



FIRE & EMS NEWS

December 23, 2007

Volume 6 – Issue 8

Happy Holidays to everyone! Let me offer our sincerest holiday greetings to you and your families this holiday season. I hope each and everyone of you have a great 2008 – both personally and professionally!

Some 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

FIREFIGHTER EMPLOYMENT INFORMATION – Eureka (CA) Fire Department:

The **Eureka Fire Department** will be accepting applications for the position of **Firefighter** until: December 28, 2007.

REQUIREMENTS INCLUDE:

- EMT certification
- California State Firefighter 1 Certificate

For more information about this position and their current recruitment, go to:
<http://www.eurekaweb.com/cityhall/human/positionsAvailable.cfm>

For more information about the **City of Eureka**, visit their website at: www.ci.eureka.ca.gov/

For more information about the **Eureka Fire Department**, visit their website at:
www.ci.eureka.ca.gov/depts/fire/default.asp

FIRE SERVICE TRAINING INFORMATION:

Below you will find some excellent fire service training information – especially the two video clips that really drive the importance of kicking it up a notch in regards to keeping ourselves and our crew members safe every day, every shift, and for the rest of our lives:

FIREFIGHTER LIFE SAFETY

LEARNING



Everyone Goes Home® Learning Media Center E-Alert - December 17, 2007

Courage To Be Safe So Everyone Goes Home



Attitude Awareness & Driving
Emergency Vehicles

This Month's Features
[Attitude Awareness & Driving Emergency Vehicles](#)

In this segment, you will focus on **your ability to reduce line-of-duty deaths**. Your attitudes and actions, whether behind the wheel or in any other riding position effect your safety and safety of others.

» [Click Here to View This Media Clip](#)
Or go to:
<http://firehero.00b.org/ajtk/servlet/JJ?H=13ap9w&R=657208540>

[The Same Mistakes - The Same Results](#)
This media clip discusses how **most line of duty deaths are preventable** if we take the time to learn from our experiences and adjust our behavior accordingly. Do we also step back and ask ourselves "will my decisions and actions allow everyone to return home safely?"

» [Click Here to View This Media Clip](#)
or go to :
<http://firehero.00b.org/ajtk/servlet/JJ?H=13ap9x&R=657208540>

The Same Mistakes The Same Results



LINE OF DUTY DEATH
PREVENTION INITIATIVE
FIRE
FIGHTER
LIFE SAFETY

Archives: [Visit the Learning Media Center](#) or go to:
<http://firehero.00b.org/ajtk/servlet/JJ?H=13ap9v&R=657208540>



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



www.everyonegoeshome.com

FIRE SERVICE TRAINING OPPORTUNITY:

U.S. Fire
Administration



FEMA

REMINDER!! The application period for the National Fire Academy, 2nd Semester closes December 31, 2007 - here's the information:

The **2007-2008 Schedule** (Second Semester) can be found at:

<http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/applications/nfacsd/report.jsp?fy=2008&sem=2>

The **application** and application information can be found at:

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

Applications should be postmarked by December 31, 2007 in order to be considered for placement into classes. Please make sure your application is complete and signed! Completed applications can be faxed to the NETC Admissions Office at 301-447-1441 or mailed to the NETC Admissions Office at 16825 South Seton Avenue; Emmitsburg, Maryland 21727.

FIREFIGHTER TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES AROUND THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA :

Go to www.chabotfire.com and click on **TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES** to find valuable information on numerous California State-certified State Fire Marshal (and other) classes currently available or soon-to-available, through either Chabot College or other colleges or institutions.

FIREFIGHTER EMPLOYMENT INFORMATION – Salinas (CA) Fire Department:

The **Salinas Fire Department** will be accepting applications **1-day only** for the position of **Firefighter**, one day only: January 10, 2008.

REQUIREMENTS INCLUDE:

- 18 years of age or older
- High school diploma or G.E.D.
- EMT

For more information about the **City of Salinas**, visit their website at: www.ci.salinas.ca.us/

For more information about the **Salinas Fire Department**, visit their website at: www.ci.salinas.ca.us/Fire/DEfr01.html

FIREFIGHTER EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY – Ontario (CA) Fire Department:

The **Ontario (CA) Fire Department** will be accepting applications for the position of **Firefighter**, until: January 12, 2008.

REQUIREMENTS INCLUDE:

- Firefighter 1 Academy or Firefighter 1 Certification
- High school diploma or G.E.D.
- California Driver's License – Class C

For more information about the **City of Ontario**, visit their website at: www.ci.ontario.ca.us/

For more information about the **Ontario Fire Department**, visit their website at: www.ci.ontario.ca.us/index.cfm/8114

For more information about the **Ontario Firefighters Association, I.A.F.F. Local 1430**, visit their website at www.local1430.org/

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 28th, 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



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 19th or 20th 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!

December 23, 2007

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:

Yosemite National Park is recruiting seasonal firefighters for the 2008 fire season.

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.

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.



Yosemite's fire management program is diverse and complex. Fire management tools include suppression, wildland fire use, prescribed fire and mechanical thinning.

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.

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.

Seasonal firefighters typically start work in late May and usually end their season in October, but may work longer in dry years.

Shopping, dental, medical, and postal services are available in the park. Government housing may be available.





Enrollment or completion of a basic 32-40 hour wildland firefighting course meeting NWCG standards is recommended.

Completion of a Firefighter 1 recruit academy, Emergency Medical Technician, hazmat operations or other fire / rescue related classes are desirable but not required.

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.

FIREFIGHTER EMPLOYMENT INFORMATION – Turlock Fire Department:

The **Turlock Fire Department** will be accepting applications for the position of **Firefighter** – until December 28, 2007. To view the job information, go to their employment page at: <http://www.ci.turlock.ca.us/employment/currentopenpositions/jobannouncement.asp?id=128>

For more information about the **City of Turlock**, visit their website at: www.ci.turlock.ca.us

For more information about the **Turlock Fire Department**, visit their website at: www.ci.turlock.ca.us/citydepartments/fireservices/

For more information about the **Turlock Firefighters Association**, [I.A.F.F. Local 2434](http://www.turlockfirefighters.org), visit their website at www.turlockfirefighters.org

FIREFIGHTER EMPLOYMENT INFORMATION – San Diego (CA) Fire-Rescue Department:

The **San Diego Fire-Rescue Department** will is accepting applications for the position of **Firef Recruit**, on a continuous basis, with the next deadline being January 16, 2008.

REQUIREMENTS INCLUDE:

- 18 years of age or older
- High school diploma or G.E.D.
- EMT certificate
- CPR certificate

For more information, visit their websites below or call 619-682-1011.

For more information about the **City of San Diego**, visit their website at: www.sandiego.gov

For more information about the **San Diego Fire-Rescue Department**, visit their website at: www.sandiego.gov/fireandems/

For more information about the **San Diego Firefighters Association, I.A.F.F. Local 145**, visit their website at www.sdfire.org

EMS VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES AROUND THE BAY AREA:

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

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

Dates / Locations / Times:	- Thursday January 10, 2008	from 1200 to 1700 hours
	- Friday January 11, 2008	from 1200 to 1700 hours
	- Tuesday February 12, 2008	from 1200 to 1700 hours
	- Wednesday February 13, 2008	from 1200 to 1700 hours
	- Friday March 7, 2008	from 1200 to 1700 hours
	- Saturday March 8, 2008	from 1200 to 1700 hours
	- Thursday April 24, 2008	from 1200 to 1700 hours
	- Friday April 25, 2008	from 1200 to 1700 hours
	- Thursday May 8, 2008	from 1200 to 1700 hours
	- Friday May 9, 2008	from 1200 to 1700 hours
	- Wednesday June 25, 2008	from 1200 to 1700 hours
- Thursday June 26, 2008	from 1200 to 1700 hours	
	<p>**Go to their website at www.sfparamedics.org and click on Volunteer Info (under About) to confirm the above dates and times.</p>	
	<p>NOTE: All of the above classes will be held at the Bay Model Visitor Center in Sausalito (2100 Bridgeway, Sausalito)</p>	
You will receive:	Valuable experience watching paramedic level (or higher) students perform patient assessments. Learn from their plusses and minuses. You will also receive a free San Francisco Paramedic Association t-shirt.	
Your role:	As a volunteer, you will be moulaged and designated to role-play a victim of a trauma emergency scenario. Please wear loose, old, comfortable clothing, as you may be on the floor for some scenarios.	
Contact person(s):	Call the San Francisco Paramedic Association for more information or to sign-up at (415) 543-1161 (tell them Steve at Chabot sent you) or email them at director@sfparamedics.org or visit their website section on volunteer opportunities at www.sfparamedics.org/pages/about/volunteer.php	

- Advanced Medical Life Support Classes: Volunteers Needed

Dates / Locations / Times:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Tuesday January 15, 2008 from 1230 to 1800 hours - Wednesday January 16, 2008 from 1030 to 1630 hours - Saturday April 12,, 2008 from 1230 to 1800 hours - Sunday April 13, 2008 from 1030 to 1630 hours - Thursday June 19, 2008 from 1230 to 1800 hours - Friday June 20, 2008 from 1030 to 1630 hours <p>NOTE: <i>All of the above classes will be held at the San Francisco Paramedic Association – 657 Mission Street, Suite 302, San Francisco, CA 94116</i></p> <p>*** Go to their website at www.sfparamedics.org and click on Volunteer Info (under About) to confirm the above dates and times.</p>
You will receive:	Valuable experience watching paramedic level (or higher) students perform patient assessments. Learn from their plusses and minuses. You will also receive a free San Francisco Paramedic Association t-shirt.
Your role:	As a volunteer, you will be moulaged and designated to role-play a victim of a medical emergency scenario. Please wear loose, old, comfortable clothing, as you may be on the floor for some scenarios.
Contact person(s):	Call the San Francisco Paramedic Association for more information or to sign-up at (415) 543-1161 (tell them Steve at Chabot sent you) or email them at director@sfparamedics.org or visit their website section on volunteer opportunities at www.sfparamedics.org/pages/about/volunteer.php

Dear Volunteer,

Thanks so much for spending your valuable time to help further the education of pre-hospital care providers. Your participation helps to ensure that our students receive a more realistic training exercise that allows them to practice more effectively.

If you are available to volunteer we have the dates set for January – June 2008. To see the available dates, please go to <http://sfparamedics.org/pages/about/volunteer.php> and complete the following:

- 1) Select the class type - AMLS, PHTLS or IFUS. A new window will open.
- 2) Select the date you wish to attend. You will see a new window with your selection in a checkout basket, at no cost. Select checkout.
- 3) On the Checkout page, please fill in the asterisked information. This ensures that we send you an accurate confirmation letter. Click the button to review your order, at the bottom of the page.

4) A window will appear with our rescheduling policy. Just click yes as it does not pertain to you.

5) Review the course name and click submit. You are all set!

A confirmation letter will be sent to you with details about the class. You are welcome to sit in for any or all of the class you volunteer for.

Thank you again for your time and we look forward to seeing you at the class!

Don Lynne, Lead Registrar

San Francisco Paramedic Association
657 Mission St Ste 302
San Francisco, CA 94105

415.543.1161 - Phone 415.543.0415 - Fax
registrar2@sparamedics.org

FIREFIGHTER EMPLOYMENT INFORMATION – Contra Costa County (CA) Fire Protection District:

The **Contra Costa County Fire Protection District** will be accepting the first 1,000 **applications** for the positions of **Firefighter-Recruit** and **Firefighter/Paramedic-Recruit**, the week of January 14 through 18, 2008.

Go to their Human Resources website at www.cccounty.us/depart/hr for more information.

REQUIREMENTS INCLUDE:

- 18 years of age or older
- High school diploma or G.E.D.
- EMT (for firefighter-recruit position)
- Paramedic (for firefighter/paramedic-recruit position)

For more information, visit their websites below or call 510-238-6465.

For more information about the **County of Contra Costa**, visit their website at:
www.cccounty.us

For more information about the **Contra Costa County Fire Protection District**, visit their website at: www.cccfpd.org/

For more information about the **Contra Costa County Firefighters Association, I.A.F.F. Local 1230**, visit their website at www.local1230.org/

FIREFIGHTER SAFETY INFORMATION:

USFA Encourages Everyone to Practice Fire Safety This Holiday Season

EMMITSBURG, MD – Each year fires occurring during the holiday season claim the lives of over 400 people, injure 1,650 more, and cause over \$990 million in damage. The United States Fire Administration (USFA) reminds everyone there are simple life-saving steps you can take to ensure a safe and happy holiday -

http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/citizens/all_citizens/home_fire_prev/holiday-seasonal/holiday.shtm

By following the recommended precautionary tips of the USFA, individuals can greatly reduce their chances of becoming a holiday fire casualty.

“On behalf of all firefighters, we desire for everyone to enjoy a safe and happy holiday season in 2007,” said U.S. Fire Administrator Greg Cade. “The USFA has joined with other national organizations to provide these easy to use and understand safety precautions. Following these simple precautions will ensure our firefighters and communities avoid tragic and sad losses from fires.”

It might surprise some that cooking equipment, most often a range or stovetop, is the leading cause of reported home fires and home fire injuries in the United States. Cooking equipment is also the leading cause of unreported fires and associated injuries. Serious injury or even death can occur when people cook wearing loose clothing (especially hanging sleeves), walk away from a cooking pot on the stove, or leave flammable materials, such as potholders or paper towels, around the stove. Whether you are cooking the family holiday dinner or a snack for the children, practicing safe cooking behaviors will help keep you and your family safe.

Additionally, more than one-third of Americans use fireplaces, wood stoves and other fuel-fired appliances as primary heat sources in their homes. Unfortunately, many people are unaware of the fire risks when heating with wood and solid fuels. Heating fires account for 36% of residential home fires in rural areas every year. Often these fires are due to creosote buildup in chimneys and stovepipes. All home heating systems require regular maintenance to function safely and efficiently.

Finally, as in every season, have working smoke alarms installed on every level of your home, test them monthly and keep them clean and equipped with fresh batteries at all times. Know when and how to call for help. And remember to practice your home escape plan.

AND:

FEMA Urges Caution When Using Portable Generators

WASHINGTON – The Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has joined with the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) in issuing a warning to consumers confronted by the recent winter weather. When there's a power outage, exercise caution when using portable generators.

Carbon monoxide (CO) is an invisible killer. You can't see or smell it. A generator's exhaust contains poisonous CO which can kill you in a matter of minutes.

Last year, at least 65 people died from generator-related CO poisoning. Many of the deaths occurred after winter storms knocked out power.

Follow these important generator safety tips:

- Never use a portable generator inside a home, garage, shed or other partially enclosed space, even if doors and windows are open.
- Place portable generators outside only, far away from the home. And keep the generator away from openings to the home, including doors, windows and vents.
- Read the label on the generator and the owner's manual, and follow the instructions.
- Install CO alarms with battery backup in the home outside each sleeping area.
- Get to fresh air immediately if you start to feel sick, weak or dizzy. CO poisoning from exposure to generator exhaust can quickly lead to incapacitation and death.

Last year, CPSC mandated a new danger label (www.cpsc.gov/generator.html) on generators manufactured after May 14, 2007. The label states that, "Using a generator indoors CAN KILL YOU IN MINUTES."

FEMA and CPSC also caution people to never use charcoal for cooking in the home. Every year individuals lose their lives attempting to cook with charcoal when power is out. Charcoal fires should only be used outside of the home.

For more information, please visit these pages on the CPSC and U.S. Fire Administration Web sites:

- Generator Danger Warning - www.cpsc.gov/generator.html
- What to Know: Generators and CO - www.cpsc.gov/cpsc/pub/pubs/468.html
- New Danger Label Required on All Portable Generators - www.cpsc.gov/cpsc/pub/prerel/prhtml07/07074.html
- Carbon Monoxide and Portable Generator Hazards - www.usfa.dhs.gov/citizens/all_citizens/co/index.shtm

FEMA coordinates the federal government's role in preparing for, preventing, mitigating the effects of, responding to and recovering from all domestic disasters, whether natural or man-made, including acts of terror.

CANDIDATE PHYSICAL ABILITY TEST (CPAT)

INFORMATION:

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

Basic Information For The CPAT Test

QUALIFICATIONS:

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

APPLY EARLY

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

PAYMENT:

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

ORIENTATION SESSION:

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

TEST:

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

cannot attend your scheduled test day, please notify us as soon as possible. Every effort will be made to reschedule you to a test day that will fit your schedule.

RETESTS:

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

PRACTICE SESSIONS:

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

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

WHAT TO WEAR:

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

PARKING:

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

NO SPECTATORS PLEASE:

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

CPAT TESTING CENTER LOCATIONS:

Southern California:

626 N. Eckhoff Street
Orange, CA 92868

Northern California

6723 Sierra Court, Suite G
Dublin, CA 94568

Northern California 2007-2008 Schedule:

ORIENTATION DATES:

- January 5, 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:

- March 1, 4, 17, 18
- January 5, 8, 22, 23
- February 2, 5, 19, 20

TEST DATES:

- January 10, 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 2007-2008 Schedule:

ORIENTATION DATES:

- January 5, 14
- 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 8, 15, 22
- February 5, 12, 19
- March 4, 11, 18, 25

TEST DATES:

- January 10, 17, 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

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

The California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CDF) – now known as **Cal Fire**, is now accepting applications for **Firefighter I**. Applications will be accepted **until January 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.

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

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

What you can expect working as a firefighter for 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.

Because 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.

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

There is the opportunity to work as a fire fighter assigned to a Schedule A Contract. This is where a city, county, or fire protection district makes a contract with 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:

After submitting an application, it is reviewed and given a preliminary score based on your education, training and experience. The more boxes you can check the more points you can get. By mid March you should receive a letter indicating weather you passed the preliminary evaluation. If a passing score is given you may then be invited to an interview. The interview

is 100 percent of 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.

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

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

What 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?

CDF 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 situations. You will learn what station life is like and how to work with people of different backgrounds in that environment.

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

Just like anything else you can get out of 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

For a list of Contacts including units and stations with in units:
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

San Mateo-Santa Cruz Unit

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

Siskiyou Unit

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

Butte Unit

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

Mendocino Unit

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

Santa Clara Unit

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

Sonoma-Lake-Napa Unit

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

Humboldt-Del Norte Unit

118 S. Fortuna Blvd.
Fortuna, CA 95540
(707) 725-4413

Nevada-Yuba-Placer Unit

13760 Lincoln Way
Auburn, CA 95603
(530) 823-4904

Shasta-Trinity Unit

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

Tehama-Glenn Unit

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

SOUTHERN REGION

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

Fresno-Kings Unit

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

Madera-Mariposa-Merced Unit

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

Riverside Unit

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

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

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

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!

FIREFIGHTER EMPLOYMENT INFORMATION – Fresno (CA) Fire Department:

The **Fresno Fire Department** will be accepting applications **2-days only** for the position of **Firefighter**, one day only: January 18 and 19, 2008.

REQUIREMENTS INCLUDE:

- 21 years of age or older
- High school diploma or G.E.D.

For more information about the **City of Fresno**, visit their website at: www.fresno.gov

For more information about the **Fresno Fire Department**, visit their website at: www.fresno.gov/Government/DepartmentDirectory/Fire/default.htm

For more information about the **Fresno Firefighters Association, I.A.F.F. Local 753**, visit their website at www.fresnofirefighters.net

FIREFIGHTER TRAINING OPPORTUNITY:

"THE ART of SURVIVAL" *Firefighter Safety & Survival Symposium*

*Presented by the
Oregon Fire Instructor's Association*

*January 11-13, 2008
Oregon Public Safety Academy
4190 Aumsville Hwy SE, Salem, OR 97317*

*Register Online at <http://www.ofia.net/>
3-Days only \$200 includes lunch*



The Nation's Hottest Instructors

Chief Alan Brunacini (Phoenix FD ret) - Rules of Engagement.

Chief Rick Lasky - Lewisville TX - Author of *Pride & Ownership- Real Leadership with Real People*

Battalion Chief John Salka - FDNY - Author of *First In Last Out - Training Your Firefighters to get out Alive!*

Chief Bobby Halton - Editor of *Fire Engineering* - Recognition Primed Decision Making

Chief Gary Seidel (LAFD ret) - The All Hazard All Risk Task Force Leader 330 level

Deputy Chief Michael Bryant L.A. County Fire - Commanding the Mayday - RIC Operations
Deputy Chief Rob Dahl - The Courage to be Safe-National Fallen Firefighters Foundation
Battalion Chief Ed Hartin - Compartment Fire Behavior Training (HOT-PPE Required)
The Seattle Guys - Rules of Air Management (ROAM) The Point of No Return (HOT-PPE Required)
District Chief John Sullivan - Worcester Fire Department - Cold Storage Tragedy
Battalion Chief Fred Charlton - Clackamas County Fire - RIT Operations (HOT-PPE Required)
Black Sunday Survivors - FDNY Flashover - Joe Di Bernardo
Bill Henle (PFB ret) - The Haz-Mat Safety Officer NFPA 472 Certification

**Special fund raising dinner with your instructors Friday, January 11th 7-9 pm
to benefit the [Randy Carpenter Foundation](#) only \$50 in advance.**

**Special book signing event with the authors Friday, January 11th 4:30-5:30 pm
Pre-purchase your discount priced books at <http://www.fireservicebooks.com/>**

FIRE SERVICE INFORMATION TO SHARE:

USFA Releases Two Topical Reports on Fire Department Runs

Washington, D.C. – The U.S. Fire Administration (USFA) has issued two special reports, part of its Topical Fire Report Series, examining fire department responses to all types of emergency situations. In addition to fighting fires, fire departments respond to emergency medical service (EMS) calls; technical rescues; explosions; hazardous threats and conditions; natural disasters, and false alarms. Fire departments are also called upon to respond to a wide variety of non-emergency situations.

“Throughout the history of our nation, fire departments have, and continue to provide the necessary response and services to the communities they protect,” said U.S. Fire Administrator Greg Cade. “In today’s community and emergency environment, fire protection is only one of the many functions of a fire department. As in the past, today’s firefighters are trained to handle all types of incidents, including EMS and will continue to prepare themselves for all types of emergencies, threats and vulnerabilities in the future.”

The two reports, the *Fire Department Overall Run Profile* and the *Fire Department Fire Run Profile* were developed by the National Fire Data Center, part of USFA. To understand the full role fire departments play in a community, these reports explore fire department run activity as reflected in the 2004 National Fire Incident Reporting System (NFIRS) data.

The *Fire Department Overall Run Profile* looks at all types of fire department runs or calls including fire, whereas the focus of the *Fire Department Fire Run Profile* is strictly fire. Fifty-five percent of department responses require EMS and rescue services. False alarms account for 12 percent of all fire department runs, followed closely by good intent calls at 10

percent. About eight percent of all calls actually involve fire. Forty-two percent of all fire runs are to incidents involving structures, followed by outside fires at 35 percent.

The short topical reports are designed to explore facets of the U.S. fire problem as depicted through data collected in NFIRS. Each topical report briefly addresses the nature of the specific fire or fire-related topic, highlights important findings from the data, and may suggest other resources to consider for further information.

Copies of the reports can be downloaded at:

<http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/statistics/reports/index.shtm>

FIREFIGHTER EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES:

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

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

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

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

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

FIRE & 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=AJD18MH50D13

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

For more information about the San Francisco Paramedic association, visit their website at www.sfparamedics.org – they offer numerous initial and continuing education courses for EMT's, paramedics, and health care professionals.

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:	John Curry
Rank:	Firefighter
Age:	30
Gender:	Male
Status:	Career
Years of Service:	<1
Date of Incident:	11/27/2007
Time of Incident:	1057hrs

Date of Death: 11/27/2007
Fire Department: Volusia County Fire Service
Address: [125 W. New York Ave., Room 220, Deland, FL 32720](#)
Fire Department Chief: James G. Tauber
Fire Department Website: <http://volusia.org/FireServices/>

Incident Description: Firefighter Curry passed away from injuries received when a tree fell on him during a training exercise at the Volusia County Fire Training Center, [3889 Tiger Bay Road \(USNG: 17R MN 8507 2431\)](#), Daytona Beach. Curry was part of Volusia County's Wildland Fire Team, which was practicing power and chain saw use at the center.
(<http://www.volusia.org/11-27c-07.htm>)

Funeral Arrangements: Pending

Memorial Fund Contact and Address: Pending

Tribute is being paid to Firefighter John Curry at <http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/fireservice/fatalities/>
To date, 107 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).

Firefighter fatalities in USFA reports are summarized by date/year-of-incident. Initial notices posted online (<http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/fireservice/fatalities/>) and distributed via USFA listserve do not represent the final "on-duty" firefighter fatality determination by USFA for such reports, nor 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: Jon Bingham
Rank: Assistant Fire Chief
Age: 48
Gender: Male
Status: Volunteer
Years of Service: 19
Date of Incident: 11/28/2007
Time of Incident: 2330hrs
Date of Death: 11/30/2007
Fire Department: Geary Fire Department
Address: PO Box 54, Geary, OK 73040
Fire Department Chief: Greg Lewis

Incident Description: Assistant Fire Chief Bingham responded with his department to an apartment building fire with fatality late in the evening of 11/28/2007. According to reports, he stayed on-scene over the next 18 hours until the recovery of the deceased was completed. Bingham returned to the station to put away equipment, finishing at approximately 1800hrs (11/29/2007). Several hours after returning to his residence and going to bed, Assistant Fire Chief Bingham passed away from an apparent heart attack (0230hrs, 11/30/2007).

Funeral Arrangements: 12/03/2007

Memorial Fund Contact and Address: Donations in the name and memory of Assistant Fire Chief Jon Bingham may be made to the Geary Fire Department, PO Box 54, Geary, OK 73040; and/or the American Heart Association (www.americanheart.org).

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

To date, 108 firefighter fatalities have been reported to USFA in 2007 as a result of incidents that occurred in 2007.

AND:

Name: Alphonse Vincent Germano, Jr.
Rank: First Assistant Chief
Age: 60
Gender: Male
Status: Career
Years of Service: 18+
Date of Incident: 12/15/2007
Time of Incident: 1112hrs
Date of Death: 12/15/2007

Fire Department: Derry Volunteer Fire Department
Address: [116 E. Second Ave, Derry, PA 15627-1202](http://www.derryvolunteerfire.com)
F.D. Chief: William Woods

Incident Description: First Assistant Chief Germano returned from responding to an automatic fire alarm when the company was dispatched at 1121hrs to a residential fire. Germano stayed behind with a stand-by crew and worked communications then assisted servicing apparatus when it returned from the house fire. Shortly thereafter, fellow firefighters found Germano in cardiac arrest in the firehouse kitchen. Firefighters immediately initiated CPR, and called for paramedics. Chief Germano was transported to the [Excela Health Latrobe Hospital \(USNG: 17T PE 3652 6471\)](http://www.excelahealth.com), but passed away from the apparent heart attack.

Funeral Arrangements: Visitation is scheduled for Tuesday December 18, 2007, from 7-9 p.m., and Wednesday December 19, 2007, from 2-4 and 7- 9 p.m. A firefighter memorial service is scheduled for 7:15 p.m. at the [Shoemaker Funeral Home, 49 North Walnut Street Blairsville \(USNG: 17T PE 4718 7720\)](http://www.shoemakerfuneralhome.com). The funeral is set for Thursday December 20, 2007.

Memorial Fund Contact and Address: Vince Germano Memorial Fund, C/o Derry Volunteer Fire Department, [116 E. Second Ave, Derry, PA 15627-1202](http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/fireservice/fatalities/)

Tribute is being paid to First Assistant Chief Alphonse "Vince" Germano at <http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/fireservice/fatalities/>

To date, 109 firefighter fatalities have been reported to USFA in 2007 as a result of incidents that occurred in 2007.

AND:

Name: Peter G. Neilson
Rank: Firefighter/Medical First Responder
Age: 74
Gender: Male
Status: Volunteer
Years of Service: 25
Date of Incident: 12/17/2007
Time of Incident: 2300hrs
Date of Death: 12/17/2007

Fire Department: Kenockee Township Fire Department
Address: 8815 Main Street, [Avoca, MI 48006](http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/fireservice/fatalities/)
F.D. Chief: Thomas Skelton

Incident Description: At approximately 2300hrs, Firefighter Neilson responded with a crew to an emergency medical call. While on the scene, he was speaking with family members of the patient in an adjoining room when he sat down on a chair and suddenly passed out. Care was initiated immediately on scene and he was transported to the local hospital where he succumbed to an apparent heart attack.

Funeral Arrangements: 12/21/2007 at the Kaatz Funeral Home, [10 S Main St., Yale, MI](http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/fireservice/fatalities/) @ 1400-2000hrs visitation with a Firemans Memorial @ 1900hrs. 12/22/2007 @ 1100hrs at the [Kaatz Funeral Home](http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/fireservice/fatalities/) a Military Memorial followed by interment at Great Lakes National Cemetery, [4200 Belford Rd., Holly, MI](http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/fireservice/fatalities/).

Memorial Fund Contact and Address: Kenockee Township Firemans Fund, C/o Kenockee Township Fire Department, [Avoca, MI 48006](http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/fireservice/fatalities/).

Tribute is being paid to Firefighter/Medical First Responder Peter G. Neilson at <http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/fireservice/fatalities/>

To date, 111 firefighter fatalities have been reported to USFA in 2007 as a result of incidents that occurred in 2007.

AND:

Name: Donald Wallis
Rank: Firefighter
Age: 68
Gender: Male
Status: Volunteer
Years of Service: 50
Date of Incident: 12/08/2007
Time of Incident: 1741hrs
Date of Death: 12/16/2007

Fire Department: Forked River Volunteer Fire Company
Address: Parker Avenue and Oak Street, Forked River, NJ 08731
F.D. Chief: Kevin Flynn

Incident Description: On Saturday December 8, 2007 at 1700 hours, Fire Chief Kevin Flynn had the Forked River Fire Company (Station 60) dispatched to respond to their building for a holiday special detail that also promotes important community fire prevention, fire department recruiting, retention, and fund raising. At 1741 hours, Firefighter Donald Wallis suffered a massive heart attack while on-duty performing his duties at the special detail. EMS and Paramedics were requested and arrived on location at 1755 hours. Firefighter Wallis was transported to Community Medical Center in Toms River NJ where he was admitted into the critical care unit. Firefighter Wallis was not able to recover from his heart attack and expired on 12/16/2007 at 0852 hours.

Funeral Arrangements: The viewing will be held at the Riggs Funeral Home located at 130 Route 9 North, Forked River section of Lacey Township NJ on Wednesday December 19, 2007 and Thursday December 20, 2007 from 2pm to 4pm and 7pm to 9pm. A firemen's service will be held on Thursday December 20, 2007 at 8pm. The Funeral will begin at 10 am on Friday December 21, 2007 at the Riggs Funeral Home. Burial will follow at the Good Luck Cemetery in Lanoka Harbor section of Lacey township.

Memorial Fund Contact and Address: None provided.

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

To date, 110 firefighter fatalities have been reported to USFA in 2007 as a result of incidents that occurred in 2007.

AND:

Name: Ray Simonis
Rank: Firefighter
Age: 48
Gender: Male
Status: Volunteer

Years of Service: 19
Date of Incident: 12/18/2007
Time of Incident: 1148hrs
Date of Death: 12/19/2007
Fire Department: Wissahickon Fire Company
Address: 245 E. Race Street, Ambler, PA 19002-4424
Fire Department Chief: Fire Chief John Leadbeater
Fire Department Website: <http://www.station7.org/>

Incident Description: Firefighter Ray Simonis responded to a mutual aid structure call on Monday, December 18, 2007, working with the Ladder 7 crew on the second floor locating a source of an odor which was found. Ladder 7 was back in service in approximately 30-40 minutes. Firefighter Simonis returned to the station after the call and then proceeded to work. He returned home from work in the early morning hours of December 19 and was having shortness of breath, a cough but no chest pain. At approximately 0345hrs Ambler Ambulance responded and he was taken to Abington Hospital where he coded and passed away.

Funeral Arrangements: December 22, 2007, viewing from 9 AM until 10 AM. A short service by Reverend Tom Byron, followed by words from friends and family. Service should be concluded by 11 AM, when at this time everyone will be invited back to station 7A for the reception.

Memorial Fund Contact and Address: Pending

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

To date, 112 firefighter fatalities have been reported to USFA in 2007 as a result of incidents that occurred in 2007.

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

It is with deep regret that we advise you that a Firefighter with the Volusia County Fire-Rescue has been killed in the Line of Duty during training this morning. Initial reports are that companies were doing brush fire operations training when a tree fell, killing the Firefighter.

The accident happened this morning at Volusia's Fire training facility located on near Daytona Beach. Volusia County fire investigators say the firefighters are part of a "fire walker" team, and were using power saws to cut down trees when the tragic event occurred.

Additional details will follow. As always, our sincere sympathy and condolences to all effected-especially those directly involved from VCFR-and the Firefighters family.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 11-27-07 / 1253 hours

AND:

Hey....

As you know, the IAFC and the IAFF led the nation in the fire and emergency services' first Safety Stand Down in 2005...a groundbreaking event focused exclusively on reducing injury and line-of-duty deaths. The program was supported by almost all other major fire service organizations, and in the last 3 years has grown into a very successful safety awareness and training initiative.

By now you have hopefully seen that there have been some good and "makes sense" changes made for the STAND DOWN.

Before we go any further...please note for your scheduling pleasure, SURVIVAL WEEK (formerly known as the Stand Down week) is scheduled for June 22-28, 2008. The "theme" for this year will be announced soon, but just between us, the theme will probably be something related to:

- Not eating 3 triple meat bacon double cheese whoppers daily.
- Getting annual physicals.
- Doing a few basic things to be in a lil'better shape. (like walking to Burgerland, as opposed to driving)
- Not dying from preventable diseases so you can go to fires for a long, long time.

The reason for the "name" change makes good sense. Generally, a "Stand Down" should be issued when we all take immediate action to stop-and learn...in order to prevent a recent tragic event from happening again....even if it hasn't happened to you or your FD specifically. And that's what going to happen from now on. You will receive urgent "FIRE/EMS STAND DOWN: Priority Survival Notifications" via e-mail and media when something bad has happened, or a potential problem that effects FF/EMS personnel safety is noticed-and what can be done to stop it.

Fire/EMS Safety, Health and Survival Week (known now as SURVIVAL WEEK) will now be one of three components of a comprehensive Fire/EMS Safety Support System, developed this year by the IAFC's Safety, Health and Survival Section. (www.IAFCSafety.org)

The new program's 3 components are:

- 1=Fire/EMS Safety, Health and SURVIVAL WEEK (June 22-28, 2008)
- 2=Safety, Health and Survival Take 5 Safety Drills
- 3=FIRE/EMS STAND DOWN: Priority Survival Notification

As in the past, SURVIVAL WEEK will be devoted to reviewing safety policies, evaluating the progress of existing initiatives, and discussing health and fitness. It's also a good time to make an effort to correct safety deficiencies and to provide training, particularly on the safety items pointed out in CLOSE CALL and NEAR-MISS type events to reduce deaths and injuries among our personnel.

The next element will be a series of Safety, Health and Survival bulletins issued each month called Take 5 for Safety. These pre-packaged 5-minute safety drills will be posted on www.iafc.org and www.iafc.org/iafc-safety. Each month, a different topic will be covered to ensure that annually, all pertinent topics are addressed in the format described. All fire service organizations will have access to use these for posting on their sites as well.

The third component is the "FIRE/EMS STAND DOWN: Priority Survival Notifications". These are "red alert/ lookouts" for major emergency safety issues that arise during the year. Priority Survival Notifications will be emailed to the fire and EMS service to explain the need for immediate action to ensure the safety of fire/EMS professionals, specific to an issue, an event or a piece of equipment.

One final comment-if you are aware of an issue, an event or a even a serious problem with equipment (that could affect numerous FD's) that should be considered for a "FIRE/EMS STAND DOWN: Priority Survival Notification" (so the entire fire service become aware of it)... a new plan is being developed for that too. These case by case events will be shared thru a fire service wide notification system that is being developed as we speak. Between now and then, if you know of something that is critical, use this link for now:
<http://firefighterclosecalls.com/submit.php> or notify your rep directly at the IAFF or the IAFC.

==FIRE TRAINING SIMULATIONS....here is ANOTHER OUTSTANDING Fire Simulation from Fire Engineering and FDNY BC Frank Montagna...check this one out for ROW HOUSES:

http://www.fireengineering.com/articles/article_display.html?id=311484

...another NO EXCUSES firefighter training opportunity.

.....and LASTLY....GIVING BACK:

In our promise to continue sharing some good stuff over the Holiday Season, here are 2 more:

1-Buffalo Firefighter Donny Herbert, 34, had just crawled across the smoke-filled attic, trying to open a window for ventilation, but no one could find him now. Firefighters had been battling an electrical fire at the wood-frame house for almost 40 minutes on December 29, 1995, when a ceiling beam buckled. The entire roof of the house caved in. Snow, ice, rafters, drywall, soot and layers of asphalt all came crashing down....

<http://www.rd.com/content/firefighter-true-story-of-recovery/> (From Readers Digest)

2-Since abunchofya you wrote back enjoying that "music video" we shared, here is some more of a Father and his kids: This outstanding one kicks serious azz:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=X1bLUkSvOtE&feature=related>

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 11-27-07 / 0953 hours

AND

Hey...

December 23, 2007

Chabot College Fire & EMS News

33

21 year old Parkside firefighter Chase Frost, left Crozer-Chester Medical Center yesterday for further treatment in Texas....as you remember, he was admitted August 11th, with 3rd degree burns on half of his body and suffering from smoke inhalation while operating at a 3 alarm fire in Parkside, PA. Chase and Firefighter Dan Brees were trapped when a section of burning ceiling collapsed. Brees was burned as well, though not as severely. He was released from the hospital two weeks after the fire but is still recuperating.

Frost was critically hurt and had severe burns that required numerous surgeries. Most of his burns are healed or covered by skin grafts so doctors felt it was safe to send Frost for rehabilitation at Parkland Hospital in his home state of Texas. FF Frost is also an EMT, and a nursing student at Widener University. He is expected to spend two to three months at the rehabilitation hospital. Then he says, he would like to return to nursing school. We wish him the best in a quick recovery.

FLAG FRACKAS: Kansas Firefighters honored their fallen brother last night, but how some want to honor a Fallen Brother is sparking a WTF!? controversy. FF Tluscik died on Thanksgiving after a call, when he collapsed at his Kansas City, Kansas firehouse. To honor him, firefighters all across Kansas have been flying flags at half-staff...but one city's mayor is refusing to allow their FF's to do that.

Heinz Rodgers, the Mayor of Edwardsville said flags aren't allowed to be lowered because it's against the law. "I understand and I sympathize with the firefighters in wanting to show their appreciation and respect for a fallen firefighter...although we won't break any codes of our nation to do that". The mayor said he's following the US flag code, which says only the President or the Governor can order a flag to be lowered to half staff. "No one else in our country has that authority and since my oath of office is to uphold the laws of the state and country...that is what our city will do," said Hizzoner.

A FLORIDA FLAG FRACKAS TOO: Colleagues of fallen Firefighter John "J.J." Curry were fuming yesterday as well...1 day after his death in a training accident when they too were ordered to raise American flags back up that had been lowered to half-staff at Volusia County Fire stations in honor of the 30-year-old FF. The directive to raise the flags back up came by midmorning from the Chiefs office according to the Union local.

An angry Union rep said the Chief's office sent a text message ordering all the stations to raise flags up that had been lowered for FF Curry, who was killed Tuesday when a tree fell on him during brush fire training.

But a few hours after the Chief's message, the situation was changed and reversed. "Out of respect for the firefighter, we will allow signs of mourning such as wreaths, signs and lowering the flag." Makes sense.

Research indicates the flag code is a voluntary guideline to insure proper respect for the flag. There's no penalty for breaking these rules and the courts have ruled that violations of the flag code are protected free speech. While we would never support anything other than obvious and clear respect for the flag, it is pretty obvious to us that the attempts by FF's to lower the flag out of respect to FF's killed in the Line of Duty is American patriotism and honor at its best. It's proper respect: defined.

It makes common sense to lower the flags in Kansas and Florida...and anytime a Firefighter is lost in the Line of Duty. In this day and age where so many have forgotten what our Flag stands for, flying the flag in such an honorable way can only help re-institute patriotism, respect and honor.

And if that doesn't work, try this. Here is another "giving back" video worth watching to the end:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QZFkZiwMLZ4>

Take Care,

BillyG

The Secret List 11-29-07 / 0629 hours

AND

We deeply regret to inform you that a Volunteer Firefighter from Glenbrook/Stamford (CT) has been killed in Iraq. Gabrielle Costello, 26, a U.S. Army ranger, was killed in action on Sunday. His Mother called the firehouse to advise the members. Costello, who lived a few blocks from the firehouse, was an active member of the FD from March 2004 until October 2004, when he went into the Army.

Glenbrook Fire Chief Frank Passero said the department will dedicate its annual tree lighting, slated for 1830 hours Saturday at Hope Street Park, to Costello. As stated by one Fire Officer: "We have a great deal of sadness and our hearts are broken"

Our condolences to all affected by the tragic loss of U.S. Army Ranger Gabrielle Costello...especially his family and the members of his FD.

Our sincere appreciation to all those serving our Country...with a special thanks to those who are Firefighters.

Take Care,

BillyG

The Secret List 11-29-07 / 1845 hours

AND

Hey....

Firefighters from several different companies in Montour County (PA) were called to a barn fire Wednesday evening. The barn was well involved on arrival in Anthony Township when companies arrived on the scene. While operating about 45 minutes into the fire, a part of the building collapsed on the members operating, trapping Warrior Run Fire

Captain Wayne Hawley in the collapse. Captain Hawley was flown to Geisinger Danville and is listed in serious condition in the ICU. Another Firefighter, John Craven was also injured he was taken to the hospital by ambulance and was treated and released.

Here is a link to related video: <http://pahomepage.com/content/fulltext/?cid=22244>

We will keep you updated on Captain Hawleys condition...and even more tragic is that the fire has been determined to be arson.

WASHINGTON DC FF UPDATE: In the below link, DC Firefighter Charlie Shyab goes step by step through the October 29th fire that left him and 3 of his Brother Firefighters injured. FF Shyab, recovering from serious burns, describes how the crew became trapped with fire around them. Fire Sgt. Michael LaCore was seriously burned in that fire as well. FF's Kenneth Humphries and Douglas Donnelly were also hurt, but they were released from the hospital a few days after the fire. Thanks to Dave Statter/911 for the updates:

Interview Link: <http://www.wusa9.com/news/columnist/blogs/2007/11/charlie-shyab-meets-press-dc.html>

Raw video of the fire from DC Fire & EMS photographer Vito Maggiolo:

<http://www.wusa9.com/news/columnist/blogs/2007/10/one-dc-ff-still-critical-second-in-fair.html>

FIREFIGHTER DRUG TESTING: Following the LODD deaths of the 2 Boston Firefighters who were killed at a fire over the summer, a new report is recommending that all Boston Firefighters have regular random drug and alcohol testing. Firefighters Warren Payne and Paul Cahill were killed operating in a fire at that restaurant and autopsy results revealed that FF Payne had traces of cocaine in his system and that FF Cahill's blood alcohol content was more than 3 times the legal limit.

A panel ordered by Boston's Mayor Thomas Menino is recommending these changes, and is about to release its findings and will call for random drug and alcohol testing of firefighters. Currently, testing policy calls for BFD FF's to be tested when they're hired and then again 6 months later. After that, they are tested only if there were indications they have an abuse problem. The report contains recommendations and this time, the Mayor is reported to be committed to instituting random testing following the tragic loss of the 2 Firefighters.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 11-30-07 / 0827 hours

AND

Hey....

A Cambridge (Mass) Firefighter was hurt yesterday afternoon while on a fire call after a clueless delivery truck driver ran over a fire hose, sending the coupling crashing into the Firefighter.

The delivery truck driver ran over a charged hose line and the hose became tangled in the truck's rear wheels, disconnecting it from the fire hydrant, sending the hose flying through the air and smashing into the firefighter's back. The driver was issued a traffic citation after he told police he had "no clue" he wasn't supposed to drive over the fire hose. The hose also struck a female pedestrian, bruising her ankle.

Since we all can do little about "the clueless"....here is a link to a piece that covers BLOCKING so "the clueless" have less of a chance to hurt us.

http://www.respondersafety.com/news/2004/0623_VRSII.html

FF CARDIC ARREST: A Virginia Firefighter is recovering after he went into cardiac arrest while operating at a house fire in Roanoke yesterday. The firefighter, Scott Hetherington, 39, was in stable condition last night. Firefighters pulled FF Hetherington out of the house fire and initiated CPR. Our best for a quick recovery.

FALLEN FIREFIGHTER FLAG UPDATE: Here is a suggestion related to lowering the American flag at half staff when the need is clearly there-but those who don't get it won't support that action or choose to interfere with that action...because they have little else to do. Consider purchasing a NATIONAL FALLEN FIREFIGHTER FLAG and display it appropriately under the American flag. You can purchase different sizes of them-and all proceeds go to the NFFF. Check it out: <http://www.firehero.org/index3.aspx?categoryid=57>

A Fallen Firefighter Flag is one alternative while some are working to change the code for local fallen public safety members who give their lives in the Line of Duty.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 12-1-07 / 1245 hours

AND:

Hey...

Where were you? All of us have specific events in our lives where we will never forget where we were when we heard "the" news. President Kennedy being shot...Senator Kennedy being shot...the Challenger explosion...and much more. The "Worcester Fire" that took the lives of 6 heroes was one such event in the lives of Firefighters all over the world. Eight years ago tonight, six courageous Worcester firefighters gave their lives in the horrific Worcester Cold Storage warehouse fire. Personally, we had just returned home from a community Christmas celebration on the evening of Friday, December 3, 1999, and we casually got online... to check e-mail... and then to read...that firefighters were trapped in Worcester... and the absolutely unthinkable became reality.

We aren't going to re-tell the story of that fire since, if you don't know it by now...on the other hand, in case you have forgotten the details-or were not! a Firefighter in 1999...here is a link that has everything you would need to learn-and never forget:

<http://www.telegram.com/static/fire/pulitzer/index.html>

But we do want to again remind "all of us" that today is the anniversary of the horrible loss of WFD members Paul A. Brotherton, 41; Joseph T. McGuirk, 38; James F. Lyons III, 34; Lt. Thomas E. Spencer, 42; Timothy P. Jackson, 51, and Jeremiah M. Lucey, 38. Hopefully, you recognize all the names.

Our hearts go out to all the friends and families of these men, as well as to the members of the WFD on the anniversary of their loss. Don't let the members of your FD forget the

Worcester Cold Storage building fire on Franklin Street... and their "common bond" with the WFD 6 who were killed on 12-3-99 doing the job that you do.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL. NEVER FORGET The W-6.

BillyG

The Secret List 12-3-07 / 2045 hours

AND:

Hey...

3 people were killed early this morning (around 0300 hours) when their SUV collided with a responding Baltimore City fire company. The fire apparatus was responding to a fire call for smoke in a building. As the rig crossed an intersection, it collided with an SUV carrying 3 people. The 3 occupants of the SUV were all transported to area hospitals where they were later pronounced dead and 4 Firefighters were transported as well. More details when they become available.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 12-9-07 / 1030 hours

AND:

Hey...

South Carolina safety officials have agreed to a settlement that lowers fines and drops a charge that the Charleston FD knowingly ignored the safety of Firefighters during the June 18 Sofa Super Store blaze that killed 9 Firefighters. (Insert WTF!? here). The Mayor said that the city wanted to "get past the issue" and focus on making the needed changes. The issue or the question is, of course, what changes have been made so far (Phase 1 of the report offered loads of suggestions-some that could be done within days if the changes are wanted) ...and, are all levels of leadership taking the recommendations of the panel seriously? Time will tell-and the longer it takes, the harder it is to tell.

As you probably know, the citations dealt with issues such as firefighters not wearing full PPE/SCBA, they did not recognize known hazards associated with the buildings steel truss roof and the CFD lacked an adequate command system to coordinate, command, account for and control Firefighters. Basics.

Local media reports that Hizonor planned to fight the violations and charged that state officials were "making up" violations as they went along and that they ignored the city's requests for details about the infractions. He also has said that the fire was an "epic event" in Charleston's history and the city will be judged by how it responded to it...and how it responds to it. Exactly.

SO WHAT HAPPENED? The fine was reduced from \$9,325 to \$3,160; the City doesn't admit to any of the alleged violations; the Settlement can't be used as evidence in lawsuits; the State no longer alleges that the city "willfully" put Firefighters in harm's way with a deficient incident command system. Hmmm.

Put yourself in the surviving families "shoes" now: How would any of us feel (or add this new, latest feeling to our already set of horrific heart empty feelings) after that decision... if it were our family member killed in that fire?

The IAFF issued an appropriate statement Monday saying that the settlement doesn't negate some of the root issues surrounding the CFD's outmoded practices and equipment at the time of the fire. "This settlement is a travesty," IAFF General President Harold Schaitberger said. "It's an insult to the memory of the nine firefighters who died in the Sofa Super Store fire, to their families and to the firefighters who remain on the job." For more on the fines, full Charleston fire coverage, the settlement and all the details in the Phase 1 report, please go to: www.Firehouse.com .

So....HOW CAN YOU HELP IN CHARLESTON?

Well, locally, if the CFD is going to change, it's totally up to the Mayor and the Fire Chief. It's that simple. If they want their FD to change for the better-it will. If they don't want it to change for the better, it won't. However, if the members of the CFD want it to change and the leadership doesn't, the battle begins....but Firefighters "in battle" have affected positive change in the past, many with the scars to prove it.

As the facts, non-facts and politics of the Charleston fire continues to unfold, there is another positive effort by some good folks to help the FAMILIES of those Firefighters killed in Charleston.

There really are only 3 main issues related to the Charleston fire as far as we see it:

1-What happened, who may be responsible and what can be done to prevent it from happening again there-or anywhere....so the Charleston 9 LODD's aren't in vein. **This is all about 9 Firefighters who were tragically killed attempting to essentially save sofas.**

2-What other FD's can do with the Phase 1 (as well as 2 and 3 coming up soon) fire report and use it immediately as a template to see if it could happen "here". Link to Phase 1: http://www.charlestoncity.info/shared/docs/0/charleston_fire_department_phase_one_report.pdf

3-What can we or anyone do to help and support the families of the 9 Firefighters killed in Charleston?

-The answers to # 1 are pending with some very valid concern and question.

-The answer to # 2 is clear. Print the report and start using it as a template for any FD.

-The answer to # 3 has been going on since the notifications to the surviving families and continues....and that's the next item...

==THE CHARLESTON FIRE DEPARTMENT MEMORIAL SAFETY & SURVIVAL SEMINAR.

.....will be held on April 26th and 27th, 2008 in Charleston, S.C...and it will feature OUTSTANDING fire instructors: Bobby Halton, Editor of Fire Engineering, Harvey Eisner, Editor of Firehouse, DC Butch Cobb, from Jersey City, FDNY's FF Robert Knabbe, FF Robert Athanas, BC John Salka & DAC (Ret) John Norman, Worcester's Capt Kevin Maloney & DC John Sullivan as well as DC Mike Smith (Ret) from Washington DC....and ALL

PROCEEDS WILL BE DONATED TO THE City of Charleston Firemen's Fund. Mark the date-these are THE BEST INSTRUCTORS in our business giving their time up for an important cause...and for those who cannot come to Charleston, Donations can be dropped off at any branch of Bank of America or sent to:

City of Charleston Fireman's Fund c/o Bank of America, P.O. Box 304, Charleston, SC 29402.

==FIREFIGHTER LIVE BURN TRAINING: GREAT training when done right. But this clip shows much of what we should not do: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wyZqRlofpT8>

For more info related to live fire training, NFPA 1403 and the safe and proper way to do it, please check out:

<http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/docs/wp-solutions/2005-102/>

<http://dynamic.firehouse.com/broadcast/2006/02/10/live-fire-training-getm-in-there-and-do-what/>

<http://www.firehouse.com/carter/2002/2/0210.html>

<http://www.fireengineering.com/forum/message.html?id=19>

<http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/fire/reports/face200531.html>

==NEWLY ISSUED NIOSH FF FATALITY REPORTS:

FF dies after falling through floor supported by engineered wooden-I beams at residential structure

fire - Tennessee: <http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/fire/reports/face200707.html>

Floor collapse at commercial structure fire claims the lives of one Fire Lieutenant and one Firefighter in

New York: <http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/fire/reports/face200627.html>

Speaking of NIOSH, the IAFC SHS Section (www.IAFCSafety.org) forwarded this link to NIOSH's BLOG SITE to pass along to you...check it out: <http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/blog/>

==and finally.....GIVING BACK:

Here is a clip from PA where Firefighters had to deal with a ZAMBONI fire. A what? Is that a kinda SANDWICH!? No professor, here is a Zamboni: <http://www.zamboni.com/> and this is what it looks like when it catches fire in a skating rink:

<http://www.cnn.com/video/#/video/us/2007/12/03/sotvo.zamboni.fire.cnn> . And that interview is what one of our webmasters from www.FireCompanies.com looks like at his first Zamboni fire.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 12-4-07 / 1647 hours

AND:

Hey...

Today is a rough day for many Americans and Firefighters, even if you didn't realize it. While some others might barely remember why, we remember. If you were around on Dec. 7, 1941, you will definitely never forget what the date means and how it impacted our nation. Today is Pearl Harbor Day. Remembering the attack at Pearl Harbor is directly remembered by fewer each year...as the "greatest generation" continues to pass on. The attack on Pearl Harbor left a toll of 2,388 dead and 1,178 wounded...including Firefighters (read on)...and pushed the United States into World War II.

We had a chance to again visit Pearl Harbor just a few weeks ago-and it is clear that in Hawaii, the attack and those who lost their lives, has NEVER been forgotten. We were privileged to see Pearl Harbor through the private words and eyes of a wonderful and very proud Federal Fire Department (Hawaii) Battalion Chief...who, when showing us around, continued to use the words "OUR history" and "OUR Nation"...his message was clear to us. Pearl Harbor happened to us. Everyone of us.

It's 2007 and we are at war now as well. In WW2, it wasn't just the soldiers who went to war- EVERYONE got involved and made a difference to protect our Country-and defeat the enemies. Today we need to remember those who served, those who were lost and those who survived the attacks in 1941. We must keep their memory alive as a reminder that they paid the highest price for OUR freedom. And we also must remember the young women and men who are serving overseas-today-right now as you read this stuff, they are serving you and I.

During the Pearl Harbor attack. 3 Engine Companies of the Honolulu (Hawaii) Fire Department, (Engines 1, 4, and 6) were dispatched to fight the fires caused by enemy attack. HFD Fire Captain John Carreira, Captain Thomas Macy and Hoseman Harry Pang all gave their lives in the Line of Duty. 6 other Firefighters were wounded while fighting fires at Hickam Field: Fire Lt. Frederick Kealoha, Hosemen Moses Kililikani, John A. Gilman, Solomon Naauao, Patrick McCabe and George Correa. All of these Firefighters were awarded Purple Hearts and became the only civilian Firefighters in the U.S. to do so.

Freedom includes the right to feel what you wish regarding our current military deployment. But either way and no matter what, we must very aggressively and proactively protect our freedom from attacks by the known and unknown enemies. The enemies who plan and would love to take it away from us...and would do so in a heartbeat. Unfortunately, those who hate what we have, what we stand for, what we believe in and how we live as Americans, offer us no options.

Need a reminder? Go here...quickly:

<http://www.fdynlodd.com/9-11-Never-Forget/Memorials/Blood-Of-Heroes.html>

The following are some excellent links with video related to remembering December 7, 1941.

<http://plasma.nationalgeographic.com/pearlharbor/>

<http://www.nps.gov/archive/usar/ExtendWeb1.html>

Take Care-BE CAREFUL and our thanks to ALL who have served and are serving OUR Country in our Armed Forces and Military/Federal Fire & Rescue Services.

BillyG

The Secret List 12-7-07 / 1027 hours

AND:

Hey....

The crash in Baltimore was witnessed by other responding companies and the audio to that radio traffic is linked below. (see audio link below)

Reports are that a surveillance camera took pictures of the Baltimore City fire apparatus proceeding into the intersection and other Firefighters may have seen the apparatus run a red light. The crash killed 3 civilians.

Truck 27 was responding at around 0300 Sunday, responding to a report of smoke in the hallway of a house when the truck struck a sport utility vehicle, killing Mikhail Petrov, 35; his wife, Iryna Petrov, 49; and their friend Igor Saub, 24.

Both the PD and the FD are investigating the crash to determine whether the driver of the apparatus or Iryna Petrov, who was driving the SUV, failed to stop at a red light. If authorities determine the apparatus driver failed to stop at the signal, the case would be referred to a city prosecutor. Naturally, all of the Firefighters involved are extremely shook up. Media in the Baltimore area is reporting that the Fire Apparatus Driver had completed a Maryland Fire Rescue Institute 39 hours emergency vehicle operations course. That course is reported to be mandatory for everyone who operates a fire truck in the Baltimore City FD and is followed by additional training at the station level. RADIO TRAFFIC LINK:

<http://www.baltimoresun.com/news/local/bal-dispatchaudio1211,0,7648263.mp3file>

RED LIGHT? STOP SIGN? Just STOP (or require your members to STOP) when responding and only go through when you are sure that NOTHING is in the way or coming. Does your STATE LAW allow responding companies and units to run a red light or stop sign? Of course it does-almost all do. It's the issue of not crashing into anything that's the factor....and the ONLY way to minimize that chance is to STOP and make sure it is fully clear no matter what we are responding to.

GOOD NEWS: In some good news, as you will remember on October 29th DC Firefighter Jay Hyde, a wagon driver (DC area term for Engine Company) for DCFD's Engine 6, helped carry a badly burned Michael LaCore to an ambulance. Wednesday evening, Firefighter Hyde thought he was going to be chauffeuring LaCore home after more than six weeks in the Washington Hospital Center Burn Unit. But LaCore, who was a long time driver of Engine 6 before being promoted to sergeant, had a surprise for Hyde and everyone else --- he wanted to drive. Still recovering from 2nd and 3rd degree burns over more than half his body, Sgt. Michael got behind the wheel of the fire engine and drove himself home. Here is a link to that outstanding story and thanks to Dave Statter 911 for this update.

<http://www.wusa9.com/news/columnist/blogs/2007/12/sgt-michael-lacore-takes-wheel-for-ride.html>

GIVING BACK:

Do 1st due "COMMAND ROLES" sometimes confuse you? Did you go to NIMS class and find yourself "just a bit" more confused about running an incident than before? Did you only THINK you knew what "plain English" meant before taking the latest NIMS, ICS or COMMAND COURSE? Does this whole "ICS or NIMS THING" have you needing serious psych counseling?

In our attempt to give back during this Holiday Season, go to www.FireFighterCloseCalls.com and click on the FIRE COMMAND SUV photo right there on the home page, just below Jolly old Santa Claus. Enjoy. Take Care-BE CAREFUL-and please just STOP AT RED LIGHTS AND STOP SIGNS. STOP.

JUST #%#^!! STOP. The potential outcome of not stopping is just not worth it.

BillyG

The Secret List 12-13-07 / 0725 hours

AND:

Hey...

Baltimore City Police have confirmed that Baltimore City FD Truck 27 had the red light and was going 47 mph when it ran thru that red light, striking an SUV, killing 3 people on Sunday morning.

The civilian SUV was traveling about 23 mph through their green signal when it was struck by the ladder truck. Cops say the driver of the SUV, Iryna Petrov, 49, had a blood-alcohol content level of .06, just below the legal limit of .08. The cops have not yet decided if charges will be filed against the Fire Apparatus Operator.

Once the cops conclude their investigation, the results will be turned over to prosecutors as this nightmare for all affected continues.

The driver of Truck 27 is Nathaniel D. Moore, 40, a firefighter and paramedic apprentice who joined the FD 3 years ago. Passengers in the apparatus were Lt. Thomas Moore, a 33-year veteran, not related to the driver; Darryl Alexander, a 25-year veteran; and Kenneth Jacobs, a 13-year veteran.

All emergency vehicles operating in Baltimore City are required to stop at red lights, even when responding to calls...drivers can proceed through a red light or a stop sign after stopping and ensuring that the intersection is clear. Cops said Truck 27 was the 3rd of 4 fire vehicles to travel through the intersection within seconds of each other that morning, while en route to a nearby apartment complex to check on a report of smoke in the hallway of an apartment complex. Additional details will follow.

EVERY FIREFIGHTER or EMS Member who drives ANY emergency vehicle needs to be aware of this latest incident and understand what a nightmare this can be. STOP AT RED LIGHTS AND STOP SIGNS.

HERE is the IAFC Guide to Model Policies and Procedures for Emergency Vehicle Safety which also includes all State Statutes for those who wanna argue with you.

<http://www.iafc.org/displaycommon.cfm?an=1&subarticlenbr=602>

Take Care-BE CAREFUL. STOP AT RED LIGHTS AND STOP SIGNS. Enforce it...no matter what.

BillyG

The Secret List 12-13-07 / 1238 hours

AND:

Hey...

When we read the below article about uniforms, we thought it can't be right. How can the issue of uniforms be a priority following the Line of Duty deaths of 9 Firefighters. But then when my Chief and numerous others asked if the below article was a serious one, we started to think. The article (link below) is about new uniforms for the members of the Charleston FD. Not bunker gear, uniforms.

I am the first to understand that sometimes my line of thinking is out of whack. City managers hold the record for telling me that. A few days ago, I had a chance to speak to several members of the Charleston LODD Fire Review panel of experts (link below) and amongst the issues that are being dealt with in Charleston, new uniforms are on the list. In the interview below, it's pretty clear that I don't think new uniforms are especially important after a FD has lost 9 Firefighters in the Line of Duty considering that, perhaps, there may be other issues that may be of a higher priority. Again, maybe it's me-I am not the snappiest dresser you have ever met and I wouldn't know GQ magazine from Cosmo. One of my best friends irons everything he wears-all the time-no matter what. And he always looks very crisp...I don't.

But I just didn't think uniforms are very important, in the overall big picture in Charleston (in any town) following the tragic loss of 9 Firefighters....and I stated that. Sure, they should be safe, look nice and fit-but that's about it. In other words, unless uniforms directly contributed to the tragic loss of Firefighters, it can be dealt with after the real important stuff is dealt with. That would be whatever it was that directly and indirectly lead to the Line of Duty deaths of the 9 Firefighters.

But maybe it's really not uniforms. Maybe it's the issue of the members of an internal CFD membership committee being asked for their input - and their final recommendation not being followed. Of course, being asked for input and then havin g it not be followed may be crummy, but it happens every day. Maybe it's not the issue of uniforms....

Maybe it's the issue of the leadership of that FD being provided lots of requested input, (internally by the members and externally by the panel).....and not really wanting that input? Perhaps the uniform issue is symbolic and could reflect on other current and upcoming changes being suggested?

The job of the CFD internal employee committee was apparently to recommend the specific styles and materials for their new uniforms following the Super Store Fire...but CFD Firefighters say that's not what happened. They say the uniform agreement their Chief publicly unveiled last week is not what they recommended. Instead they say it is a

compromise under pressure they felt forced to make and one they now are concerned other committees will encounter. Sometimes when we are asked for our opinions, we give them, we are told thanks, and then the boss goes and does what the boss wants anyway. So I guess similar problems "could" happen if they have a:

- Leather vs plastic helmet committee.
- Smooth bore vs adjustable committee.
- 4" vs 5" committee.
- 1.5" vs 2" committee.
- SOP vs SOG committee.
- Automatic mutual aid vs the "don't send the closest firehouse 'cause they might get there first" committee.

The Charleston fire is one many folks have jumped all over. My thoughts have been to respect the process and the members by waiting to see what happens when the experts make suggested changes...so we can ALL learn so that NONE of us ever experience that again. And while some changes may be happening, the uniform issue (see link below) may be a warning sign of "yeah, give us your input but we will do what we want-or what I want, anyway" ...we sure hope that's not where this is going because this fire is much more than just the CFD. It's all of FD's who can learn from this. And not about uniforms. About the important facts that lead to the Firefighters deaths.

Why do we care? 9 reasons: 9 Firefighters died at this fire saving sofas. 9 Firefighters died at that fire and the issue of uniforms is taking headlines. WTF!? Those headlines could be replaced with info on increased staffing solutions, training, command training, water supply, accountability, training, the best PPE, hi-flow handlines, pre-plans, training, alarm assignments, closest station irregardless of community responses and whatever else the experts from the Charleston LODD Fire Review panel , NIOSH, USFA, IAFF and others suggest.

This doesn't have to be very complicated. Take the employee suggestions along with time and cost analysis and do them, unless there is a genuine, fair, and publicly valid reason why not. Some can be done quicker than others. But why not just do them? If you ask a group of employees for their ideas, suggestions or input- just do what they suggest-or let them know up front that their input will be considered-but there are no promises being made. But when it comes to uniforms, I am not sure that this has to be all that complicated. Hose size? Yes. Training? Yes. Bunker Gear? Yes. Training? Yes. But this is UNIFORMS. Get some that won't hurt the employees, ones that don't need ironing, ones that fit and the ones they suggested and then just buy them, Quickly.

When you ask a group of noted experts (The Charleston LODD Fire Review panel) on what should be changed so history isn't repeated, do what they say. When asking employees for input, there is some wiggle room. There is a difference.

When it comes to asking employees for input on something as basic as uniforms, what they suggest may not be exactly what is needed...but just do it if it won't hurt much. Or, don't waste anyone's time in asking if you already know what outcome you want....especially when the members of this (or any) but especially the CFD have been through so much already.

&n bsp;

But when asking The Charleston LODD Fire Review panel of experts why 9 Firefighters died and how the FD can heal and improve, take every word they suggest-apply it to a timeline for implementation-and make it "the plan". However, if what they suggest or might suggest isn't going to be followed, then just don't ask.

<http://www.wciv.com/news/stories/1207/479438.html> (Video & article from above article)

<http://dynamic.firehouse.com/broadcast/2007/12/07/through-the-smoke-the-charleston-firewhats-changed-part-1/> (Interview with the Charleston LODD Fire Review Panel)

Take Care,
BillyG
The Secret List 12-13-07 / 1410 hours

AND:

Hey...

Just when we all attempt to absorb the risks and issues related to fire apparatus response and the sometimes tragic results, such as in Baltimore this week, we are sent this WTF?! item about a couple that wants authority to regularly take hurt and sick animals to the vet...using lights and sirens.

Detroit news is reporting that Nell and Larry Knapp in Warren (Michigan) have helped abused, neglected and injured animals for years...and that's really cool. Really. It is. But now they want to get little Muffy to the vet with red lights and sirens. They are asking elected officials to change the laws to help them run an emergency animal ambulance service. And if it passes, it would allow them to operate and equip their 2000 Ford Explorer with emergency lights and sirens to help save Spot. "We can transport them with oxygen and nebulization and that kind of thing," said Nell Knapp, a former "human" emergency medical technician. "It will just be extended medical care."

Their frustration is that they need to change Michigan law to make it happen. They have been working with state Rep. Lisa Wojno to get the law enhanced. "Currently the way the law is written it's open to interpretation," Rep Wojno said. "We did go ahead and request legislation that basically adds (that) emergency vehicles concerning an individual or an animal would be covered." Uhh...WHAT did you do?!

The current law in Michigan WILL NOT currently allow them to run lights and sirens when Porky is puking? Maybe there is a reason for that.

State Rep Wojno hopes for hearings on the issue after the 1st of the year to change Michigan law so that their 2000 Ford Explorer (or a 68 Buick with a hamster cage) will have the same exact emergency status as Police cars responding to the shooting of a police officer, a Fire-EMS unit responding to a child not breathing and a Fire Company responding to a dwelling fire with entrapment.

Any differences noted?

And not surprisingly, there has been a couple of little "problems" when the Knapp's have

responded to emergencies in the past. About a year and a half ago they got a ticket for transporting a cockatiel "emergency" status...a genuine cockatiel EMERGENCY. They went to court to fight...but the reports are that the ticket got thrown out.

On the other hand, the Knapp's DO promise that they would get additional insurance if they get authorized emergency vehicle status..and they would be very, very, very careful when driving. Well, if you PROMISE to be careful..... "I've been trained in anti-terrorist driving while serving in the military and a combat medic," he said. "I'm very cautious and I don't take risks that would put anybody in danger. We have to think of people first and animals second even if we have an emergency. We can't jeopardize people to save an animal." Exactly.

....and that's why no matter how much any of us may love animals, allowing the law to be changed adds countless new problems, liabilities and issues in the already risky business of responding to human emergencies using lights and sirens. In Michigan (and in every other state or province), fire, EMS and police personnel have been working hard to increase driver training and evaluate procedures to minimize the risks associated with emergency response. By even considering to allow whoever in whatever to transport "Lucky" using lights and sirens, takes the heavy efforts to save our lives and to protect the public when responding "emergency"...and tosses it in the kitty litter.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 12-13-07 / 1106 hours

AND:

Hey...

A Richland (MO) Firefighter suffered serious injuries Sunday evening when he was struck by a car while assisting at the scene of a motor vehicle accident at 6:45 p.m. near mile marker 142 on Interstate 44 in northern Laclede County. Firefighter Tracy D. Henry, 37, was transported by ambulance to St. John's Hospital in Springfield and was listed in serious but stable condition. He was hit by a 2000 Jeep Cherokee driven by Timothy M. Laurentius, 19, of St. Louis.

Laurentius was charged with operating a motor vehicle in a careless and imprudent manner involving an accident and failure to yield to a stationary emergency vehicle, second-degree assault of emergency personnel, and the Laclede County prosecuting attorney says she expects more traffic charges will be filed.

The night was cold, snowy and windy, with multiple accidents because of the slick roads. It only got worse when Henry was hit working an accident scene. They were set up to! do traffic control, and were trying to get the traffic to merge over into the regular driving lane when the accident occurred. The Highway Patrol says the passing eastbound lane was closed off with orange cones but Laurentius swerved into the closed lane and struck the guardrail and FF Henry. Henry's been a full time St. Robert Firefighter for about the past year and a Volunteer Firefighter with Tri-County for about the last five years.

CAUGHT ON CAMERA? Cameras are everywhere these days and more and more, FD's are filmed doing the good that we do. Unfortunately and occasionally, things are filmed that

shouldn't be...or actually, maybe it has nothing to do with the filming, 'cause if we are doing it the best we can-or as we should, who cares who films what?

In Connecticut, OSHA folks are investigating a recent live fire training burn that the Goshen VFD conducted. The good news is that they were training. The bad news is again the almost complete disregard for their members survival by ignoring NFPA 1403. And in Connecticut, if these are found to be violations, it could result in fines from OSHA, of up to a thousand bucks for each one. Here is the video: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wyZqRlofpT8>

PA LODD: It is with deep regret that we advise you that the Derry Borough (Westmoreland County) Fire Company is reporting the LODD of Asst Chief Alphonse Vincent Germano, Jr. Chief Germano was at the fire station when he was found deceased by Firefighters. He had responded on an automatic fire alarm, and returned to the station when shortly thereafter, the company was dispatched on another run. The assistant chief stayed behind with another crew. When the engine returned, Chief Germano helped get it back in service when a short time later, fellow firefighters found Chief Germano in the kitchen in cardiac arrest, his members worked him and he was transported to a local hospital but unfortunately was pronounced dead.

Visitation is scheduled for Tuesday from 7-9 p.m., and Wednesday from 2-4 and 7- 9 p.m. A firefighter memorial service is scheduled for 7:15 p.m. at Shoemaker Funeral Home, Blairsville. The funeral is set for Thursday. As always our deepest condolences to all affected-but especially the family of Chief Germano.

FINAL NOTE-WE REMEMBER: On December 16, 2003, FDNY Firefighter Thomas Brick died while operating at a structure fire at a Manhattan mattress warehouse. FF Brick was found severely burned and in cardiac arrest inside the building. FF Brick was in the first graduating class of FDNY, following 9/11. R.I.P.

Fire Report: <http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/fire/reports/face200404.html>

Take Care-BE CAREFUL,
BillyG
The Secret List 12-17-07 / 0545 Hours

AND:

Hey...

Our "stand" on Firefighter staffing has been real clear for several decades. It takes well lead, well trained firefighters to fight fires based upon the pre-required tasks. How many Firefighters do you need? Figure out the tasks and apply that number. If you have a small single family dwelling fire (1000 sq foot, w/f, hydranted area) with a room or two burning, that requires (minimally!) 3 handlines (use the guide to fire flow, it's on our Safety & Survival DOWNLOADS page here: <http://firefighterclosecalls.com/downloads.php> ...scroll down on that page and look for The ISO Needed Fire Flow Guide Download) ...and then initially you also need at least:

- Water supply (1 FF on the hydrant)
- Pump operator (1 FF)
- 3 handlines (3, 1-1/4" lines w/3 FF's each=9 FF's)
- Force Entry, Search (2 FF's)

- Vent (2 FF's)
- Command (1 IC in front and 1 rear sector supervisor allow for a 360 of the bldg) (2 FF's)
- RIT (3 FF's)

You need at least 20 Firefighters...at the very minimum for your first alarm assignment. And that's just on the initial dispatch...if there are multiple calls or any indications of a working fire (yeah-smoke is an indicator) etc-double or triple that staffing number immediately through pre-determined alarm assignments. And while those numbers are a good start, they are for a SMALL single family dwelling. Do the staffing math for an occupied 4 story ordinary construction multi-family dwelling.

The Globe in Boston is reporting that staffing is again being pointed at as a possible reason why a civilian died in a fire. In Gloucester (MA) a 70-year-old man was killed this weekend after his 4 story apartment building burned right near the GFD on a night when the FD acknowledges that they were understaffed by at least two Firefighters.

As it should have been, the truck company responded to rescue the man at about 1230 hours on Saturday...but as it shouldn't have--it had only a single firefighter assigned to it. The driver, Firefighter James Capillo, had to recruit two cops to help him set up a 35-foot ground ladder below the victims window.

Witnesses saw Taylor waving his arms through the smoke, but by the time the ladder was set up, he had disappeared. Firefighter Marc Nicastro went inside as other Firefighters below urged him to stay out. The young firefighter reached Taylor's side, but the disabled man was too heavy to move and hero FF Nicastro had to retreat as the room was about to flash. Nicastro's efforts were clearly heroic in spite of a Local Government and community that continues to vote down the needed funding to provide the staffing needed.

The GFD has had staffing shortages since voters rejected a tax increase in 2004, confirmed that there were only 15 firefighters working Friday night, even though minimum staffing levels in the union contract call for at least 17. Initially, the Chief said only a handful of the on-duty firefighters went to the scene because the call had only reported a smoke alarm going off. The Chief acknowledged that the shortage of firefighters could have made the fast moving fire more difficult to contain at first, though firefighters from 17 towns and government agencies eventually came to Gloucester to assist.

Mayor John Bell said, "We have suffered from the same pain as most of the other cities and towns in Massachusetts, which have been cut back in local aid over the past six or seven years." Things are not great relative to funding levels," he said. "Cutbacks have been made against increased levels of health insurance, energy costs, contractual agreements." He expressed his support of the fire department's response to the fire. "My hats are off to the entire fire department," he said. Hmmm.

It is difficult to think that most FD's these days can expect to provide all the needed staffing to handle all the emergencies. But when it comes to FIRE response, planning ahead and a TRUE automatic mutual aid system (where your neighbors are dispatched at the same time you are to provide the minimally needed staffing) between FD's can help solve the problem potentially saving civilian as well as Firefighters lives.

How much staffing do we need? Well-that depends on WHAT is reported to be on fire...DO THE FIRE FLOW AND TASK MATH (and do it well before the fire!). The above example we provided for a 1000 sq foot dwelling has a very significantly different 1st alarm requirement than the 1st alarm assignment in an occupied multi-family dwelling. For the multi-family dwelling, you may need 40 or more Firefighters on the 1st alarm....IF you want to have a shot at performing the needed tasks SIMULTANIOUSLY. After all, you CAN perform all the tasks with just 6 or 7 Firefighters....EVENTUALLY and at the risk of lives including your Firefighters...and often you will simply run out of building as it burns down while you try and do the work of 40-50 Firefighters with a half dozen.

Folks who do not support this concept of "full" 1st alarm assignments often want to "wait until we get there and see what we really need"
==WHY? Isn't the person on the phone saying their house is on fire good enough?!

Or, "we don't want to risk all that equipment on the road"
==WHY? Just slow down, drive sanely, stop at red lights (stop on red or someone is dead) and stop signs" That's a training and supervision issue. Not a "too much equipment on the road" issue.

Or, "we don't want to bother or neighboring FD"
==WHY? What else were they doing besides listening to your fire and wishing they could come help as you try and do the work of many with few? And back-fills or station fills from other FD's helps the coverage issue.

When taxpayers say no, sometimes we need to do what they ask, provide the level they asked for and make it clear what we CAN do with what they provide us with-and what we CANNOT do. Firefighter Marc Nicaastro went above and beyond attempting to save that man...he went above and beyond even though the majority of taxpayers told him not to. The voters and elected officials decided a level of staffing and that's the level of service they should get. No emotions. It's simple math.

Fortunately, for most communities, there are other "Marc Nicaastro's" , Firefighters who are willing to do what it takes in spite of it all....even though that Firefighter shouldn't have had to be predictably placed in that position. Fortunately the poor staffing issue didn't cost Marc his life this time-but it may have cost Mr. Taylor his. Some say you just can't say that, that you just really never know if the correct staffing would have mattered in saving a life. The simple response to that is to ask the naysayers and elected officials what they want when their loved ones are inside the house? That's the real answer. Ask them what they want responding when their kid, their wife, their husband, their Mom or Dad, whoever they say "I Love you" to...when they are trapped in a dwelling fire. No dramatics. No nonsense. Just answer the question. What do you want responding, how many do you want and how long do you want them to take to get there? And when they, the Firefighters, arrive, what TASKS do you want them performing for those who you love?

Simple questions on the issues of staffing, costs of staffing, what the taxpayers expect and the potentially deadly outcomes.

That's really the issue and the questions that have to be asked-and answered. That is, unless we want to start discussing mandatory retroactive fire sprinkler systems...and that's a completely different discussion.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL,
BillyG
The Secret List 12-17-07 / 0856 Hours

AND:

Hey...

When I think of FIRE SERVICE HEROES, there are 2 categories. The ones who do the job daily and are just not very well known. For example, I watched our crews at my FD feverishly attempt to save the life of a 57 year old man just the other day....in front of his kids ages 10, 12 and 16. Sometimes we win, sometimes we don't in spite of the BEST efforts.

But when I think of the "known" ones, # 1 in my generation is Chief Ray Downey, who was murdered on 9-11-01.

We need you to tell us about the not so well known Fire Service heroes that YOU know about....the ones who have made a difference at a fire or technical rescue. The Chief Ray Downey Courage and Valor Award commemorates the life of Deputy Chief Ray Downey and recognizes courageous members of our business, volunteer or career. As you know, Chief Downey was Chief of Rescue and a 39-year veteran of FDNY and was the most highly decorated firefighter in their history.

WATCH THIS QUICK VIDEO AND THEN NOMINATE SOMEONE WHO YOU CONSIDER A HERO. With so many Firefighters out there doing the job, it is important to recognize those who have truly demonstrated courage and valor. Take a look at this video for additional information from Joe and Chuck Downey, Ray's Sons who have followed in their Dad's footsteps:

<http://link.brightcove.com/services/player/bcpid1343712569>

And here's a link to the nomination form:

http://downloads.pennnet.com/fe/fdic2008/fdic08_raydowneycnv.pdf

<http://downloads.pennnet.com/fe/fdic2008/2008cvnomination.pdf>

And if those links are slow or hard to download, just go to: www.FDIC.com and grab the form there as you register for FDIC....WHAT? You haven't registered yet? Whadaya NUTS? HURRY UP.

HOLIDAY SPIRIT:

And if the CHRISTMAS & HOLIDAY SPIRIT MOVES YOU...maybe you wanna help out here with a stocking stuffer. A few years ago, we did a presentation at FDIC called "And The Beat Goes On" about our injuries and deaths. They re-created it into a DVD program and thanks to so many of you, it has done extremely well and we have raised some serious cash. 100% of

the royalties from the sales are donated 50/50 between the Chief Ray Downey Scholarship Charity Fund and the Nat'l Fallen Firefighters Foundation.

While we are extremely uncomfortable offering anything "for sale" on The Secret List and FireFighterCloseCalls, and almost never do, this is a chance for us to personally help raise a few bucks during the holiday season in memory of Ray Downey and for two very good causes....both well worth it. 100% of the royalties have been and will be donated as noted above as a fund raiser....so maybe this would be a good stocking stuffer?

<http://www.pennwellbooks.com/andbeatgoeson.html> or go to:
<http://www.fire-police-ems.com/misc/da3500.shtml>

GIVING BACK: In our attempt to give back this holiday season, here is a video WE KNOW yule love. Gather everyone around the computer as soon as they are doing hands on fire training today and join in on this one: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ftv2b2m88wc>
...and why not also enjoy version # 2 ?
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iYRAUFc3M9A>

Take care,
BillyG
The Secret List 12-17-07 / 1159 hours

AND:

5 Beaumont (Texas) Firefighters were injured in a single family dwelling fire this morning. One of the Firefighters that was airlifted as he sustained burns to 34 percent of his body, primarily his back, and 14 percent of those burns were third degree. The second firefighter airlifted to UTMB has burns to his face. A third firefighter received minor injuries and two others were treated at the scene for minor injuries.

There was a MAYDAY transmitted prior to this.

The house was not occupied at the time of the fire and investigators have determined the cause of the fire was a small space heater sitting too close to a bed. Details will follow on our home page or here as needed.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.
BillyG
The Secret List 12-17-07 / 1430 hours

AND:

Hey....

Today is the anniversary of the tragic Line of Duty Deaths of FDNY Firefighters Lt. Joseph Cavaleiri, FF Christopher Bopp and Firefighter James Bohan from Ladder 170, who died in the line of duty, December 18, 1998. They were horrifically killed while they were operating on the 10th floor of an occupied multiple dwelling. Firefighter Bohan, Firefighter Bopp, and Lieutenant Cavalieri were operating at that residential high-rise structure fire....they went to the 10th floor to search for victims and they were caught in a massive blast of heavy heat and smoke that killed all 3 men. The heavy fire and heat conditions may be propelled by a gust

of wind coming through the fire apartment. The automatic closing device on the apartment door had been removed or had malfunctioned. The building's hallway sprinklers did not activate due to a closed valve. Six other Firefighters were injured in the fire. More details on that fire at Chief Frank Montagna's excellent website:

<http://www.chiefmontagna.com/memorial/memorial.htm>

NIOSH Fire Report: <http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/fire/reports/face9901.html>

Take a moment to remember the 3 Brooklyn Firefighters but also print out the above information, reports etc or forward the links so we just don't keep this information to ourselves.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 12-18-07 0904 Hours

AND:

It is with sincere regret that we advise you that Past Chief and active member Peter G. Neilson, with 25 years of service died in the Line of Duty while on a medical emergency call. On Monday, December 17, 2007 at 22:21 the Kenockee Township FD was dispatched to a medical emergency. Past Chief Peter Neilson had entered the home and was talking to family members when he slowly sat down and became unconscious.

As department members and Paramedics from TRI ambulance came to his assistance they found him with difficulty breathing. A few minutes later he went into full arrest; defibrillator and advanced life support measures took place. Peter was transported to the Port Huron general hospital and could not be revived. Chief Neilson was also a retired Army Lieutenant Colonel.

As always our most sincere condolences go out to all affected.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL,

BillyG

The Secret List 12-20-07 0018 Hours

AND:

It is with deep regret that we advise you that Firefighter Ray Simonis (48 years old) of the Wissahicken Fire Company/Montgomery County, PA died from an apparent heart attack after responding to smoke condition at an apartment building. He leaves behind his Wife and 3 Daughters.

Here are some words direct from the good folks at Wissahicken Station 7, through Deputy Chief Minio:

Ray responded to a mutual aid structure fire call in Upper Dublin on Tuesday at 11:48 AM. He was part of the Ladder 7 crew. Upon his arrival, he was staged outside until he was asked to assist on the 2nd floor to help track down an odor. He proceeded to the 2nd floor and, as part of the crew, successfully located the source of the problem. The Company was operating for approx. 30-40 minutes.

Ray returned to the firehouse, where we all congratulated him for making the truck. We had some great laughs about this, Ray hugged the Assistant Chief, and off to work he went. None of us ever dreamed we would not see him again.

Ray came home from work in the early morning hours of Wednesday 12-19-07. He was having some shortness of breath, a cough, but no chest pain. Around 3:30 AM, he awoke his wife and asked that she call the ambulance, as his symptoms were no better. Ambler Ambulance responded and Ray was taken to Abington Hospital. He was admitted to the ER and upon transferring him to the table, Ray coded. Hospital staff worked on Ray for a period of time until there was nothing more they could do. Ray will be sadly missed.

The arrangements are as follows:

Friday Evening 12-21-07. Viewing at Ciavarelli Funeral Home, 951 Butler Pike in Upper Dublin.

Viewing will start at 6:30 PM until 9 PM.

Saturday Morning 12-22-07. Viewing from 9 AM until 10 AM. A short service by Reverend Tom Byron, followed by words from friends and family. Service should be concluded by 11 AM, when at this time everyone will be invited back to station 7A for the reception.

As always, our most sincere condolences go out to all affected but especially the family of FF Simonis and the members of the Wissahickon Fire Company.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 12-20-07 / 1433 hours

AND:

It is with deep regret that we advise you that a FF with the Luminary FD (Tennessee) died while responding to a call. 38 year-old Volunteer Firefighter Theresa Coffman Lynn was responding to a crash reporting a pickup truck rolled over on its side around 0900 yesterday.

FF Lynn's vehicle starting sliding and she hit a tree and was killed about a mile away from her firehouse.

Lynn's services will be held at the Pikeville Funeral Home Monday at 10 AM.

As always, our most sincere condolences go out to all affected-but especially the members and the Luminary VFD and the family of FF Lynn.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL-SLOW DOWN-NO EXCUSE SEATBELT USE.

BillyG

The Secret List 12-22-07 / 2245 hours

A very positive story about one of our own: Captain Bill White of the Atascadero (CA) Fire Department, and also the President of the Southern California Training Officers Association, is honored for their recent hard work and efforts. Great job Bill!

For the full story, go to:

http://www.atascaderonews.com/main.php?story_id=8236&page=36

After some of the recent findings in Boston, mandatory drug testing is being considered for the firefighters. It's always amazed me that the fire service sometimes has lesser standards – or the desire to have lesser standards than other industries. For example, a bus driver might have to go through drug testing to drive your kids to school, but we might not have to, to drive a fire engine to a call and perform at times, life-saving techniques requiring clear-thinking and clear minds.

For the full story, go to: [http://cms.firehouse.com/web/online/News/Mandatory-Drug-Testing-Considered-for-Boston-Firefighters/46\\$57296](http://cms.firehouse.com/web/online/News/Mandatory-Drug-Testing-Considered-for-Boston-Firefighters/46$57296)

A story from England that could have a very interesting outcome, especially for United States fire departments, company officers and chief officers: a United Kingdom fire department is facing charges (yes, the department) after four firefighters were killed in the line of duty. More fire departments and fire officials are being held accountable after firefighters have lost their lives or have been seriously injured, and more fire officials are finding themselves getting sued, getting demoted, getting terminated, going to jail, and basically having their career go down the drain because of their actions or non-actions.

For the full story, go to:

<http://cms.firehouse.com/content/article/article.jsp?id=57282§ionId=46>

A Spokane, Washington Firefighter/Paramedic has been fired for taking illegal drugs on the job; she was caught having passed out on duty.

For the full story, go to:

http://www.kndu.com/Global/story.asp?S=7432339&nav=menu484_2_10

Florida Firefighters show fire station life via YouTube in the article below. While a communication medium such as YouTube can be very educational and informative, we just need to be careful we do not actually provide our fire service or our fire department with negative publicity, which is always possible if we are not careful. Some court cases have shown that not everything firefighters do on duty is protected

as “free speech” per our Constitution. Just like anything you post in a blog may be read by your employer and others, so can videos or pictures. If done properly and for the right reasons, this can be a great way to provide training and education to others.

For the full story, go to:

<http://cms.firehouse.com/content/article/article.jsp?id=57298§ionId=46>

For all of the negative stories about teenagers, it’s refreshing to see a positive one: “Teens protect elderly couple at Marysville (WA) fire.”

For the full story, go to: <http://www.heraldnet.com/article/20071128/NEWS01/711280037>

The City of Seattle Fire Department is facing some major hurdles in their quest to find a replacement site for Station 6; it’s not as easy as some of us may think it is to build a new or replacement fire station and can take years and years of time and hassle, not to mention energy and work.

For the full story, go to: http://seattlepi.nwsourc.com/local/343216_firestation12.html

A firefighter in Oregon, shot by a tailgater is in serious condition.

For the full story, go to: <http://www.katu.com/news/12409806.html>

And a related story, about how the family of a firefighter does not typically worry about their loved one getting injured or killed in this fashion; they usually expect injuries or fatalities to occur in the line-of-duty:

http://www.oregonlive.com/suburban/oregonian/index.ssf?/base/metro_east_news/119757750751000.xml&coll=7

Two Arizona cities have found a creative way to provide fire protection – a new fire station near the borders of each city that can serve both cities. Instead of each city having to have a fire station in the same area, very close to each other, having such a partnership can allow money to now be spent in other areas of the fire department.

For the full story, go to:

<http://www.azcentral.com/community/swvalley/articles/1220swv-ruralmetro1220-ON.html>

A D.C.F.D. recruit firefighter comes down with a staph infection – the fourth such recruit to have such an infection. Most fire departments never have to deal with such an issue, they’ve had four in the last few months.

For the full story, go to:

<http://www.wusa9.com/news/columnist/blogs/2007/12/mrsa-case-confirmed-at-dc-training.html>

Another story from Oregon that could have been from anywhere: the Gresham (OR) Fire Department recently hired additional firefighters to help reduce overtime costs, and they seem to be seeing a monthly savings. This is an issue virtually every fire department is faced with – having to fill so many spots per day. We can either do it with extra staffing to cover the vacation days, sick days, workers compensation days, etc., or we can not hire additional staffing (without the added salary and benefits – and the benefits can sometimes be 50% to 100%, give or take, of the salary of a firefighter). However, not hiring additional staffing and having to pay overtime for every time a firefighter is off duty can get a department in the news for the increased overtime costs. It’s a catch 22, and there really is no easy one-size-fits-all formula that works for every department.

For the full story, go to:

http://www.oregonlive.com/metroeast/oregonian/index.ssf?/base/metro_east_news/119741193714690.xml&coll=7

A story that could have occurred anywhere in the world – firefighters are dispatched twice before they actually find a fire – and someone is dead. A situation any officer dreads – getting dispatched on any type of call, and not being able to locate the call or the problem you were called out for. This one occurred in San Francisco, CA:


For the full story, go to:

http://www.examiner.com/a-1101066~Firefighters_dispatched_twice_before_locating_fatal_fire.html

Its official: on-scene rehabilitation will now be a requirement, as of January 2008, per National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) 1584. Granted, many progressive fire departments are already performing on-scene rehab for their personnel, and that is a good thing. If our personnel are our greatest asset – then let’s prove it to them by our actions on scene!

For the full story, go to: <http://www.firerescue1.com/firerehab/articles/327047/>

Below you will find the December 2007 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.



www.EveryoneGoesHome.com

EVERYONE GOES HOME®

FIREFIGHTER LIFE SAFETY INITIATIVES

[CPSC Releases Holiday Safety Tips for Avoiding Fires and Injuries](#)

As the holidays approach, the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) is urging people to look for and eliminate potential dangers from holiday lights and decorations that could lead to fires and injuries.

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

[Are You on the Path to a Line of Duty Death?](#)

It is a wonderful time of the year. It is a period when we reflect on family and think of special times. We decorate our homes in a festive way and eat rich foods. Children salivate over special gifts. Adults reflect on family. It is a time when tradition and culture clearly emerge. The words "tradition" and "culture" are used quite often but just what do they mean?

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

[Someone is Missing Tonight](#)

As I sit beside the fireplace this evening and the holiday season approaches, all is well with the Bowker family. I count the many blessings too numerous to mention that my family and I have recently received. One of the blessings that I am most grateful for is that I am alive and well this holiday season, and that my family and friends are not mourning the loss of a husband, a father, and a brother. But that was almost not the case. My story begins with the events that occurred during a structure fire I responded to on August 29th, 2007 in my community.

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

More December 2007 Articles:

- [Safety Support for Firefighters](#)
- [PASS it On](#)
- [Safety Stand Down renamed to Fire/EMS Safety, Health and Survival Week](#)
- [Region V Update](#)

» **More:** [View the Complete December 2007 Newsletter](#)

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

Here is the scenario: you are a newly promoted captain, and you are dispatched to a vehicle accident. The only catch is the vehicle is dangling (literally) in the air, about 60 to 70 feet up, hanging by a thread, with someone needing to be rescued. This one occurred in Atlanta (GA) and the firefighters there seemed to do a great job getting the person safely rescued and not injuring any of their own in the process. Accidents and idiots = job security.

http://www.11alive.com/news/article_news.aspx?storyid=107935&provider=top

A McDonald's restaurant in Washington goes up in flames. While that is not unique – what is unique are the hazards associated with such buildings. Many McDonald's restaurants have basements – something we don't normally see, especially on the west coast. Also, we need to be aware of the large quantities (and weight) of heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) equipment on the roof, that is typically hidden by the mansard roof. The weight of those items, coupled with increased fire activity within the building, can lead to sudden roof collapse and firefighter fatalities – something that occurred at a McDonald's in Houston, Texas a few years ago, where two firefighters were killed.

For the full story, go to: <http://www.komoradio.com/news/local/12094521.html>

Something we don't hear of too often – firefighter layoffs. 13 firefighters in Arizona are getting laid off, after the recent problems their department has faced – mostly from poor (or lack of) management and oversight.

For the full story, go to: <http://www.kvoa.com/Global/story.asp?S=7423653>

And another related story: <http://www.azstarnet.com/sn/85737/213668>

And another related story: <http://www.kvoa.com/Global/story.asp?S=7420505>

The San Diego (CA) Fire Department is still struggling to add additional stations and personnel, after voters have twice rejected funding increases. Some cities have been fortunate to get more staffing and stations, some like San Diego have not. If the public doesn't want to pay more taxes for governmental services, then we should change our mission statement to: "We do the best we can with what we have."

For the full story, go to:

<http://www.kogo.com/cc-common/mainheadlines3.html?feed=125548&article=2991114>

And a related story, where Senator Feinstein feels San Diego needs more firefighters. It's nice to have politicians (as well as the public) on our side when it comes to additional staffing and stations, but unfortunately she missed a key point – how will they pay for more firefighters? I'm not saying they don't need more firefighters – basically every department could use more firefighters. What I'm saying is that unless creative measures can be determined to fund more firefighters, we're either going to not get the needed personnel or we will have to take pay or benefit reductions since most communities are not in a healthy position to just add a few million dollars to a fire department budget.

I'd love to have more stations and staffing, but I also am realistic to understand that personnel costs typically make up over 90% of a fire department budget, and since most citizens don't seem to want to pay more taxes, the only way we're going to get more stations and staffing is to either have the cities take the money from other city departments (in most communities, police and fire budgets are typically the best funded, and typically take up over 50% of a city's budget as it is because of wages and benefits), or we the fire service will have to come up with creative ways at funding those needed things.

For the full story, go to:

http://www.nctimes.com/articles/2007/11/28/news/top_stories/1_04_5111_27_07.txt

Richmond (CA) Firefighters are doing a great job showing their community spirit this holiday season by participating in giving back to their community – the taxpayers who pay our wages and benefits and allow us to have the great lives we are able to have. Again, it's nice to see positive fire service articles. Many departments are participating in such programs, but how many are actually taking the time to ensure they publicize their positive work?

For the full story, go to: http://www.insidebayarea.com/dailyreview/localnews/ci_7578890

A firefighter in Florida is killed by a falling tree during chainsaw training. Yes, you read it right – training – not fighting fire.

For the full story, go to: <http://www.local6.com/news/14704259/detail.html>

Budget problems are not just limited to California....the Bend (OR) Fire Department is facing some budget cuts and may have to adjust their level of service provided.

For the full story, go to: <http://www.ktvz.com/Global/story.asp?S=7516037>

From New York, a low point for the fire service: FDNY Firefighters are indicted on firehouse arson charges.

For the full story, go to

[http://cms.firehouse.com/web/online/News/FDNY-Firefighters-Indicted-on-Firehouse-Arson-Charges/46\\$57597](http://cms.firehouse.com/web/online/News/FDNY-Firefighters-Indicted-on-Firehouse-Arson-Charges/46$57597)

A great fire service success story, and is a perfect public relations story for us to all take something from. Does your fire department do public education like this Oregon Fire Department does? If not, you may be missing out on a valuable opportunity to get to positively interact with your community and do something that just may save someone's life and make our jobs even safer.

For the full story, go to

<http://www.argusobserver.com/articles/2007/12/17/news/doc4766c873e0e1f608457742.txt>

Someone has some explaining to do. In Los Angeles, fire crews failed to find the body of a victim who had apparently died in a car accident, but whose body was not discovered until it was at the tow yard. The lawyers are probably already lining up for this one.

For the full story, go to:

[http://cms.firehouse.com/web/online/News/California-Crews-Fail-to-Find-Crash-Victim/46\\$57555](http://cms.firehouse.com/web/online/News/California-Crews-Fail-to-Find-Crash-Victim/46$57555)

And a related story at: http://www.fox6.com/news/state/story.aspx?content_id=d03eb89d-1fe2-4610-b2e1-355c2e8c38ab

Is nothing sacred? A firefighter in Washington, dressed up as Santa Claus and riding on a flatbed truck is left with a broken nose, 2 black eyes, and a concussion after being knocked out by a flying object.

For the full story, go to: <http://www.theolympian.com/northwest/story/304211.html>

A firefighter in the District of Columbia is in trouble for fighting fire – violating department policy in the process of doing his job. Before we get too emotional about this issue, we need to realize why such policies are put into place – to keep us safe and to ensure we get home safely at the end of our shift. I guess “2 in – 2 out” was not a concern of his; I’m not familiar with the District of Columbia, but I know in California and many other states, we have to abide by the OSHA 2 in, 2 out law – something every firefighter should be intimately familiar with. If you are not, I encourage you to do a search on yahoo or google to find out more information as it will affect you in your career as a firefighter. 2 in, 2 out is meant to keep us safe, and not have us needlessly go into an IDLH environment if there is not any chance of rescuing a human being.

There is a difference between independent action and freelancing, and if you read firefighter fatality reports, it is obvious that many of the firefighters who have died in the line of duty have had those deaths related to issues on the fireground such as freelancing, lack of accountability, lack of command and/or control, poor communications, unsafe practices, etc.

We don't need to lose any more firefighters for saving property.....

For the full story, go to: <http://www.news8.net/news/stories/1207/481331.html>

A great reason for us to continue to provide public education to our youth – a 7 year old Vallejo (CA) girl is credited for saving her family after receiving a fire safety lecture the previous week from her local fire department. Great job! If this isn't motivation for us to continue doing public education to our youth, I don't know what is!

For the full story, go to: <http://www.ktvu.com/news/14871592/detail.html>

And another related firefighter fatality from Florida, and again during a training event. While this one occurred in 2005, the National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) has released the report of their findings. NIOSH is the organization that investigates all firefighter fatalities and reports findings so we can learn from what went wrong so we can try to not let history repeat itself.

For the full story and to review the report, go to:

<http://cms.firehouse.com/content/article/article.jsp?sectionId=46&id=57292>

The Las Vegas (NV) Fire Department has found itself in the hotseat over apparent race and gender bias.

For the full story, go to: <http://www.klas-tv.com/Global/story.asp?S=7418878>

Speaking of fire department budgets, the Colorado Springs (CO) Fire Department is facing cuts of \$3 million dollars. Police are also expected to cut the same, but parks and transit service will get full funding. It's all about choices – some communities want more parks and better transit, and are willing to pay for it, even at the expense of public safety.

For the full story, go to:

http://www.gazette.com/articles/city_30259_article.html/budget_council.html

A great article on Incident Command – for current or future Incident Commanders (anyone who is at the rank of Lieutenant or higher) – courtesy of www.firerescue1.com and titled “Working your way through information overload.”

For the full story, go to: <http://www.firerescue1.com/Columnists/labelle/articles/319040/>

A story from Washington about two newly hired recruit firefighters and their enthusiasm for getting hired in their dream career. I hope they continue this enthusiasm for the rest of the career, as unfortunately many folks tend to lose that enthusiasm somewhere and the career turns into just another job, that they are counting the days until retirement. Yes, I bet it’s safe to say every fire department has at least one person that falls into that statement.

For the full story, go to:
http://kvnews.com/articles/2007/11/27/weekly_sections/kittitas_valley_people/doc474c82007e822786289185.txt

From Baltimore, Maryland, the NAACP is having to apologize to the Baltimore Fire Department over a noose incident they wrongly accused after finding out the suspect was actually an African American who had placed the noose.

For the full story, go to: <http://www.wbaltv.com/news/14778253/detail.html>

Here is the original incident, where an African American firefighter admitted to playing a racially charged joke on himself: <http://www.firerescue1.com/laborissues/articles/320397/>

And sadly, a similar incident occurred in **St. Louis**, where a noose and a monkey are hung in a firehouse: <http://cms.firehouse.com/content/article/article.jsp?id=57480§ionId=46>

While on the subject of the Baltimore Fire Department, here is a story about a probe finds evidence of cheating on a Baltimore Fire promotional examination – cheating by firefighters.

Go to: <http://www.nbc4.com/news/14738084/detail.html>

And in Baltimore, the hits just keep on coming – this story is about a fire truck that was struck by an SUV, which left three people dead and many others traumatized.

Go to: <http://wjz.com/local/fire.truck.crash.2.607606.html>

And a related story: <http://www.wbaltv.com/news/14807679/detail.html>

And the tapes are now released relating to this incident:

<http://www.wbaltv.com/news/14829402/detail.html>

Additional information:

<http://www.fireengineering.com/news/newsArticleDisplay.html?id=155316>

And a story saying the firefighter who was driving may be charged:

<http://wjz.com/local/crash.fatal.fire.2.609453.html>

Primarily because it appears the firefighter ran the red light:

<http://wjz.com/local/fire.truck.suv.2.610408.html>

SLOW DOWN – it is not worth getting into an accident on the way to a call!!!!!!

From Indiana, comes a story of a group of thieves who broke into a fire station and took on of the fire trucks for a joyride.

For the full story, go to: <http://www.wsbt.com/news/local/12090701.html>

From Northern California comes a public relations story we can all probably relate to – how to properly and appropriately deal with the media and more importantly, portray ourselves in a positive light. Something to learn from if you're ever defending your department or discussing your department in action or post action.

For the full story, go to: http://www.times-standard.com/opinion/ci_7698820

A great story from Oregon of a community college that has a fire technology program partnering with local fire departments to provide a win-win solution for everyone. Why more colleges and fire departments are unable to work this well together is beyond me.

For the full story, go to:

<http://www.statesmanjournal.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20071204/NEWS/712040321/1001>

By now, most of you have heard about the Oakland (CA) Fire Department testing fiasco that occurred on December 1, 2007 when they began to take the 1,000 maximum applications. Here are a number of related articles and videos.

For the full story, go to: [http://cms.firehouse.com/web/online/News/Oakland--Calif-Applicants-Far-Outnumber-Jobs/46\\$57329](http://cms.firehouse.com/web/online/News/Oakland--Calif-Applicants-Far-Outnumber-Jobs/46$57329)

And a related story of what occurred after the Mayor stepped in:
[http://cms.firehouse.com/web/online/News/Mayor-Steps-in-After-Oakland-Recruiting-Debacle-/46\\$57346](http://cms.firehouse.com/web/online/News/Mayor-Steps-in-After-Oakland-Recruiting-Debacle-/46$57346)

And another related story: http://www.insidebayarea.com/oaklandtribune/ci_7630970

And yet another story: http://www.insidebayarea.com/trivalleyherald/localnews/ci_7616305

And another story: <http://cbs5.com/local/firefighter.applications.oakland.2.603577.html>

More from Charleston, South Carolina, where the firefighters association wants to file a formal complaint to Federal OSHA regarding how they handled the investigation. Apparently they feel the fines that were levied against the department after nine (9) firefighters lost their lives back in June, were not strong or harsh enough to change culture and necessary practices to ensure such tragedies do not happen again in the future.

For the full story, go to: <http://www.abcnews4.com/news/stories/1207/477890.html>

And a related story about how this all began – “OSHA to lower fines, redefine violation:”
http://www.charleston.net/news/2007/dec/04/osha_lower_fines_redefine_violation23981/

Be a Manager – or go to Jail!

From Eureka, California, comes a story all of us in the fire service need to pay close attention to – especially if you are a current or future supervisor, leader, manager (company officer, captain, lieutenant, chief officer, etc.). Two police commanders – one being the former chief, the other being a lieutenant, are under indictment for involuntary manslaughter for their actions during a police event that went south. This could easily happen to the fire service, and is already starting to happen in many parts of the country – fire personnel under indictment or going to jail or getting terminated, demoted or sued for their actions or non-actions while on duty.

For the full story, go to: http://www.times-standard.com/ci_7636920

A Lodi, California firefighter is very, very lucky after getting struck by a drunk driver. Another reminder how dangerous the streets are. Regardless of time of day, wear your full protective clothing, which will hopefully have reflective striping on it. Also, we tend to only use “LCES” during wildland fires. Instead, try using that term (Lookouts, Communications, Escape Routes, and Safety Zones) the next time you’re on the

freeway. Also, when your rig is on the freeway on a call, are you progressive enough to send an additional fire unit just to be a blocker for oncoming traffic, to protect the working scene and deflect cars away? Something to think about if you don't – the "Safety Support Vehicle" concept.

For the full story, go to:

http://www.recordnet.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20071105/A_NEWS/711050315

Congratulations to former Chabot College Fire Technology student Zeki Iscan for graduating from the Sacramento Regional Fire Academy last week! Zeki was a former student of mine who did not give up and remained focused and highly motivated, and did not give up his dream of becoming a firefighter. Although I was unable to attend his graduation due to some prior commitments, he did provide some videos of their academy life that were shown at graduation.

Part 1: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=x2DwXNOmKWg&feature=user>

Part 2: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=o37K04dMMRo&feature=user>

A Tucson (AZ) Fire Department Battalion Chief wants her e-mail penalty erased from her record, after serving a 30 day suspension for sending e-mails that were considered "disparaging of the homosexual lifestyle."

For the full story, go to: <http://www.azstarnet.com/metro/215345>

Again, Happy Holidays to everyone and 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

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

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