department with an opportunity to improve something, especially if it is a way to get increased funding from your parent body. I realize it can be embarrassing to have some flaws or items come to the surface that may show you to be less than perfect, but we all need to remember there is no perfect department and every fire department has some room for improvement. If we're not continuously looking at improving how we operate, including ways to be more efficient and cost effective, what's wrong with that? One of the biggest things cited is their being understaffed and needing a lot of upgrades, including apparatus. I hate to say it, but if the shoe fits..... Plus, if noting else, having an outside audit may actually provide some teeth for the Chief to be able to get what the department actually needs in the way of upgrades.**

For the full story, go to: <http://www.standard.net/live/news/121694/>

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**For anyone of us who has been fortunate enough to get hired in the fire service, this story from Reno, Nevada hits home in a very positive way. 19 firefighters just received**

their badges and are starting their career with the Reno Fire Department. Congratulations to all! If you're not yet a paid firefighter, hopefully this will be an inspiration to you to get going and do what it takes to get hired!

For the full story, go to: [http://www.krnv.com/Global/story.asp?S=7551151&nav=menu113\\_3](http://www.krnv.com/Global/story.asp?S=7551151&nav=menu113_3)

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A great article on a not-so-glamorous, but yet very important subject we in the fire service need to do a better job at – RISK MANAGEMENT, especially when determining whether we need to go inside and perform an offensive, interior firefight – especially if it is only to save property, and there are no lives to be saved. Something that numerous firefighter fatality after-action reports have questioned for good reason.

For the full story, go to: <http://www.firerescue1.com/Columnists/Bailey/articles/328185/>

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Two Virginia Fire Engines crash enroute to the same call – not good, not good. One crash is bad enough, not to mention two separate accidents relating to the same incident. Folks, if we get into an accident on the way to a call, we don't get to continue to the call, potentially allowing the incident we are responding to, to escalate significantly – not to mention potential injuries/fatalities, lots of paperwork, money wasted on repairing apparatus or paying out lawsuits against the department, etc.

For the full story, go to: [http://cms.firehouse.com/web/online/News/Two-Virginia-Fire-Trucks-Crash-Enroute-to-Same-Call/46\\$57671](http://cms.firehouse.com/web/online/News/Two-Virginia-Fire-Trucks-Crash-Enroute-to-Same-Call/46$57671)

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Firehouse Magazine's website ([www.firehouse.com](http://www.firehouse.com)) has posted their top photo and video stories of 2007 – some great fireground and emergency scene actions shots to learn from and just enjoy!

For the full story, go to: [http://cms.firehouse.com/web/online/News/Top-Firehousecom-Videos-and-Photo-Stories-of-2007/46\\$57792](http://cms.firehouse.com/web/online/News/Top-Firehousecom-Videos-and-Photo-Stories-of-2007/46$57792)

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A couple of great examples of firefighters giving back to their communities and showing themselves in a very positive way. We can never get enough positive public relations!

For one story from Arlington, Washington, where firefighters decked out the engine in lights and collected food and money for charity, go to: <http://www.heraldnet.com/article/20071231/NEWS01/934823094/1065/LIVING01>

And from Reno, Nevada where the firefighters encouraged giving blood to those in need:  
<http://www.ktvn.com/Global/story.asp?S=7557219>

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**From Baltimore, Maryland, the driver and the officer of the engine (the supervisor) have both been suspended for their roles in a recent fatal crash where three civilians lost their lives. SLOW DOWN, STOP AT RED LIGHTS, STOP AT STOP SIGNS & PAY ATTENTION WHEN DRIVING!!!! How many more civilians and/or firefighters do we need to injure and/or kill before we get it?**

**Responding code 3 (red lights and siren) does not guarantee us the right of way – it only demonstrates we are requesting the right of way. It still requires two-way communication to successfully occur: 1. The responders to be on the offensive, drive cautiously and safely, and be prepared for what other drivers may do and 2. The other vehicles to actually see and hear us and actually allow us to safely pass by.**

For the full story, go to: [http://cms.firehouse.com/web/online/News/Baltimore-Firefighters-Suspended-for-Fatal-Crash/46\\$57698](http://cms.firehouse.com/web/online/News/Baltimore-Firefighters-Suspended-for-Fatal-Crash/46$57698)

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**More information from Charleston, South Carolina that we all can hopefully learn from: The experts who completed the after-action report hope fire departments around the nation (including the Charleston F.D.) can learn from the sofa store deaths.**

For the full story, go to:  
[http://www.charleston.net/news/2007/dec/31/finding\\_lesson\\_local\\_tragedy26266/](http://www.charleston.net/news/2007/dec/31/finding_lesson_local_tragedy26266/)

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**A San Antonio (TX) Brush Truck strikes and kills a wheelchair bound individual:**

For the full story, go to: [http://cms.firehouse.com/web/online/News/San-Antonio-Brush-Truck-Strikes--Kills-Wheelchair-Bound-Woman/46\\$57720](http://cms.firehouse.com/web/online/News/San-Antonio-Brush-Truck-Strikes--Kills-Wheelchair-Bound-Woman/46$57720)

**And in New York, eight (8) are injured, including five (5) FDNY firefighters when a fire truck was involved in an accident in route to a call:**  
<http://wcbstv.com/local/fire.engine.accident.2.632226.html>

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**Below you will find the January 2008 issue of the Everybody Goes Home newsletter – a great tool to increase firefighter safety and better prepare our personnel to go home at the end of the shift – safely and in one piece. There are no guarantees this will happen, but we would be negligent if we did not do our best to ensure our personnel get a round trip ticket home every time they start their shift.**



# EVERYONE GOES HOME®

FIREFIGHTER LIFE SAFETY INITIATIVES

## [A New Year Resolution](#)

Wikipedia defines New Year's Resolution as...a commitment that an individual makes to a project or a habit, often a lifestyle change that is generally interpreted as advantageous. The name comes from the fact that these commitments normally go into effect on New Years Day and remain until fulfilled.

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

## [OSU Research Study: Company Officer Plays Critical Role in FD Safety Culture](#)

OSU has completed a study funded by National Fallen Firefighters Foundation Firefighter Life Safety Initiatives Program through a DHS Fire Prevention and Safety Grant. The goal of the research, which has evolved over the past two years, was to find ways to reduce firefighter line of duty deaths and injuries.

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

## [2007 On-Duty Deaths, the Details](#)

Preliminary reports indicate 115 personnel died on duty in 2007 compared to 106 the previous year.

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

### More January 2008 Articles:

- [Changing the Path](#)
- [Time to Change](#)
- [Camaraderie Under Fire: A Remembrance of the Worcester Tragedy](#)
- [FDSOA, National FF Near-Miss Reporting System Partner to Offer CEUs](#)

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» For More Information Visit: [www.everyonegoeshome.com](http://www.everyonegoeshome.com)

January 2008  
E-Newsletter



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



Homeland  
Security



Fireman's Fund®  
Insurance Company

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The Boise, Idaho Fire Department almost had a line-of-duty death during a training (yes, training) exercise. Yes, this classifies as a near-miss, and hopefully they report it on the firefighter near miss website – [www.firefighternearmiss.com](http://www.firefighternearmiss.com) – just a reminder to all of us that tragedy can and does strike at times not just when we're on the emergency scene.

For the full story, go to:

[http://www.todays6.com/Global/story.asp?S=7569597&nav=menu536\\_2\\_1](http://www.todays6.com/Global/story.asp?S=7569597&nav=menu536_2_1)

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**Firefighters from Mississauga, Canada are very, very lucky after their fire truck was hit by a drunk driver while they were at an accident scene and doing their jobs. Yes, these things happen more than we care to talk about, so be careful out there when working on any roadway – we're still killing and injuring more fire service personnel and other emergency responders than is acceptable. If you want a freeway named after you, there are better ways to do it than get killed while performing your job.....**

For the full story, go to:

<http://cms.firehouse.com/content/article/article.jsp?sectionId=46&id=57725>

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**Seven (7) New Jersey firefighters are injured after their two fire apparatus collided on the way to a call. Remember – we're there to solve the problem, not be a part of the problem or cause additional problems. As bad as it was, it could have been worse.**

For the full story, go to:

[http://www.nj.com/news/index.ssf/2008/01/\\_george\\_mcnishthe\\_starledgerth.html](http://www.nj.com/news/index.ssf/2008/01/_george_mcnishthe_starledgerth.html)

And a related story with video: <http://wcbstv.com/local/fire.engine.accident.2.621986.html>

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**While on the subject of fire engine accidents, a firefighter from Florida is sadly in critical condition after their fire engine collided with another vehicle in route to a call and rolled over. Just a reminder that going code 3 (lights and siren) does not guarantee us the right of way – it only allows us to ask permission to safely pass. And, as we know, the average citizen driving their personal or work vehicle is usually not paying 100% attention (dealing with kids in the car, talking on the cell phone, under the influence of something, or just not paying complete attention).**

For the full story, go to:

<http://www.firstcoastnews.com/news/news-article.aspx?storyid=99168>

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**A great public relations story from the Tucson (AZ) area, where a 9 year old boy got to be a firefighter for the day. Great job, there is no such thing as too much positive public relations in this day and age.**

For the full story, go to: <http://www.gvnews.com/articles/2008/01/03/news/news01.txt>

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**On the subject of public relations, this one is a scary one: a Pennsylvania fire department is having to re-evaluate its own policies after one member apparently drank about a six pack of beer and then got behind the wheel of a fire engine and was arrested for driving drunk. The really sad part was the quote from the Town Commissioner: “right now, we don’t even have a full roster of all the active volunteer firefighters in the township and where they live or what their driving history is!”**

**Huh?**

**That is totally unacceptable in today’s world, especially the part of them not doing background investigations. Regardless of whether you are hiring a volunteer or paid firefighter – they should all be going through the same stringent background checks. Fire does not discriminate – volunteer firefighters get killed and injured just like the paid firefighters do. The laws don’t discriminate either – volunteers are supposed to be trained to the same level as the paid firefighters. So, why do so many departments (even ones that may be in or very close to your own residence) not require background checks and even skimp on the training for their volunteer or reserve personnel.**

For the full story, go to:

<http://www.fireengineering.com/news/newsArticleDisplay.html?id=155894>

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**A great reminder for all of us – that we’re always being watched, especially with the technology out there today, specifically with cameras in virtually every cell phone and the ability to create videos of our good and not-so-good performances out there. As they say, a picture is worth a thousand words, so make sure you look good and on your best behavior or it may come back to haunt you.**

For the full story, go to: <http://www.firerescue1.com/Columnists/Bailey/articles/330727/>

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**Are you a company officer or chief officer? This article is titled “Eight things to do for your crew in 2008 and comes courtesy of the [www.firerescue1.com](http://www.firerescue1.com) newsletter and author Billy Schmidt:**

For the full story, go to <http://www.firerescue1.com/Columnists/Schmidt/articles/331371/>

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**A Florida Fire Chief may lose his job, as he is currently suspended for taking pictures at an accident scene and then sharing them with others via the internet. The major issues were related to privacy and that the pictures also included the victim’s exposed breasts. Be careful when taking pictures on duty and even more careful when sharing them with others – just like we should spell check and grammar check our documents,**

**we should also closely look at pictures and/or videos prior to posting them as they can have some negative results.**

For the full story, go to <http://www.emsresponder.com/article/article.jsp?>

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**A South Carolina Firefighter is charged with arson.**

For the full story, go to:

<http://cms.firehouse.com/content/article/article.jsp?id=57960&sectionId=46>

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**Here is the latest progress report on the Charleston Fire Department and how they are progressing after the investigation team completed it's recommendations on improvements. I think this shows good progress, but the sad part is that many of these items are already in use or being practiced by fire departments nationwide, and that it took an investigation team and nine firefighters to lose their lives before certain practices were changed or apparatus, tools and equipment were upgraded. For those that may think their fire department is behind the times, after taking a look at this report, you may think your department is in better shape than it is. While no fire department is perfect, this is actually a good list for every fire department to use as a checklist to see where they are at and what they can do to maybe improve safety and training practices as well as overall department operations and procedures.**

For the full story, go to:

<http://cms.firehouse.com/content/article/article.jsp?sectionId=46&id=57840>

For the actual report: <http://cms.firehouse.com/news/specialreports/ProgReport.pdf>

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**Two FDNY Firefighters are suspended after brawling with some New York Police Officers while in a bar and face felony charges. For those people that say that if they weren't firefighters, it wouldn't be a news story. You're 100% correct! Just like if professional athletes were your average citizen and were arrested, they wouldn't make the newspapers. You're probably 100% correct on that one too! However, we don't live in fantasy land, we live in reality land and the media is always looking for public interest stories of professional athletes or in our case, government employees (who work for the public and are paid by the public and are thus accountable to the public taxpayers).**

**So, I think we all have to accept reality and realize as long as we work for the public as a fire service professional, we're going to be in the spotlight – on and off duty and instead of fighting it (something we'll never win), make the best of it and do what it takes to always portray ourselves in as professional of a manner as we can, to help ensure our long-term health and survival as firefighters and "America's Heroes." If**

nothing else, we should hopefully learn something from the current Major League Baseball steroid scandals and see how that will potentially damage that industry and thus, not let that happen to us.

For the full story, go to:

[http://cms.firehouse.com/web/online/News/FDNY-Firefighters-Suspended-After-Brawl-With-Officers/46\\$57862](http://cms.firehouse.com/web/online/News/FDNY-Firefighters-Suspended-After-Brawl-With-Officers/46$57862)

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An interesting twist to the story I discussed in the December 23 issue of the Fire & EMS News. Originally, a D.C.F.D. Lieutenant had been suspended for violating department standard operating procedures (and nationwide standards and expectations of the 2 in/2 out rule), but more details have emerged, and reports are showing he was “not truthful” in his initial report of what had occurred and also needlessly put lives in jeopardy. Another great lesson to learn, when dealing with personnel problems: don’t jump to conclusions and do a thorough investigation and you may be surprised at the outcome! There is a proper and calculated way for us to evaluate risk versus gain and there are probably some good lessons here for all of us to learn from.

For the full story, go to: <http://www.firerescue1.com/laborissues/articles/333394/>

And another related story: <http://www.wusa9.com/news/local/story.aspx?storyid=67172>

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San Diego’s lack of fire resources is under fire. However, while I do feel their pain for a lack of resources, I don’t know of any one fire department that is complaining about having too many resources. We’re all in the same boat, some departments maybe worse off than others. The key for all of us in our careers is to try to think of creative ways to ensure the funding of additional stations and staffing (or at least keeping what we have) and through alternative methods. Why? Because the average citizen is not too eager about paying more taxes when some of the feel governments waste their tax dollars and should do more with less.

Of course they want the best service when they call 9-1-1, but the average person will probably never call 9-1-1 for themselves in their lifetime. It’s easy for us to all scream for more money from our funding agencies (cities, counties, districts, etc.), but for us to get the money typically means they either have to raise taxes (which is not too favorable), not give out as generous wage and benefit packages (putting that money into staffing and stations), or take it away from some other governmental agency (such as taking money away from parks and recreation to give it to police or fire).

Either way you look at it, there is no right answer and there is no one-size-fits-all answer for every community. So, get to know the politics of your community, get politically active, be willing to not get too emotional when folks don’t want to pay us more or have more of us, and be willing to be very rational in your approach to

increased staffing and stations. Be part of the solution, not the problem. And realize in some communities, they may just settle for a much lower level of fire protection than their neighbors, and like it or not, that is their right. They get what they pay for, and we do the best we can with what we have given to us –good, bad or indifferent.

For the full story go to: <http://www.kpbs.org/news/local%3Bid%3D10656>

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**A Detroit (MI) 9-1-1 Dispatcher is found guilty for mishandling a call in which a woman was subsequently found dead. She faces up to a year in jail. These stories are more common than you think, and even us on the fire apparatus are potentially liable for similar issues. We need to take every report of injury, illness or other tragedy or disaster serious until proven (by us) to be a stable situation. When in doubt, send out apparatus to let them make the call, versus shouldering all of the liability on yourself.**

For the full story, go to: <http://emsresponder.com/article/article.jsp?siteSection=1&id=6870>

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**A Portland (OR) Firefighter has been placed on leave after going on the Dr. Phil Show twice and airing some personal issues. Even though he was off duty at the time, put yourself in the shoes of his co-workers and the taxpayers paying for him to be at work. Even though his activities were “off-duty” how do you feel about working with someone like that. Would you trust your daughter or wife around this person if they came by the fire station or he came by your house? Probably wasn’t the smartest decision of his career.**

For the full story, go to:  
[http://www.portlandtribune.com/news/story.php?story\\_id=120035154562635800](http://www.portlandtribune.com/news/story.php?story_id=120035154562635800)

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**Some fire inspectors in Connecticut are in some hot water for using department vehicles for personal business. They are upset because they were not told that GPS was functional in their department vehicles, meaning they could be tracked. Well, I guess a great lesson for all of us. Whenever we are on duty, we need to realize we are “on-duty” and run the risk of getting in trouble if we do anything that could be deemed inappropriate or a waste of taxpayer money. Just like using a department computer for personal business, you need to be careful. While being employed by a fire department, we are just “guests” or “care takers” of the department, and supposed to be acting in the best interests of the people we serve and who pay our wages and benefits.**

For the full story, go to: [http://www.connpost.com/localnews/ci\\_7971546](http://www.connpost.com/localnews/ci_7971546)

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**Excessive sick leave usage in the F.D.N.Y. may result in downstaffing of apparatus.**

For the full story, go to:

[http://cms.firehouse.com/web/online/News/FDNY-Threatens-Manpower-Cuts-Over-Sick-Days/46\\$57869](http://cms.firehouse.com/web/online/News/FDNY-Threatens-Manpower-Cuts-Over-Sick-Days/46$57869)

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**Fire Rescue Magazine's website – [www.firerescue1.com](http://www.firerescue1.com) has posted some interesting and educational fire service videos to learn from:**

For the full story, go to: <http://flashovertv.firerescue1.com/FeaturedClips.aspx>

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**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.**

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

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

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

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