

FIRE & EMS NEWS

October 2007

Volume 6 – Issue 4

Welcome to the latest issue of the Fire & EMS News! The Fire & EMS News is now in its sixth year, and we want to thank you all for your assistance – we could not have done it without your feedback and support!

We are going to try something new with this issue. Typically in the past, I would collect various links to fire service news articles, and put them in the email I would send out, with a link to then view the latest issue of the Fire & EMS News. Well, I'm going to combine those news articles into the monthly Fire & EMS News, to streamline things. We'll see how it works and go from there.

Some of the features of this issue include:

- Numerous firefighter employment opportunities!
- Numerous firefighter training opportunities!
- CPAT testing information!
- Paramedic program 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 safety information

FIREFIGHTER EMPLOYMENT INFORMATION – **Alameda County Fire Department**



The **Alameda County Fire Department** is accepting applications for the position of **Firefighter Recruit**, and the following information was found on the Alameda County Human Resources website at <http://agency.governmentjobs.com/alameda/default.cfm>

Job Title: **FIREFIGHTER RECRUIT**

Closing Date/Time: Mon. 10/22/07 4:30 PM Pacific Time

Salary: \$4,499.00 - \$4,499.00 monthly

Job Type: Full-Time Regular

Location: Alameda County, California

A properly completed Supplemental Questionnaire must be submitted with each application. Applications and Supplemental Questionnaires must be in the possession of the Human Resource Services Department by 4:30 p.m. on the Last Day for Filing. Postmarks and faxes are not accepted. Failure to submit the Supplemental Questionnaire will result in disqualification.

Applicants must also submit a copy of the CPAT certificate to the Human Resource Services Department by the last day of filing. Failure to submit this information will result in disqualification.

The Alameda County Fire Department is actively recruiting for the position of Firefighter/EMT and Firefighter/Paramedic. The Department serves the unincorporated areas of Alameda County, the City of San Leandro, the City of Dublin and the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory. The area comprises approximately 500 square miles and serves a population of 234,500. The Fire Department has a budget in excess of \$60 million with a staff of 265 firefighting personnel and 19 fire stations.

Minimum Qualifications:

The following are entrance requirements for admission to the examination, which is competitive. Possession of the entrance requirements does not assure a place on the eligible list. A candidate's performance in the examination will be judged in comparison with the performance of other candidates.

EDUCATION: Graduation from high school or possession of an acceptable equivalency certificate, such as the General Educational Development Certificate (State of California), AND

Applicants must meet at least one of the following requirements:

- Must be a paid Firefighter/EMT or Firefighter/Paramedic in a Fire Department (Seasonal employment is eligible); OR
- Current member of the Alameda County Fire Department Reserve program; OR
- A current member of a Reserve Program that is supported by a professional City or County Fire Department or Fire District.
- Must be a nationally registered paramedic.

LICENSE: Possession of a valid California Motor Vehicle Operator's license, possession of a Candidate Physical Ability Test (CPAT) certificate issued within the last twelve months from the last day of filing, and possession of a current and valid California Emergency Medical Technician-1 (EMT-1) certificate or Certified by the National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians, Emergency Medical Technician – Basic.

SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS: Applicants must have visual acuity correctable to 20/30 in either eye. Job offer will be contingent upon passing a physical ability and medical examination, a thorough background investigation and a psychological evaluation.

AGE: Applicants must be a minimum of 18 years of age.

Examination Components:

THIS IS A NEW OPEN ASSEMBLED EXAMINATION. The eligible list resulting from this selection process will last approximately one year but may be extended as needed. **This eligible list may also be used by other fire departments within Alameda County. This examination may be reopened as necessary and the names of additional candidates merged onto the existing list according to examination score.**

THE EXAMINATION WILL CONSIST OF the following components: A review of candidates' applications to verify possession of minimum requirements. Those candidates who possess the minimum requirements for the class will move on to the next step in the examination process, a screening of applications and/or supplemental questionnaires to select for the best qualified candidates. Those selected will move onto the final step in the examination process, an oral interview, which will be weighted as 100% of the candidate's final exam score. The oral interview may contain situational exercises.

WE RESERVE THE RIGHT TO MAKE CHANGES TO ANNOUNCED EXAMINATION STEPS.

For more information about the **County of Alameda**, visit their website at: www.acgov.org

For more information about the **Alameda County Fire Department**, visit their website at: www.acgov.org/fire

For more information about the **Alameda County Firefighters Association, I.A.F.F. Local 55**, visit their website at www.iafflocal55.com

FIRE SERVICE TRAINING OPPORTUNITY:

NOR CAL TRAINING OFFICERS PRESENTS

The Risks of Leadership

What kind of leader do you want to be?

Topics include preparing for promotion: Firefighter to Captain; Captain to Battalion Chief; & Battalion Chief to Fire Chief.

Speakers

Fire Chief Bruce Martin, Fremont Fire

Fire Chief Randy Bruegman, Fresno Fire

Battalion Chief Steve Prziborowski, Santa Clara County Fire

Date: Wednesday, October 10th

Time: 0900-1700hrs.

Location: Stockton Arena
248 West Fremont Street
Stockton, CA 95666
(Parking garage on-site.)

Cost: Members Free – Includes Lunch
Non-Members \$25 – Includes Lunch
(NORCAL TO's membership registration will be available at the door). Payment can be made by check or cash.
Please make checks out to NOR-CAL T.O.

Registration: Contact Michele Edwards at medwards@modestogov.com by October 8th. You will also be able to register at the door.

For more information about the location, please go to:

<http://www.stocktongov.com/waterfront/waterfrontdetails.cfm#complete>

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 OPPORTUNITY – Redding (CA) Fire Department:

The Redding Fire Department will be accepting applications for the position of **Firefighter** on **November 1, 2007** - only! For more information, go to the City of Redding website at www.ci.redding.ca.us and access their Personnel Division section.

THE COMMUNITY

The City of Redding, a dynamic community, is located at the north end of the Sacramento Valley, 150 miles north of Sacramento. Redding has a superb climate with moderate springs and falls, sunny summers with low humidity and mild winters. Warm weather signals the start of after-work and weekend trips to the local lakes, Shasta and Whiskeytown, as well as the Sacramento River. Snow decorates nearby Mt. Shasta and Mt. Lassen year-round. Snow skiing, sledding and other winter sports are abundant within a short drive. A thirteen-mile trail along the Sacramento River, the Sundial Bridge, numerous community parks, a world-class museum and arboretum complex, and continuous community events provide for a healthy environment in which to live and work. Redding is truly a fabulous location for those interested in an active outdoor lifestyle.

The community offers an impressive complement of housing in all areas and housing types: riverfront, mountain view, country acreage, and traditional subdivision, with median home price still below the statewide average. Redding is an excellent place to live, work, and raise children. Educational opportunities abound in the highly regarded public schools and through the many schools of higher learning, such as, Shasta Community College, Simpson University and National University. Also, Chico State University is located just 70 miles south of Redding and offers extension courses in Redding. In addition, a wide variety of cultural and community activities support a great quality.

THE ORGANIZATION

The Redding Fire Department is a progressive organization committed to serving the citizens of Redding. The Department does so through the use of state of the art equipment, constant training, public education, and community involvement.

Redding Fire Department protects 70 square miles with a population of nearly 100,000 residents. Under the direction of Fire Chief Duane Fry, the Redding Fire Department responds, from eight fire stations strategically located throughout the City, to approximately 12,000 calls for service each year. Of the 91 uniformed personnel, 25 are assigned to each of the three alternating shifts. The three platoon shift is comprised of a 4-4-4-6 schedule rotation. The Department's Operations Division responds to hostile fires in structures, vehicles, and wildland; provides emergency medical services; participates in Shasta Cascade Hazardous Materials Response Team; has its own 30-person water rescue team; and is responsible for natural or manmade disaster mitigation.

ABOUT THE POSITION

The City of Redding is establishing an eligibility list for future Firefighter vacancies and is seeking highly motivated persons who will demonstrate their commitment to the community by continuing the Department's emphasis on excellent customer service and a "can do" attitude. The ideal candidate will be a positive person who values teamwork and cooperation within the organization while continuously looking for opportunities to enhance and improve the Department.

DUTIES PERFORMED

Incumbents of the Firefighter classification perform all types of fire suppression, prevention, and emergency medical rescue work and promote fire prevention and code enforcement. The

Firefighter is expected to perform the full range of fire suppression, safety and prevention duties assigned to the class and to learn journey-level skills in all areas of work assigned.

Including these listed:

- Respond to reported emergencies with a company on a fire apparatus.
- Rescue persons endangered by fire and other hazards.
- Operate hose streams; perform ventilation, salvage and overhaul to extinguish fires and minimize damage.
- Perform first aid, resuscitation, and defibrillation.
- Operate firefighting equipment and medical rescue equipment.
- Inspect housing, industrial and commercial occupancies, write notices of hazards and make re-inspections; conduct home safety checks.
- Present fire and life safety education programs; conduct tours of the fire station.
- Participate in firefighting tactics and physical training.
- Keep records and prepares reports.
- Participate in pre-fire planning with the company.
- Maintain fire station.
- Perform daily, weekly and monthly apparatus and equipment checks.
- Perform related duties as assigned.

QUALIFICATIONS

Knowledge of: Modern fire prevention and suppression principles, methods and equipment; principles of hydraulics as applied to firefighting equipment; construction and operation of private and public water supplies, standpipes, fire pumps, aerial ladders, elevating platforms; all City and outlying streets and the location of fire hydrants and fire department connections in the district; Federal, State and local vehicle safety regulations.

Ability to: Interact effectively with the public and employees; remain composed during emergency conditions; pass the medical examination, including vision and hearing examinations, and perform the required physical fitness tests for the position; maintain effective working relationships with fellow employees and the public.

Education & Experience: Any combination of training and experience that provides the required knowledge, skills, and abilities is qualifying; typical education would include a high school diploma, equivalent of A.A. Degree in Fire Technology, or 60 semester units from an accredited college or equivalent. No prior experience required.

Special Requirements: Satisfactory completion of California State Certified Firefighter I and either Emergency Medical Technician I or First Responder. **Copies of Firefighter I as issued by California State Fire Marshal, EMT and/or First Responder certificates and college diploma or transcripts must be submitted with application.** Possession of a California Class B drivers license, or the ability to acquire one by the end of the probationary period if hired.

BENEFITS

- City paid employee share of PERS (9%), 3% @ 50 plan and Employer Paid Member Contribution (reporting of 9% employee share as compensation).

- Excellent medical, dental and vision benefits for employee and dependents.
- Life insurance equal to twice annual salary for employee and \$3,000 for each dependent.
- Long-term disability insurance.
- 151.5 hours of holiday pay per year.
- 133 hours of sick leave accrued per year. Partial cash out (with 10 plus years) incentive and PERS conversion available upon retirement.
- Vacation accrual starting at 113.5 hours per year and increasing for every 5 years of service.
- One-half medical, dental and vision premium paid upon retirement.
- Deferred Compensation-457 plan available for employee contribution.
- No Social Security participation.
- AFLAC benefits available at employee expense but on a pre-tax basis.
- Credit Unions available.
- \$900/year uniform allowance.

COMPENSATION

Salary: \$3,982 - \$4,839 per month.

(Plus 2.5% for BA Degree or 120 semester units, 2.5% for Fire Officer Certification and up to 7.5% HAZMAT incentive)

Veterans Credit: Veterans who have received an honorable discharge from the military service and receive a passing score on the examination will have two points added to their final examination score. To obtain this credit, veterans must provide a copy of the DD214, indicating honorable discharge with each employment application before the closing date.

APPLICATION & SELECTION

Final Filing Date: 4 p.m., November 1, 2007.

Interested individuals must submit a City of Redding employment application and required attachments, as outlined under "Special Requirements" above, to the Personnel Department by 4:00 p.m. on the closing date in order to be considered. Postmarks may not be accepted. Applications received after the closing date may be rejected. To obtain an application, call (530) 225-4069, download from our website at www.ci.redding.ca.us or pick up at the Personnel Department, 777 Cypress Avenue, Redding, CA.

NOTE: Incomplete applications may not be processed. Meeting the announced requirements does not guarantee selection into the examination process. Candidates considered well-qualified based on information provided will be invited to participate in an interview process to further assess qualifications.

TEST REQUIREMENTS

The examination process will consist of a written examination to be held November 17, 2007 and an Assessment Center to be held November 29 & 30, 2007 (dates may be subject to change). Candidates must pass the City of Redding Fire Department physical agility test before they are eligible for hire. CPAT certification may be accepted in lieu of the City's physical agility test. If a background investigation is conducted, the CPAT certificate will be required at that time and must not be more than one (1) year old at the time of submittal.

Comprehensive background investigations are conducted on finalists. Final selection from the list of qualified candidates will be made by the Fire Chief.

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

For more information about the **Redding Department**, visit their website at: www.ci.redding.ca.us/fire/index.html

For more information about the **Redding Firefighters, I.A.F.F. Union Local 1934** visit their website at: <http://reddingfirefighters.org/>

View the **Memorandum of Understanding** (union contract) between the City of Redding and the Redding Firefighters Association (this answers your questions about wages, benefits and working conditions, so you don't have to waste your time asking these questions and instead, are able to ask more relevant and appropriate questions of the firefighters): <http://ci.redding.ca.us/personnel/docs/mous/mouiaff97.pdf>

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:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Thursday October 18 from 1230 to 1700 hours - Friday October 19 from 1230 to 1700 hours - Wednesday November 7 from 1230 to 1700 hours - Thursday November 8 from 1230 to 1700 hours - Wednesday November 14 from 1230 to 1700 hours - Thursday November 15 from 1230 to 1700 hours <p style="text-align: center;">**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: <i>All of the above classes will be held at the Bay Model Visitor Center in Sausalito (2100 Bridgeway, Sausalito)</i></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

FIREFIGHTER TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES –

The following training seminars are available through **Fire Nuggets.com** – a.k.a. www.firenuggets.com – a great fire service training and education resource offering not only training seminars around the country, but also training and education resources on their website from noted fire service authors/personnel.

One of the benefits of Fire Nuggets is that you only pay \$9.95 per year and have access to numerous fire service training and educational articles from some of the leading fire service experts! For any future or current firefighter, FireNuggets.com is a must have to stay informed of the latest fire service trends and techniques, from the nation's leading fire service experts!

Some of the numerous upcoming Fire Nuggets.com training seminars include:

“Good Habits + Applied Daily = Fireground Success”, presented by David McGrail, District Chief with the Denver Fire Department.

- October 19, 2007 – San Francisco, California

For more information on any of the above classes, including how to register, go to www.firenuggets.com/seminars05.htm

FIREFIGHTER TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES:

PROMOTIONAL WORKSHOPS

San Jose, Fresno and Elk Grove, CA.

**** Last Classes in Northern CA until mid 2008 ****

**PRE-REGISTRATION \$100.00 AT THE DOOR \$110.00 (PER CLASS DAY)
Class times are 0900 to 1700**

ASSESSMENT CENTERS

Designed for those who will test for Promotion in an Assessment Center.

COURSE CONTENT:

- Written Multiple Choice Exercises
- Leaderless Group Exercises
- In-Basket Exercises
- Oral Presentations
- Written Exercises
- Subordinate Counseling
- Practice Exercises
- NEW Student Workbook

SIMULATOR WORKSHOP

Designed for those who will have a Simulation on their Promotional exam.

COURSE CONTENT:

- Strategy & Tactics
- S.P.A.R.S. Technique
- Initial Report Exercises
- Raters Sheets
- Exam Situations
- "Hot-Seat" For All
- Practice Simulation Exercises
- The "No-Zone"

San Jose , CA

Oct. 20th (AC) & Oct. 21st (Sim)

Fire Training Center

255 S. Montgomery St.
San Jose, CA

You May Register Online at

www.promotionalworkshops.com

Or, Mail a check indicating which class,
(or both days \$200),
you will attend, along with your phone number and
email address to:

CHUCK WILSON

16291 Countess Drive Suite 306
Huntington Beach, CA 92649

For More Information: (310) 261-7795 or (714)846-5558

cwilson@promotionalworkshops.com

Fresno, CA

Nov. 9th (AC) & Nov. 10th (SIM)

700 M. Street (Wine Room)

Fresno, CA

Consumnes Fire Training Ctr

Oct. 30th (AC) & Oct. 31st (Sim)

10573 E. Stockton Blvd.
Elk Grove, CA

Other classes scheduled in 2007:

Corona, Nov. 1 & 2
San Diego, Nov. 5 & 6
(See website for more info.)

Instructor: CHUCK WILSON

Recognized as one of the Nations leading instructors in this field. A Southern California Chief Officer. Bachelors Degree from San Diego State. Senior Master Instructor in the California Fire Training System, Adjunct Instructor for 14 Colleges including Cal State, Los Angeles, and Texas A&M WMD Programs.. An editorial contributor to The **IFSTA** 5th and 6th Edition Fire Instructor Textbook. This will **NOT** be a dry or boring class. Chuck has taught these classes to over 2500 students and proves you can have fun while learning. Exercises, Rating Sheets and Key Performance Elements are stressed.

FIREFIGHTER EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY – Los Angeles County Fire Department:

The following firefighter recruitment information was taken from the L.A. County Fire Department website – <http://fire.lacounty.gov>

Exam Update!

The examination bulletin is now posted. You can **download the bulletin** and the application from our Open Positions page or you can **apply online**.

As we anticipate a large number of applicants during the first few weeks, please take note of the following:

- There is no extra advantage to filing your application the first day or the first week.
- Online applications can be filed 24/7 so consider filing during non-peak hours.
- If you experience a slow system response time or delay, please be patient.
- Candidates will be randomly selected from the pool of applicants to take the next exam.
- Application filing will be open and continuous.

Fire Chief P. Michael Freeman

Congratulations on your decision to apply for the Los Angeles County Fire Fighter Trainee position. While we expect this exam to be competitive, we commend you for embarking on an exciting career option. The fire service is a proud and noble profession, and Los Angeles County firefighters enjoy an internationally renowned reputation for being the best. Each day, they play an increasingly important role in the communities in which they serve.

A Fire Fighter Trainee participates in an intensive training program in basic firefighting, and emergency medical treatment.

Additional L.A. County Firefighter information and links

For more information about the **County of Los Angeles**, visit their website at: <http://lacounty.info/>

For more information about the **Los Angeles County Fire Department**, visit their website at: <http://fire.lacounty.gov>

For more information about the **Los Angeles County Firefighters, I.A.F.F. Union Local 1014**, visit their website at: www.local1014.org/

FIREFIGHTER EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY – Las Vegas (NV) Fire & Rescue Department:

The Las Vegas Fire & Rescue Department will be accepting applications for the position of **Firefighter Trainee**, between October 1 and 12, 2007! Start planning now and preparing yourself for a career in one of the fastest growing areas in the country!

For more information about the **City of Las Vegas**, visit their website at: www.lasvegasnevada.gov

For more information about the **Las Vegas Department** and their testing process, visit their website at: www.lasvegasnevada.gov/Government/departments.asp?id=4181

For more information about the **Las Vegas Firefighters, I.A.F.F. Union Local 1285** visit their website at: www.lvfd.com

CANDIDATE PHYSICAL ABILITY TEST (CPAT) INFORMATION:

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

Basic Information For The CPAT Test

QUALIFICATIONS:

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

APPLY EARLY

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

PAYMENT:

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

ORIENTATION SESSION:

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

TEST:

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

RETESTS:

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

PRACTICE SESSIONS:

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

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

WHAT TO WEAR:

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

PARKING:

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

NO SPECTATORS PLEASE:

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

CPAT TESTING CENTER LOCATIONS:

Southern California:

626 N. Eckhoff Street
Orange, CA 92868

Northern California

6723 Sierra Court, Suite G
Dublin, CA 94568

Northern California 2007 Schedule:

ORIENTATION DATES:

- October 1, 13 or 29
- November 13 or 26
- December 10

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:

- October 1, 2, 13, 16, 29 or 30
- November 13, 14, 26 or 27
- December 10 or 11

Practice sessions are only \$25.00.

TEST DATES:

- October 4 or 20
- November 1, 17, 29
- December 13

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

Southern California 2007 Schedule:

ORIENTATION DATES:

- October 6 or 22
- November 3 or 26
- December 3 or 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.

TEST DATES:

- October 13, 18 or 25
- November 8, 15 or 29
- December 6, 13 or 20

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

PRACTICE DATES:

- October 9, 16 or 23
- November 6, 13 or 27
- December 4, 11 or 18

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

EMS TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES:

- **NATIONAL REGISTRY REVIEW (Paramedic Refresher)**

Date and Time: **Oct. 20-22 & 27-29, 2007**
 10:00 am – 7:00 pm
Last day to register: October 8, 2007

Course Location: 656 Bair Island Rd.
 Room #304
 Redwood City, CA 94063

Course Fee: \$800.00
Late Registration Fee: \$25.00*

*(Class materials may not be available on first day of class with late registration)

EMT-P National Registry course content and skills proficiency. A course completion certificate for 48 hours of CEU credit is awarded. Minimum passing standard 85% on a written exam and successful completion of skills.

PMR - 1007 Registration Form

_____	_____
Name	Date
_____	_____
Address	Employer
_____	_____
City, State and Zip	
_____	_____
E-mail Address	Phone/Cell

Mail registration form and fee made payable to:

California EMS Academy, Inc.

1098 Foster City Blvd
 Suite #106 – PMB #708
 Foster City, CA 94404

NR Review.....\$ 800.00
 Late Fee.....\$ 25.00

TOTAL Enclosed \$ _____

Credit Cards accepted: **MC / Visa (please circle one)**

Name as it appears on card

Signature

Credit Card #

Exp. Date

032106

• **PRE-PARAMEDIC PROGRAM**

Date & Time: February 11-14, 18-21, 2008, 10 a.m. – 7:00 p.m.

Last Day to Register: February 1, 2008

Course Location: 656 Bair Island Rd. - Room #304
Redwood City, CA 94063

Course Fee: \$1025.00

Late Registration Fee: \$25.00*

(* Class materials may not be available on first day of class with late registration)

A & P, basic EKG, patient assessment, Medical Terminology, pharmacology calculations. Last 4 hours of course includes pre-testing for our next EMT-P program. Minimum passing standard 80% on a written exam and successful completion of skills. A course completion certificate for 64 hours of EMT CE credit awarded.

Pre-Paramedic- 0208 Registration Form

Name _____ Date _____

Address _____ Employer _____

City, State and Zip _____

E-mail Address _____ Phone/Cell _____

Mail registration form and fee payable to:

California EMS Academy, Inc.
1098 Foster City Blvd.
Suite 106-PMB# 708
Foster City, CA 94404

Pre-Paramedic.....\$1025.00

Late Fee.....\$ 25.00

TOTAL Enclosed \$ _____

Credit Cards accepted: MC / Visa (please circle one)

Name as it appears on card

Signature

Credit Card #

Exp. Date

• **PARAMEDIC PROGRAM**

Date & Time: March 3- July 16, 2008
Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, 10:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.

Course Location: 656 Bair Island Rd. - Room #304
Redwood City, CA 94063

Course Fee: \$13,000.00* (textbooks included)

(*does not include uniform, internship fees or National Registry fees, class materials may not be available on first day of class with late registration)

A Pre-Paramedic course completion is required before acceptance into the Paramedic Program.

The course is 3 days a week. There is 1120 hours of classroom, hospital, and field instruction in prehospital patient assessment and intervention at the Advanced Life Support (ALS) level. Then program is divided into 3 phases: 1) Didactic 2) Clinical 3) Field Internship

PM- 0308 Registration Form

Name

Date

Address

Employer

City, State and Zip

E-mail Address

Phone/Cell

Mail registration form and fee made payable to:

California EMS Academy, Inc.

1098 Foster City Blvd.
Suite #106 – PMB #708
Foster City, CA 94404

Paramedic Program..... \$ 13,000.00

TOTAL

Enclosed

\$ _____

Credit Cards accepted: **MC/Visa** (please circle one)

Name as it appears on card

Signature

Credit Card #

Exp. Date

FIREFIGHTER TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES:

Mark your calendars for some quality fire service training events!

The **California Training Officers Symposium**, being held in Fresno, California – November 12 through 16, 2007! This is the annual training symposium, co-hosted by the **Northern California Fire Training Officers Association** and the **Southern California Fire Training Officers Associations**, both sections of the **California Fire Chiefs Association**.

As the current President of the Northern California Training Officers Association, as well as this year's Instructor Coordinator for the Symposium, I invite you out to Fresno this November, to receive some of the highest quality training, from some of the fire service's leading instructors and subject matter experts on a variety of fire related subjects. Registration should open up soon, within the month of August if everything goes according to plan.

To view the most-up-to-date registration information, go to www.calchiefs.org and click on the Training Officers Section link on the left side of the page, on the Cal Chiefs Association website. Many of these classes will fill up very quickly and have limited space.

Some of the classes still open include:

- Fire Management 1
- Fire Command 2A
- Driver/Operator 1B
- Low Angle Rope Rescue
- Auto Extrication
- Rescue Systems 1
- Trench Rescue
- State Fire Training Ethical Leadership in the Classroom
- State Fire Training Regional Instructor Orientation
- S-230 (Crew Boss)
- S-290 (Intermediate Wildland Fire Behavior)
- S-339 (Division/Group Supervisor)
- S-215 (Fire Operations in the Urban Interface)
- Computer based fire service training related courses (PowerPoint – basic and advanced, etc.)
- Strategy and Tactics related courses
- Leadership related courses
- Training Officer related courses
- Company Officer preparation/development courses
- Chief Officer preparation/development courses
- Thermal Imaging Camera awareness training
- Air Aware (SCBA air management)
- Any much, much more!

Register Online for the Fall Training Symposium

Go to: <http://register.calchiefs.org>

To download the flyer, if you want to mail or fax it in (slowest method to register), or pay by check, you can also download the registration flyer and course descriptions on the website above.

Hurry - register soon, classes and hotel rooms are filling up quickly!!!!

[For those wishing to pay by check:](#)

Symposium Course Descriptions with Hotel Information and Frequently Asked Questions Along with the Mail-in Registration Form is available on the above website

For registration questions or problems, please email Symposium Staff at cato@calchiefs.org

FIREFIGHTER EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES:

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

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

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

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

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

FIREFIGHTER SAFETY INFORMATION:

IAFC MEMBER/MEDIA ALERT: FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: IAFC Communications Department

703-273-0911 • www.iafc.org

The IAFC and the USFA Develop Report on Effects of Sleep Deprivation on Firefighters and EMS Responders

Fairfax, Va., Sept. 24, 2007... The International Association of Fire Chiefs (IAFC) and the U.S. Fire Administration (USFA) announce the release of *The Effects of Sleep Deprivation on Fire Fighters and EMS Responders*. This new report is based on a comprehensive literature review of fatigue and sleep deprivation in other industries (primarily the transportation and medical fields) and features applications to the fire and emergency services as appropriate, along with useful mitigation strategies. A resource section is included.

“This is an in-depth culmination of available sleep-deprivation research that, if taken seriously, should keep the fire chief awake at night,” said IAFC President Chief Steven P. Westermann. “The research can apply to any busy station, volunteer or career, with any of the traditional schedules, not just the newer 48/96 schedule. The report ends by providing several recommendations, not the least of which is how to spot sleep deprivation.”

This program is a result of a partnership between the IAFC and USFA, with assistance from the faculty of Oregon Health & Science University. In addition to the report, a self-guided, computer-based training program has been developed.

“We were pleased to work closely with the IAFC on this initiative,” said Chief Gregory B. Cade, U.S. Fire Administrator. “We have long known the stresses long-term operations place on all firefighters. The impact of sleep deprivation is an important issue to the health and safety impacts on members of the fire service and the residents they protect.”

The Effects of Sleep Deprivation on Fire Fighters and EMS Responders and related training materials are available on the IAFC website at www.iafc.org/sleep. Information about this program may also be found on the United States Fire Administration (USFA) website at www.usfa.dhs.gov/fireservice/research/safety/sleep_deprivation.shtm.

FIREFIGHTER RELATED SAFETY & 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: Paul Cahill
Rank: Firefighter
Age: 55
Gender: Male
Status: Career
Years of Service: 25
Date of Incident: 08/29/2007
Time of Incident: 2100hrs
Date of Death: 08/29/2007

Name: Warren Payne
Rank: Firefighter
Age: 53
Gender: Male
Status: Career
Years of Service: 25
Date of Incident: 08/29/2007
Time of Incident: 2100hrs
Date of Death: 08/29/2007

Fire Department: Boston Fire Department
Address: 115 Southhampton Street, Boston, MA 02118
Telephone: 617-343-3550
Fire Department Chief: Fire Commissioner Roderick J. Fraser, Jr.

Incident Description: Firefighters Paul Cahill and Warren Payne both passed away from injuries received while inside of a working structure fire. Cahill and Payne, along with other firefighters, were working a hose line inside of a restaurant. Heavy smoke conditions caused the firefighters to become disoriented. A large air conditioning unit then fell through the roof of the restaurant initiating rapid fire progress. Multiple firefighters were trapped and injured. After being rescued, reports indicate that eight firefighters were treated and released from the hospital; two firefighters remain hospitalized being treated for smoke inhalation.

Funeral Arrangements: Pending

Memorial Fund Contact and Address: Pending

Tribute is being paid to Warren Payne and Paul Cahill at <http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/fireservice/fatalities/>

To date, 86 firefighter fatalities have been reported to USFA in 2007 as a result of incidents that occurred in 2007.

AND:

Name: Jared W. Zimmerly
Rank: Firefighter
Age: 20
Gender: Male
Status: Volunteer
Years of Service: Unknown
Date of Incident: 09/09/2007
Time of Incident: 1135hrs
Date of Death: 09/09/2007

October 2007

Fire Department: Prairie Township Fire Department
Address: 118 E Jackson St., PO Box 121, Holmesville, OH 38117
Telephone: (330) 279-2552
Fire Department Chief: Mose Yoder

Incident Description: Firefighter Zimmerly was responding to a mutual-aid call for a residential fire when he lost control of his privately owned vehicle while traveling west on County Road 189 near Township Road 601 (USNG: 17TME265963). After leaving the roadway, he struck both a utility pole and tree, coming to a final resting position upside down. Firefighter Zimmerly, who was reported to have not been wearing a safety belt, passed away from injuries after being ejected from his vehicle. Safe traveling speed per road conditions (wet) may have been a factor in the accident, which remains under investigation.

Funeral Arrangements: Pending

Memorial Fund Contact and Address: Pending

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

To date, 88 firefighter fatalities have been reported to USFA in 2007 as a result of incidents that occurred in 2007.

AND:

Name: George Crotts
Rank: Engineer
Age: 70
Gender: Male
Status: Volunteer
Years of Service: 52
Date of Incident: 09/08/2007
Time of Incident: 0914hrs
Date of Death: 09/09/2007

Fire Department: Willow Grove Volunteer Fire Company
Address: 227 Davisville Road, Willow Grove, PA 19090
Fire Department Chief: Lee Perlmutter

Incident Description: Engineer Crotts was seriously injured when he fell and struck his head while loading an antique pumper onto a trailer to be taken to a parade. Crotts was transported to a local hospital, a level two trauma center, with massive head trauma. Engineer Crotts passed away from his injuries the following afternoon.

Funeral Arrangements: Pending. Will be posted on the department's website when completed @ <http://www.tiller10.com/index.php>

Memorial Fund Contact and Address: In honor of Engineer George Crotts, C/o Willow Grove Volunteer Fire Company, 227 Davisville Road, Willow Grove, PA 19090

Tribute is being paid to Engineer George Crotts at <http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/fireservice/fatalities/>

To date, 87 firefighter fatalities have been reported to USFA in 2007 as a result of incidents that occurred in 2007.

AND

Name: Michael Dean Stanfield
Rank: Captain

Age: 35
Gender: Male
Status: Volunteer
Years of Service: 12
Date of Incident: 09/09/2007
Time of Incident: 1900hrs
Date of Death: 09/09/2007

Fire Department: Anderson Township Volunteer Fire Department
Address: 225 Baynes Road, Burlington, NC 27217
Telephone: 336-421-3311
Fire Department Chief: Harvey Rudd

Incident Description: Captain Stanfield responded to the scene of a motor vehicle accident in his privately owned vehicle with other members of his department. When the department cleared the scene, Stanfield and one other firefighter exchanged vehicles to return to the station. While returning, Captain Stanfield lost control of the motorcycle he was operating, which left the roadway and struck a tree. He was transported to the hospital but passed away from injuries received.

Funeral Arrangements: Pending

Memorial Fund Contact and Address: In memory of Captain Michael Dean Stanfield, C/o Anderson Township Volunteer Fire Department, 225 Baynes Road, Burlington, NC 27217

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

To date, 89 firefighter fatalities have been reported to USFA in 2007 as a result of incidents that occurred in 2007.

AND

Name: Leonard Bailey
Rank: Fire Chief
Age: 56
Gender: Male
Status: Volunteer
Years of Service: Unknown
Date of Incident: 09/12/2007
Time of Incident: 0119hrs
Date of Death: 09/12/2007

Fire Department: Elizabeth Volunteer Fire Co.
Address: 101 N 1st Ave., Elizabeth, PA 15037
Telephone: (412) 384-2265
Fire Department Chief: Pending

Incident Description: Early in the morning, Fire Chief Bailey was notified by someone knocking at the door of his residence that there was a fire in a nearby structure, a bar formerly owned by Bailey's father called "Engine No 2" located at 221 Water St. (USNG: 17TNE94665880). According to investigating officials, Bailey collapsed from an apparent heart attack after confirming that there was a working fire in the structure. Chief Bailey was transported to Jefferson Hospital where he was pronounced dead. Investigators indicated that the structure was abandoned with no utilities and had a history of recent break-ins. They believe the fire was intentionally set.

Funeral Arrangements: Pending

Memorial Fund Contact and Address: Pending

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

To date, 90 firefighter fatalities have been reported to USFA in 2007 as a result of incidents that occurred in 2007.

AND:

Name: Kelly Page
Rank: Firefighter
Age: 38
Gender: Male
Status: Career
Years of Service: 5
Date of Incident: 09/14/2007
Time of Incident: 2015 hours
Date of Death: 09/14/2007

Fire Department: City of Lowell Fire Department
Address: 99 Moody St., J.F.K. Civic Center, Lowell, MA 01852-1094
Telephone: 978-459-5553
Fire Department Chief: Edward J. Pitta

Incident Description: Firefighter Page had worked a number of calls during the day including downed power lines, medical emergencies, false alarms, and a basement fire in a vacant residential structure. In the evening after the last of the calls, Page complained to other firefighters about not feeling well. A short time later Firefighter Page was found unconscious on the floor of the station. Firefighters attempted to resuscitate him; he was transported to Saints Medical Center where he was pronounced dead from a cause still to be determined.

Funeral Arrangements: Wake, 09/20/2007, 1400-2000 hours at Fay McCabe Funeral Home, 105 Moore Street, Lowell, MA. Funeral, 09/21/2007, 1100hrs at the Immaculate Conception Church on East Merrimack St., Lowell, MA.

Memorial Fund Contact and Address: A scholarship fund will be established in Firefighter Kelly Page's daughters' names (Kyleigh, Kaelin, and Keara) at Jeanne d'Arc Credit Union, 658 Merrimack St., Lowell, MA 01854.

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

To date, 92 firefighter fatalities have been reported to USFA in 2007 as a result of incidents that occurred in 2007.

AND:

Name: William D. McDaniels, Sr.
Rank: Fire Police Captain
Age: 51
Gender: Male
Status: Volunteer
Years of Service: 15
Date of Incident: 09/15/2007
Time of Incident: 1558 hours
Date of Death: 09/15/2007

Fire Department: Mocanaqua Volunteer Fire Company No. 1
Address: P.O. Box 73, Shichshinny, PA 18655
Telephone: 570-881-0981
Fire Department Chief: Executive Fire Chief Douglas Yacuboski

Incident Description: Fire Police Captain McDaniels responded to a reported fire at the Shickshinny High Rise. Upon arrival, McDaniels fell ill complaining to other firefighters that he was suffering from chest pains and had difficulty breathing. He was transported to the Berwick Hospital Center where he passed away from an apparent heart attack.

Funeral Arrangements: Mayo Funeral Home Inc., 77 N. Main St., Shickshinny, PA. Visitation, 09/18/2007, 1800-2100 hours. Funeral, 09/19/2007 at 1100 hours. Burial will be at Sorber Cemetery, Reyburn, PA.

Memorial Fund Contact and Address: Condolences may be sent to the family at 7 Main Street, Mocanaqua, PA 18655.

Tribute is being paid to Fire Police Captain William D. McDaniels, Sr. at <http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/fireservice/fatalities/>

To date, 93 firefighter fatalities have been reported to USFA in 2007 as a result of incidents that occurred in 2007.

AND:

Name: John Lietzke
Rank: Firefighter
Age: 47
Gender: Male
Status: Volunteer
Years of Service: 6
Date of Incident: 09/25/2007
Time of Incident: 2000 hours
Date of Death: 09/25/2007

Fire Department: Olivet Fire Department
Address: 106 S Main St., PO Box 385, Olivet, MI 49076
Telephone: (269) 749-9106
Fire Department Chief: John M. Collins

Incident Description: While operating his privately owned vehicle and en route to the station in response to reported power lines down, Firefighter Lietzke struck a large tree that had fallen into the roadway. Strong storms were passing through the area with reported heavy rainfall at the time of the accident. Although he was wearing his seatbelt, Firefighter Lietzke passed away at the scene from his injuries.

Funeral Arrangements: September 29, 2007 at 1300 hours, Assembly of God, 1100 East Clinton Trail, Charlotte, MI 48813.

Memorial Fund Contact and Address: Pending

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

To date, 95 firefighter fatalities have been reported to USFA in 2007 as a result of incidents that occurred in 2007.

AND:

Name: Bryon Wayne Johnson
Rank: Lieutenant
Age: 32
Gender: Male
Status: Career
Years of Service: 8

Date of Incident: 09/24/2007
Time of Incident: 1415 hours
Date of Death: 09/24/2007

Fire Department: Sedgwick County Fire District #1
Address: 4343 N. Woodlawn, Wichita, KS 67220
Telephone: 316-660-3473
Fire Department Chief: Fire Chief Gary Curmode

Incident Description: A tractor trailer rig took a wrong turn and had to turn around because a bridge was closed for construction. When turning around, the rig struck a utility pole causing a live wire to fall and spark a grass fire near houses. While battling the wind-whipped grass fire, Lieutenant Johnson came in contact with the live wire and was severely shocked. Lieutenant Johnson was taken by air ambulance in critical condition to Via Christi Regional Medical Center-St Francis Campus where he passed away within an hour.

Funeral Arrangements: Pending

Memorial Fund Contact and Address: Pending

Tribute is being paid to Lieutenant Bryon Wayne Johnson at <http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/fireservice/fatalities/>

To date, 94 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

Hey...

Today the FDNY relieved and reassigned 3 Fire Officers and ordered inspections of buildings under demolition after last weeks double LODD fire. They also state that a preliminary investigation indicated that careless smoking by construction workers started the fire that lead to the deaths of 2 FF's. Officials said smoking was rampant in the structure. Someone on site should have thought that was a problem.

The FDNY Commissioner has now ordered all Deputy Chiefs to inspect every building in their divisions that are under construction or demolition & review all plans for fire operations at every building in their area. The Commissioner also reassigned a Deputy Chief, a Battalion Chief and a Captain to headquarters after being relieved of their commands. Word is that the reassigned Deputy Chief had received a memo more than two years earlier that included recommendations for how to fight a fire in that contaminated hi-rise. It recommended that if they had a fire, an officer and two firefighters should go into the building to investigate and evaluate the situation. That's not what was done last weekend and Firefighters Robert Beddia, 53, and Joseph Graffagnino, 33, both died in the line of duty. What the media is not talking about-or at least we haven't read or heard it, is that there were radio reports of workers on the scaffolding upon arrival at the working fire....and that's a factor in light of all the others facts. (For more on this fire's IC-see below).

The Deutsche building has been empty since it was destroyed due to the collapse of the WTC on 9-11-01....essentially it was a hi-rise dumpster awaiting politicians and hi-dollar suits to decide what to do with it. And this wasn't the first time the building gave FDNY trouble. And then there was a fire-two FF's were killed-and now it becomes a high priority issue. Sadly, it takes a fire in a high visibility building killing 2 FF's to get the attention it should have had weeks, months and year! s ago by the suits, the politicians and the contractors-who all own a major part of this loss as well. And then there are the rest of us...how are our 1st due buildings? What's the plan? What if it was our fire? Hear the train?

Take Care,
BillyG
The Secret List 8-27-07 / 1443 hours

NOTE: Here is an article on one of the finest Chiefs in the FDNY...a Chief who was faced with commanding this fire following the failures of numerous systems and people.

http://www.nydailynews.com/news/2007/08/26/2007-08-26_chiefs_voice_was_tower_of_strength.html

AND:

It is with regret that we inform you of the passing of Vancouver Captain Robert Hall. Captain Hall passed away on Monday, August 27th at the age of 51. Captain Hall was a past Secretary Treasurer of Local 18 as well as the BC Professional Fire Fighters' Association. He passed away from one of the seven types of presumptive cancers now covered by WCB.

While we logistically cannot send out every presumptive Firefighter Death, we are passing this on due to the increased prevalence of Firefighters losing their lives to cancer. Prevention by using full PPE all the time, having no exposed skin and cleaning up immediately after any exposure to annual physicals and screening can go a long way....but there is a lot more.

Go to: www.FCSN.net for excellent information and resources for ALL FF's.....and go here: <http://dynamic.firehouse.combroadcast/2006/12/22/firefighting-cancer/> for more information and an interview with some experts.

Additionally, go here for presumptive information: <http://www.iaff.org/07News/Presumptive.htm>

Take Care,
BillyG
The Secret List 8-29-07 0009 hours

AND

We have multiple reports of at least 2 BFD Firefighters being critically injured at a multi-alarm fire in West Roxbury neighborhood. This is reported to be a row of stores and is on going. Details to follow.

Take Care-Be Careful,
BillyG
The Secret List 8-29-07 / 2207 hours

AND

2 Boston Firefighters were killed in the Line of Duty this evening at a commercial building fire. The fire went to four-alarms in West Roxbury. It started around 2100 in the Hi Ho Chinese Restaurant and spread to nearby stores. Initial reports indicate that firefighters were inside the building when there was a collapse that involved a roof air conditioner unit. The Firefighters were from E-30 and L-25. More to follow.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.
BillyG
The Secret List 8-30-07 / 0008 Hours

AND

Hey...
Here is an update on last night's fire that tragically killed 2 Boston Firefighters and injuring others. Initially, there were reports of 2 other Firefighters on life support, but all surviving injured members are now reported to be non life threatening.

The Firefighters who gave their lives in the Line of Duty last night are Paul Cahill (55) and Warren Payne (53),

who were assigned at Engine 30 and Ladder 25. Numerous other Firefighters were transported with non-life-threatening injuries. Boston Fire Chief Kevin MacCurtain said several firefighters from the first due crew that arrived on scene entered the building to attack the fire. Civilians were all out of the building but the heavy smoke and fire conditions in the initial stages of operations caused the members to become disoriented. "When they arrived they had heavy fire in the Thai restaurant with heavy smoke conditions on the block," MacCurtain said. "They advanced their lines into the store, and they became trapped and they were disoriented and they couldn't find their way out." Chief MacCurtain also said that a 3-ton air conditioning unit partially crashed through the roof of the restaurant but that it was unclear what role this played in the firefighter deaths and injuries. He said the first crews of firefighters quickly became trapped and disoriented. Other crews found the trapped firefighters and pulled them out.

FF Payne was the father of two and FF Cahill was the married father of two. Both had 25 years on the job. Five Boston firefighters have died during or after fires since 1994. They include David Milton, who died earlier this year when he got home from a shift at a firehouse; David Packard, who died of a heart attack after a fire in 1999, Dick Murphy, died of a heart attack after a fire, also in 1999; James Ellis, who died from injuries after he fell down a fire pole when responding to a fire call in 1996 and Steve Minehan, who was killed in a warehouse fire in Charlestown (Boston) in 1994. Steve was killed following a search for other missing Firefighters in that fire.

We are closely monitoring the conditions of the 2 Firefighters who are in critically condition and will update as applicable here and on our home page. Our deepest sympathies go out to all effected but especially the Payne and Cahill families and the members of the BFD E-30/L-25.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 8-30-07 / 0843 hours

AND

Hey...

Tragically, 6 Firefighters have been killed and seven other Firefighters have been badly injured when they were trapped while operating at a arson suspected wildland fire on an island in Croatia yesterday. The fire was brought under control early this morning.

5 of the 7 surviving Firefighters have life threatening injuries with very severe burns covering 85-90 percent of their bodies. Croatia has battled a huge number wildland fires this summer. There was also another LODD recorded this week-where a Firefighter there died Wednesday following fire operations on another island.

UPDATE: BOSTON DOUBLE LODD FIRE: Information related to the memorial services and funerals of Firefighters Paul J. Cahill and Warren J. Payne will be posted here as soon as that information is available: <http://www.bostonfirelocal718.org/>

There is also plenty of additional coverage on the fire, the building, the Firefighters and the families they leave behind here: <http://boston.com/news/globe/>

UPDATE: The Deutsche Bank DOUBLE FDNY LODD Fire. In today's NY Times, veteran Firefighter Dennis Smith provides commentary on the Deutsche Bank fire. He writes about how the horrible loss of 2 FDNY Firefighters won't be alleviated by an arbitrary transfer and public humiliation of three Fire Officers. If Deputy Chief Richard Fuerch, Battalion Chief John McDonald and Captain Peter Bosco did something wrong, Dennis pushes the issue that they should be tried in a court of law and given the same rights as anyone else in the United States.

The Line of Duty deaths of FF's Joseph Graffagnino and Robert Beddia, yet to be explained, were followed 6 days later by serious injuries to FF's William Carbettis and Neil Nally when a power tool fell 23 stories and collapsed a shed on top of them. Dennis reminds us that this building, effected by the greatest tragedy in the history of the United States continues to linger and cause death and destruction almost 6 years later!

2 FDNY Firefighters were killed but who ultimately is responsible? Dennis pushes the question of "who owns this horrible loss and who is really responsible? Please take a few moments to read Dennis's piece as he digs deeper into the real RESPONSIBILITY of that deadly fire.

http://www.nytimes.com/2007/08/31/opinion/31smith.html?_r=1&oref=slogin

Be sure to also click on the various links at the bottom when you go to the above piece in the NY Times-all links related to the Deutsche Bank double LODD fire. And keep your eye on the news and significant changes that will start to unfold in the coming days related to this fire....that could have been avoided.

Not unlike most LODD's.

Take Care,

BillyG

The Secret List 8-31-07 / 0936 hours

AND

Hey....

A civilian who was helping a crash victim right near his home was killed yesterday when he was hit by a responding Firefighter in Wilmot Township. Ont, Canada near Waterloo.

Around 0800 hours, a 19-year-old teenager lost control of his car, swerved and hit a tree. The 53-year-old resident heard the crash as well as the Wilmot Township fire apparatus arriving at the scene, and he went out to help. He walked to the teenager in the car and then was going back to his house to get something. At that point, a 23-year-old volunteer firefighter who was driving to the crash site, lost control of his car. The firefighter struck the civilian who died at the scene....the Firefighter was unhurt. According to the cops, speed was a factor in both crashes.

NOTE: Please check out the new "fire apparatus responding" video posted on our home page.

It is entitled "**How To Drive like A Moron**". You'll understand when you view it.

...And lastly, see this link for a report on fighting fires in vacant buildings related to Firefighter injuries.

<http://www.mppfu.org/communications/FFDInjuryReport.pdf>

Take Care-BE CAREFUL-SLOW DOWN.

BillyG

The Secret List 10-3-07 1039 hours

AND

Hey...

Texas media has pushed and has now received the report related to the Hi-rise fire in Houston, that happened back in March. Here is a link to the story and below that are links to the report, audio and video.

<http://abclocal.go.com/ktrk/story?section=investigative&id=5634147>

http://dig.abclocal.go.com/ktrk/090407_pdf_firereport.pdf

VIDEO and RADIO TRAFFIC: <http://www.thebravestonline.com/news.html?view=1&id=1619>

FF STAFFING, CUTS & BROKEN AXLES.....Recently, the Elyria (Ohio) FD (protecting 56,000+ citizens) staffing dropped from 17 firefighters to 14, (staffing 2 Engines and a Truck) resulting in one of the city's four firehouses being closed most of the time. The Mayor, Bill Grace said the reduction is necessary because of budget problems. The city made the same move for about 10 months a few years ago, from November 2004 until October 2005, Grace said. This time, however, Mayor Grace said, it could be permanent. At the very least, the staffing will be reduced for the remainder of this year and all of next year. The FD leadership and the members of IAFF Local 474 have busted their tails to do whatever it takes to turn this failure of funding around. Disturbingly, Mayor Grace said the city has had to make reductions in every department over the past several years and the fire department is no different.

And THAT IS THE PROBLEM. Cut parks-who suffers? Cut recreation-who suffers? ...But the Fire Department: **EVERYONE SUFFERS.**

And then, this morning, while RESPONDING TO A WORKING FIRE, it appears that an AXLE SPLIT (photos on our home page) on one of their fire apparatus. How is the fire apparatus maintenance budget? Who is impacted? Firefighters? Civilians? TRAPPED civilians? Are we being over dramatic? Depends on if it is YOUR house that is on fire or if you are riding that apparatus. When your City staffs 1 Ladder and 2 Engine Companies protecting nearly 60,000 people.....and THE ladder has this happen....are the end results predictable? DO THE MATH. Photos of the apparatus are posted on our home page.

FDNY FIREFIGHTER TELLS HIS STORY: The Deutsche Bank fire that killed FDNY FF's Joseph Graffagnino and Robert Beddia on Aug. 18 trapped other FDNY members as well. One of them was Steve Olsen, 47, a 19-year member assigned to Ladder Co 1 Here is the link to his story:

<http://www.tribecatrib.com/news/newssept07/Firefighter.htm>

FIREFIGHTER SCHOLARSHIP: As we remind everyone each year, the Yvorra Leadership Development Foundation (YLD) is currently accepting applications for its 2007 Scholarship Awards. The awards are in memory of Deputy Fire Chief James G. Yvorra. The program is open to any member of fire and emergency medical services. Annual awards are approximately \$1,500. The deadline for applications is October 1, 2007. For more information or to request an application go to <http://www.yld.org> .

take care-BE CAREFUL,

BillyG

The Secret List 9-4-07 / 2224 hours

AND

Hey...

If you recall, a while back, Bill Dedman's MSNBC did an in-depth report on the issues of FF LODD investigations as well as equipment failures. Since then, the Inspector General of the CDC (NIOSH) did an internal investigation to find out the facts. Bill's report made a significant difference in helping the fire service and NIOSH take the investigation of FF LODD's to the next level.

Additionally, during the same time period, the IAFC President and Board directed that a FIRE SERVICE report be done to determine what would be the best response to Firefighter Line of Duty Death investigations. The participants in the task force who developed the IAFC report (link below) represent the IAFF, the Volunteer Fire Service, the NFFF and some highly qualified fire service veterans who have 1st hand expertise in FF line of duty death issues and investigations. As Sen. John Kerry stated: "I thank the inspector general for conducting a thorough investigation...the IG found not a lack of willpower (by the folks at NIOSH), but a lack of resources. It's obvious that Congress needs to provide more funding to investigate firefighter deaths and clearly define what it expects from the CDC (NIOSH Fire Fighter Fatality Investigation and Prevention Program:

<http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/fire/>)This is very good news and support that must and will be followed up on by the Fire Service.

Interestingly but not surprisingly, BOTH reports lead to almost all of the same recommendations which is also EXCELLENT news for the American Fire Service.

Here is the link to the IAFC/Fire Service REPORT: <http://www.iafcsafety.org/>

(It is right at the top of the page-look for: "SHS Section FF Fatality Investigation TF Report")

Here is the link to the CDC/NIOSH Inspector General Response to MSNBC.com's investigative report:

<http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/19838982/>

Just a few weeks ago at F.R.I. in Atlanta, the IAFC Board of Directors directed the IAFC Safety, Health and Survival Section to now carry out the next steps related to the initial recommendations in concert with NIOSH and related fire service organizations. Steady progress that will matter.

Take Care,

BillyG

The Secret List 9-7-07 / 1414 hours

AND

Hey....

As requested, to view a copy of the actual document provided by the CDC (NIOSH) Inspector General to Senator John Kerry related to the NIOSH Fire Fighter Fatality Investigation and Prevention Program, go to:

www.cdc.gov/niosh/fire

It is on the front page, under "Spotlight". The discussion of the IG report also includes a pdf file of the IG report, which is in the form of a letter from the IG to Senator Kerry. Look for: "Inspector General's Letter to Senator John Kerry"

UPDATES:

YOUR FIRE DEPARTMENT PLANS FOR 9/11/07: In case your membership or community needs reminding, go to our home page, click on the FDNY logo and then click on THE BLOOD OF HEROES video. It will quickly remind any viewer what NEVER FORGET means. And if that doesn't work, watch TV news today as Osama bin Laden has again crawled out of his cave for the first time in three years to go on a video rant, lecturing Americans. The lunatic al Qaeda cave dweller continues to warn us that the United States remains vulnerable.

It is still not too late for FD's anywhere to plan on a 9/11 memorial remembrance this week. No other organization in any community is more responsible to do it than the FIRE Department. Consideration should include involvement of:

- Law Enforcement.
- Local Schools/Band.
- Military vets and related local associations.
- Chaplains.
- Neighboring Fire/EMS departments.
- Community Civic Groups.
- Local and Federally elected officials who have openly SUPPORTED Firefighters with a proven track record. That's the ingredients, now go make it happen....to treat this coming Tuesday as just another day would be shameful...especially for Firefighters.

11 FIREFIGHTERS LODD: The FIREFIGHTER death toll of a wildland fire in Croatia rose to 11 firefighters Thursday. The Chief of the the regional firefighters association in Sibenik, was dismissed and arrested Thursday in connection with the fire, the biggest disaster of firefighters in Croatia. Police said Slavica, who ordered 23 firefighters to be flown by helicopter to the wildfire site on the island one week ago, was detained on suspicion of committing a serious crime against public security and endangering human lives and property. Our deepest condolences go out to all effected by the horrific loss.

FREE MONEY:

We have been advised that Fire Engineering is giving away \$10,000 in cash through a sweepstakes program. Visit www.fe-sweepstakes.com for the details...

Take Care-PLAN FOR 9/11/07....it's NEVER too late.

BillyG

The Secret List 9-8-07 / 0920 hours

AND

The Willow Grove (PA) Fire Company regrets to announce the Line of Duty Death of Fire Engineer George Crotts who passed away today, Sunday September 9, 2007. Fire Engineer Crotts sustained severe head injuries on Saturday September 8, 2007 when he fell from fire apparatus while performing FD duties. The apparatus was not moving at the time of the event.

Fire Engineer Crotts had served 53 years with Willow Grove and was still an active engineer. Funeral Arrangements will be posted when they become available at: www.tiller10.com as well as at: www.PhillyFireNews.Com .

Our sincere condolences go out to our friends at Willow Grove VFC and especially the family of Fire Engineer Crotts.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL,
BillyG
The Secret List 9-9-07 / 1725 hours

AND

It is with deep regret that we advise you that Jared W. Zimmerly, 20, of Millersburg (Ohio), died this morning after his car hit a pole and a tree and overturned in Holmes County while he was responding to an emergency call in Millersburg as a Prairie Township volunteer firefighter. He was not wearing his seat belt.

According to the Ohio State Patrol, FF Zimmerly was driving west on County Rd. 189 in Salt Creek Township, northeast of Millersburg, when he lost control of his car on a curve. His car hit a pole and a tree and overturned, and he was ejected. A wet road is believed to have contributed to the crash. Of note is that FF Zimmerly was not only a firefighter, but was Holmes County Sheriff Zimmerly's son.
Details to follow.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.
BillyG
The Secret List 9-9-07 / 2058 hours

AND

Hey....
Please take a moment to read the below Commentary by Dennis Smith entitled "THE ANGER NEVER DIES".
The link is below.

FD FATAL VEHICLE CRASH: In Maryland yesterday, a civilian was tragically killed in a vehicle crash involving an SUV from the Hebron VFD who was responding to another accident. Firefighters from the Hebron VFD initially responded to a two-car accident with multiple people injured at the intersection of Route 50 and Route 670 around 1400. While responding to that crash, FF Steve Brown, driving a FD SUV struck another car, driven by a woman, who was killed. Investigators said they have not determined who was at fault and would not say how fast the HVFD's Explorer was traveling and whether it had its emergency lights and siren activated.
FF FALLS OUT OF APPARATUS WHILE RESPONDING: At approximately 1500 hours yesterday, a volunteer firefighter was seriously injured while responding to a call in Kingston, Ontario, Canada. The firefighter was seated in the front passenger seat of a pumper and fell out while the apparatus was rounding a turn while responding to the incident. Additional details on the incident and the Firefighters condition will follow.

THE ANGER NEVER DIES :

www.nydailynews.com/opinions/2007/09/10/2007-09-10_the_anger_never_dies.html

Take Care-BE CAREFUL,
BillyG
The Secret List 9-10-07 / 0955 Hours

AND

Hey...
A Firefighter with the Malverne (Nassau County, Long Island, NY) Fire Department was struck and his legs were run over by apparatus belonging to that same department last evening. Initial reports are that the apparatus was backing up, at the firehouse, following a run.

The Firefighter was immediately treated by other members, and then treated and transported by Nassau County

Police EMS ALS and admitted to the hospital with serious leg fractures and related injuries.
This incident is another firm reminder for all of us to review and enforce departmental BACKING POLICIES.

Don't have a BACKING POLICY? Here are some excellent examples:

www.iafc.org/displaycommon.cfm?an=1&subarticlenbr=413

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 9-11-07 0927 Hours

AND

Hey...

We regret to inform you that a Burlington, North Carolina Firefighter was killed Monday night. Anderson Township VFD Captain Michael Dean Stanfield had been on the scene of a motor vehicle accident call and was returning to the station when the motorcycle he was riding left the roadway, and crashed. He died while being transported to the hospital.

UPDATE: FIREFIGHTER INJURED ON LONG ISLAND:

That Malverne FD Lieutenant was exiting the apparatus and had his back to the vehicle. The front, passenger side wheel grazed his right foot as it backed up. His foot was not fully run over, but it did cause a lot of pain, causing the Lt. to fall to the ground. Members in the area did not witness the actual accident, but saw the Lt. fall in extreme pain. Members assumed the Lt. was run over (rightfully so) and immediately ordered ALS and a medivac helicopter. After the initial assessment, it was discovered his injuries were not as serious and the medivac was canceled. He was transported, is in good condition but may need surgery for a broken toe. The driver of the apparatus is also in good condition, although obviously very shaken up. The MFD advised that internal reviews will be done and necessary changes to SOGs will be recommended.

THE TRUTH HURTS

The Randolph (MASS) Board of Selectmen suspended their Fire Chief Monday evening for telling the truth...following comments he made at a fire in May that trapped and killed two boys.

Randolph Fire Chief Charles Foley truthfully said his staffing was short-handed, which didn't help their ability to effectively do search and rescue that night. He said if they had not been understaffed due to budget cuts, in part, they would have had more firefighters and the tragic outcome may have been prevented. "I can't promise you that there would have been a different outcome," Foley honestly said. "All I can tell you is the operation would have been enhanced by additional staffing."

The Board's "investigation" determined Chief Foley's comments were inappropriate, misleading and unprofessional. "These remarks were intentional and motivated to bring his staffing and budgetary issues to the public forefront through the media," said a selectman. We would bet the outcome and fate of Chief Foley was decided before the investigation was started...but that's just our opinion.

In March, residents rejected additional funding for the RFD. The executive secretary of the town's board of selectmen defended the current FD staffing, saying it is adequate. And of course, that depends.

As readers of The Secret List know, many communities have rejected tax increases designed to support the FD and increase staffing. Fire Chiefs who say their services will be affected, and that public safety could be compromised, are being honest and have an obligation to provide the facts.

It might be something like: with this much staffing we can do this, with that much staffing we can do that. Simple, plain and understandable language (and numbers) so everyone knows the truth. Forget the drama of what they see on TV....fire operations require specific numbers of firefighters for predictable success. Not always-but almost always. Our hats go off to Chief Foley for letting the public know the true fact. Like it or not-adequate and well trained STAFFING arriving quickly with qualified bosses CAN and HAS proven to make a big difference to those who call 9-1-1....and directly impacts Firefighters ability to survive.

When a community does NOT support the funding needed, then the FD simply cannot provide that unsupported but usually-still anticipated high levels of service. But yet when so many FD's do suffer staffing cuts...the FD goes on acting as if they CAN do the same job with less Firefighters....which isn't the case. When we act as if "we can still do it all, even! though they cut us" ...we are fooling the public and we are fooling ourselves. Eventually the numbers catchup when we aren't truthful.

For example: If you have a 1 story, w/f, SF dwelling fire that requires the proven and measurable services of 20 Firefighters...it CANNOT be done with less. Something has to suffer...either a little...or a lot....be it:

Water Supply.
Pump Operations.
Line Stretching.
Command and Control.
Venting.
Forcible Entry.
Search.
Rescue.
Patient Care.
Safety.

These basic "house fire tasks" CANNOT be done as quick, as safely or as effectively when we do not have enough Firefighters responding to match the required tasks. Forget the emotions...this is all about numbers and these numbers are easily measured, proven and demonstrated.

But just like when FD's and Chiefs, such as Chief Foley, are told by budget cutting non-supporters and city hall dwellers that "it's just a matter of numbers" when those folks are talking to us about cutting budgets and funding....the same exact response applies back to them from those charged with trying to rescue kids out of a house: It's just a matter of true numbers. Numbers of Firefighters.

WE DO understand that not everything can be funded the way we would like. That's understandable. And sometimes there are other solutions such as true "mutual" aid, automatic aid and other supplements to staffing. Sometimes that will work-but sometimes it will not. So then, when budgets and funding are cut that directly and honestly relate to staffing and the FD's ability to deliver fire and life saving services, SOMEONE has to stand up. Someone must let the elected officials and those who elected them know what the FD CAN do...and what the FD simply CANNOT do, based upon the type of emergency reported. Someone must tell the truth.

Firefighters cannot "do it all" when the ! community and elected officials are not willing to support Firefighters "doing it all"....without the needed support and funding. And sometimes that truth hurts.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.
BillyG
The Secret List 9-12-07 / 0146 Hours

AND

Hey....

A fire chief died this morning while responding to a building fire in an abandoned bar near his home in Elizabeth Borough, a small town near Pittsburgh. It appears that Fire Chief Leonard Bailey, 56, had a heart attack. The suspicious fire was reported at 0119 hours this morning and Bailey was stricken and died as he responded to the call. Authorities say Bailey's father had previously owned the bar decades ago. The current owner of the vacant building was not immediately identified. Our deepest sympathies go out to all effected.

UPDATE: Several of you have written in asking how you can send letters of support to the Randolph (MA) Fire Chief who is in a jam over a staffing and budget issue...and speaking up about it. Here is the town website and related contact information for those interested. We are not sure if it helps or hurts Chief Foley at this point.
www.TownOfRandolph.com

One very significant factor in the situation is that one of the selectmen is the former Fire Chief in

Randolph....who is clearly no help to the current Fire Chief related to the staffing issue. But he was the current Fire Chiefs former immediate supervisor....so there is some personal history.

Some of the best...and some of the worst help to Fire Chiefs are those who stop being Fire Chiefs and become local politicians....with short-or long term memory.

It should be noted that Fire Chiefs from throughout Massachusetts responded to support Chief Foley during his disciplinary hearings, in part because they were shook that he might be punished for complaining about budget cuts after the fire in which two young half brothers were killed. The chiefs were further surprised this week to now learn that Foley has been suspended for 15 days without pay for suggesting, following a deadly fire in May, that the two could have been saved if the department was fully staffed.

As Chiefs and Firefighters should...they sympathized with him because it was something they could have done, knowing the emotions firefighters face when someone (especially 2 kids) dies under their command and the frustrations we all face with budget issues. More to follow.

NOTE: We also posted another story on the home page this morning about a FF in New Mexico who questioned some safety issues...and was threatened by his supervisor.

UPDATE: UPDATE: A Kingston (Ontario, CN) firefighter remains in serious condition in hospital after tumbling out of the fire apparatus while responding to a fire call on the weekend. Tracy Killoran, 33, a volunteer with Kingston Fire & Rescue, was injured after hitting the pavement when a door opened while the truck turned while responding to a call. The Ontario Ministry of Labour and Kingston Police are investigating the accident. The use or lack of use of her seat belt has not been released as of yet.

The call came in at about 2:45 p.m. Sept. 9. Killoran, who has two young children, suffered head injuries. She was not wearing a helmet, which fire officials say is standard procedure while riding in the truck. While only three months with Kingston F/R, Killoran was an experienced firefighter who came to the city from the South Frontenac Fire Department.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 9-12-07 / 0946 hours

www.FireFighterCloseCalls.com

AND

We regretfully advise you that a Lowell (Ma) Firefighter, 38 years old, died in the line of duty last evening. He was a member of Engine Company 4. Firefighter Kelly Page had returned from a fire call, was getting equipment ready when he collapsed in the firehouse. Immediate life saving efforts were started along with ALS response but unfortunately, he succumbed to the event.

Our deepest regrets go out to all effected, especially FF Page's family and the Officers and Members at the Lowell FD, IAFF Local 853.

Additional details will be posted here:

http://www.iafflocal853.org/?zone=/unionactive/view_article.cfm&homeID=66288

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 9-15-07 / 1558 Hours

AND

We regret to advise you that this afternoon, at 1554 hours, a Firefighter with the Mocanaqua Volunteer Fire Department, responded to an automatic fire alarm in Shickshinny Borough, suffered chest pains and difficulty breathing upon arrival at the scene. He advised other Firefighters he didn't feel well, sat down on the rig as he was suffering a heart attack. He was immediately treated and transported but unfortunately, the Firefighter died at 1737 hours. Details will be posted at the following site as soon as more is available:

<http://www.freewebs.com/mocanaquafire/>

Our deepest regrets go out to all effected, especially the family, the Officers and members at the MVFD.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 9-15-07 2019 hours

AND

Hey....

As you may know, last Wednesday afternoon's fire destroyed the Schuylkill Hose Company No. 2's engines, hazmat truck and gear and caused more than \$1 million in damage. This Fire Company in Pennsylvania can use some assistance. If you have safe and immediately usable fire equipment, PPE etc to donate or wish to assist them as they get back on their feet, please contact Glen Sattizahan. His e-mail is: gsattizahan@alphamills.com and his cell Phone # is 570-449-2613.

UPDATE: AMISH SCHOOL SHOOTINGS (This message is from Chief Curt Woerth of the Bart Township Fire Company)

Almost a year ago, on October 2, 2006, the tragic disaster of the shooting at the Nickel Mines Amish School struck our community. Five girls were hospitalized, five girls were laid to rest, and families' lives were shattered. Our whole community was shocked and is grieving since that fateful day.

In this year our department and our community have been tested and tried. Together we were able to work our way through these difficult times. Our fire company was able to meet our responsibilities to the community during this tragic event and in the months that followed due to the support we received from our neighboring Fire companies, Emergency Medical Services, Law Enforcement forces, and the South Central Pennsylvania Regional Counter-Terrorism Task Force.

The Bart Township Fire Company supplied the facility and leadership for the response to this event. As the world watched Fire, EMS, and Law Enforcement worked hand in hand with the Amish Community. In fact, many volunteer members of our fire company are Amish. However without the support of our community, this tragic event may have been worse.

Counseling sessions were held at the fire station for months following the incident. Separate sessions were offered for the families, Fire/EMS, and the community. The Nickel Mines Accountability Committee that was established to receive and disburse funds contributed in response to this tragedy holds its meetings in the fire station.

Hundreds of packages and thousands of letters flowed through the fire station. All packages and letters were sorted and checked before being distributed to the families. Volunteers from the community helped our fire company sort and distribute as many as 900 letters a day during those first weeks.

The Special Division (Ladies Auxiliary) of the Bart Township Fire Company, with help from community and local businesses, provided three meals a day to all Fire, EMS, Law Enforcement, and the Amish families of those involved during that first week. They served more than 800 meals a day during the time of the funerals.

We as a fire company have learned that life will never return to what it was before October 2, 2006. We have also learned through this tragic event that we live in a community where people care about one another and put the needs of others first. With this support we will work through the future that lies ahead.

The Bart Township Fire Company has no memorial remembrance planned for October 2nd. But each day we carry a living memorial in our hearts and minds of this tragic event and of the community's generous response. We ask that you keep the children and their families in your prayers. (End of message)

The above is relevant and worth sharing because-like many calls-this could happen to any of us. Any of us could be called to respond to a call-involving people, or kids we know-or family members...often a Firefighters worst nightmare. And if we don't have a pre-existing response, incident management and command plan to

manage it...in spite of the emotions-it only gets worse.

Some of the IAFC staff and I had a chance to spend time with Curt, his officers, his members and the community immediately after the shootings. We also had a chance to observe the Command operations at their firehouse following the shootings. The members of the Bart Township Fire Company knew every victim involved...yet the members of Bart Twp FC and the neighboring Fire Companies, EMS and Lancaster County EMA, LC Communications and related support personnel did a phenomenal, text book job in managing this nightmare.

Take Care,
BillyG
The Secret List 9-17-07 / 1332 hours

AND

Hey...

This link is raw, unedited video of some of the CFD firefighters who were on the scene, and operating at the Sofa Store fire which killed 9 CFD Firefighters on June 18th of this year. Some of you may have already viewed this-it lasts about 45 minutes.

This is a unique chance to understand what the CFD Firefighters experienced and how they felt, and feel. This provides their perspective, perception, opinion, views and first hand report on what happened... from two members who were there.

mms://video.wjla.com/wciv/091307_full_firefighters.wmv

Take Care-BE CAREFUL,
BillyG
The Secret List 9-17-07 / 1445 hours

AND

Hey....

As we recently reached U.S. FIREFIGHTER LINE OF DUTY DEATH No. 93 for this year....South Carolina's Occupational Safety and Health Administration has now cited the Charleston FD for a willful violation involving Firefighter safety and 3 other serious violations related to their Firefighters on the scene not wearing protective gear and SCBA. The city was fined a total of \$9,325 for the violations. The fine \$\$ amount isn't really the issue at this point-the fact that they were found in violation and those violations directly contributed to the Line of Duty Deaths of 9 CFD Firefighters is the issue.

One of the more serious violations involved the CFD's failure to have procedures on operating at a fire in a structure with a steel truss roof design. The CFD also lacked an incident command system to coordinate, track, lead, manage, account for and take care of their Firefighters.

Here are the links to the report:

http://media.charleston.net/pdf/investigative_summary.pdf

<http://media.charleston.net/pdf/OSHAreport.pdf>

http://media.charleston.net/pdf/City_of_Charleston.pdf

....and....according to OSHA, a "willful violation" is one where OSHA's requirements are consciously or voluntarily disregarded. A "serious violation" is one where the employer should have known that by violating the law, their actions (or failure to take action) could cause death or physical harm to their Firefighters.

As you know, Charleston Firefighters James Drayton, Melvin Champaign and Brandon Thompson; Captains William Hutchinson and Louis Mulkey; Engineers Mark Kelsey and Bradford Baity and Assistant Engineer Michael French gave their lives on June 18 at that warehouse fire.

Much more to follow.
Take care-BE CAREFUL.
BillyG
The Secret List 9-20-07 / 2345 hours

AND

Early this morning, an EMS unit from Cranberry Township (PA) was involved in a crash on Route 19 that ended with the fatalities of 2 civilians. The crash occurred in Marshall Township, Allegheny County, a suburb of Pittsburgh. The EMS members on board suffered non-life threatening injuries.
Additional details to follow.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.
BillyG
The Secret List 9-23-07 / 0912 hours

AND

Hey...
If you recall, there was a very tragic Firefighter Line of Duty Death in August when Lt. Paul D. Baker, 39, of the Turtle Creek FD in Arkansas lost his footing while involved in an extrication of a patient from a single-vehicle crash on the I-30 bridge over the Saline River. Lt. Baker fell about 40 feet, landing on the river bank and was killed instantly.

This tragic loss serves as a strong reminder for Firefighters and other first responders when working incidents along highway bridges and overpasses. We have been advised that most if not all of the sidewalls that border bridges and overpasses are only 27 to 32 inches high where there is not a pedestrian walkway or bike path (they are 10" to 15" higher).

When Firefighters and EMS personnel are working incidents along these sidewalls there is naturally an increased chance of falling over the wall with very little chance of survival...depending. Firefighters are reminded to conduct patient care, rescue extrications and all other duties as far away from the sidewalls as they can possibly get...or be secured using extreme caution being aware of the working conditions-and taking appropriate precautions based upon your FD SOP.

While lighting is helpful, scene and emergency lighting at night can create a glare that may interfere with depth perception and this too may contribute to mis-judging our distance from a sidewall. Safety officers and other Officers and Firefighters should insure that members know where the side wall is and how far members are from it. Our thanks to the Firefighters in Arkansas who reminded us of this horrible LODD-and some suggestions to use caution.

CALIF FF LOSES BATTLE TO CANCER: As we have said, we cannot send each and every non-trauma LODD out, but when logistics allow, we do feel compelled to share as much as possible.
Chris Johnson, a firefighter with the Fresno County Fire Protection District-Cal Fire, has died after three years of battling cancer. Johnson, 32, of Sanger died Thursday at a cancer facility in Southern California where he was being treated for leukemia, and where he had been awaiting a bone marrow transplant, which he never received. FF Johnson's death is covered under California's cancer presumption laws. A fire apparatus engineer, Johnson was an 11-year-veteran of the department.
Johnson's survivors include his wife, Rebecca, and a 3-year-old son, C.J.
A Chris Johnson Memorial Fund has been set up to help pay for funeral expenses and other costs for his family during his illness, contact: Fresno County Fire Protection District headquarters at 210 S. Academy Ave., Sanger, CA 93657.

FIREFIGHTERS WITH CANCER...we can expect to hear more and more about that. Here is recent interview from Fire Engineering that may be of interest, related to Firefighters with or without cancer.

www.fireengineering.com/podcasts/podcastDetails.html?id=507

DO YOU KNOW A FIREFIGHTER WITH CANCER? Go to: www.FireFighterCancerSupport.org

NJ FF DIES AT CONFERENCE: It is with deep regret that we are informed of the Active Duty Death of New Brunswick Fire Officer Captain Ken Faust. Ken died while at the FMBA Conference. Our deepest sympathies and prayers to the Faust Family and the brothers and sisters of the New Brunswick Fire Department. Wake and Funeral information is as follows:

Captain Ken Faust, New Brunswick Local 217-Funeral Mass-St. Peter's Roman Catholic Church
94 Somerset St. New Brunswick, NJ 08901 tomorrow, Monday, September 24 at 1100 hours.

Take Care,

BillyG

The Secret List 9-23-07 / 1911 Hours

AND

A Sedgwick County (Kansas) Firefighter died in the line of duty this afternoon after suffering a severe shock while operating at a grass fire ignited by a downed power line. A tractor trailer struck a pole which caused the downed a power lines, which ignited a grass fire. The 37 year old Firefighter somehow came into contact with the line after arriving at the scene of the fire.

A resident who lives in the area, said truck drivers have been ignoring the "No Through Traffic" signs and driving on through to a closed bridge. Realizing they can't get through, he said, they turn around -- and more than one has hit a power pole in the process and this time, a Firefighter lost his life.

The initial call to dispatchers was that a car had hit a power pole, downing electrical lines. Those lines also sparked the grass fire. Several hundred homes were without power in that area.

The tractor-trailer that hit the pole left the scene - cops worked the case as a hit and run and the driver was arrested in Oklahoma - where he admitted to officers there that he made the u-turn when he hit the pole. Details to follow.

As always, our deepest sympathies go out to all effected.

Take care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 9-24-07 / 2218 hours

AND

It is with deep regret that we advise you that 2 Firefighters were killed in the Line of Duty early today at a warehouse fire in Bray, Co Wicklow, Ireland. The Firefighters, both retained (part-time) members, aged 25 and 40, died as they operated at the fire. Reports are that the men became isolated inside the building during the fire, and that soon after their bodies were found by other Firefighters. Reports also indicate a collapse may have led to their deaths.

Here is the County Wicklow Fire Service home page: www.wicklow.ie/fire%20ser-/fire_index.html

And in Michigan, a Firefighter was killed in a single vehicle accident while responding to a fire call. 47-year-old Firefighter John Lietzke died last night just before 2000 hours. He was a Firefighter in his hometown of Olivet and was responding to a fire.

NOTE: Police say his truck hit a tree that had fallen into the road and he died at the scene. Firefighter Lietzke was the lone occupant of the vehicle and was wearing a seatbelt.

Our deepest regrets go out to all effected in both Ireland and in Michigan.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 9-26-07 / 1414 Hours

AND

Hey....

4 Firefighters were injured, one reported very serious following a collapse at a structural fire in Sharon Hill, PA around 2300 hours this evening. At least 1 helicopter was called in as well as numerous ALS and BLS. 2 Police Officers are also reported to be injured. Initial reports are that this was a single family dwelling with fire in an attached garage. Additional details to follow.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

Billy G

The Secret List 9-27-07 / 0027 hours

AND

It is with deep regret that we advise you that Firefighter Mike Reagan, 19, of Ridley, and a member of the Sharon Hill Fire Company has died in the Line of Duty.

As you recall, while operating at a detached garage fire earlier this week, Firefighters were trapped following the collapse of that garage. Other Firefighters who were injured suffered non-life threatening injuries.

More details will follow. Our deepest thoughts as prayers go out to all effected, especially the members of Sharon Hill...and Firefighter Reagan's parents, family and friends.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 9-28-07 / 1455 hours

AND

Hey...

PA FIREFIGHTERS FIRE/GARAGE COLLAPSE UPDATE: For additional photos and information on the fire and collapse in Sharon Hill, PA check out: whatsnew.fotki.com/Firefoto3/

1 Firefighter remains in very critical condition but others have improved. Updates will follow on the news/updates section on our home page.

ELECTROCUTION UPDATE: The power line that killed Kansas Firefighter Bryon Johnson was thinner than a pencil. Dangling next to a utility pole, it was difficult to see. Strong south winds fed the grass fire ignited by the power line, which was knocked loose when a semi truck pushed over a pole. Lt. Johnson may not have seen the dangling power line as he hit the fire. Lt. Johnson, 32, was shocked about 1400 hours and died in The Line of Duty less than an hour later at the hospital. Firefighters knew there were down power lines but because strong winds were pushing the fire toward houses, they attacked the fire from a different angle. They worked their way to the west edge of the fire and began moving south. The SCFD still isn't sure if Lt. Johnson saw the power line or how he came into contact with it. The Engineer of the apparatus lost contact with him and, following SOP's, went to check on him...and found him...the driver risked his own life by removing Lt. Johnson out of the area by his suspenders. Other FF's came in close contact with the live line as well.

2 IRISH FIREFIGHTERS LODD UPDATE: Either a wall or roof collapse was the cause of the LODD's of County Wicklow Firefighters Brian Murray (46) and Mark O'Shaugnessy, 26, who lost their lives when the roof of the building collapsed. Another member of their crew who was with them at the time is listed as critical in hospital. Please use this link to express condolences: www.IrishFireServices.com .

NOTE: We have also posted some political information related to this fire and the area fire service on our home page.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL,

BillyG

The Secret List 9-28-07 / 0023 hours

AND

Hey...

A 19 year old Sharon Hill Firefighter remains in very critical condition with burns and related traumatic injuries after being struck and trapped by the exterior collapse of a garage at a fire call last night. Initially the cops arrived confirming a working fire in a detached 3 car garage. Companies arrived and went with an exterior attack using 1-3/4" hand lines. While they were operating, there was a outward collapse of a wall. The Chief estimated that they were about 8 feet outside of the building when the front of the structure collapsed.

1 FF (who was hit by a steel crossbeam when the structure collapsed) was transported in cardiac arrest (he is the one who is critical at this time) and another Firefighter was transported with a serious leg injury. A total of 4 Firefighters and 2 Police Officers were injured either from the collapse or the effort to rescue the Firefighters who were trapped. The cops were transported for burns to the hands from their helping with the Firefighter rescue effort. All trapped and injured members were removed within 6 minutes. The fire began in the garage at the 900 block of Coates Street, where a man had lit a candle while working on a motorcycle
More details to follow. Please keep the kid, his family and the members of Sharon Hill Fire Company in your thoughts and prayers.

Additionally, here is a link worthy of review by all of us:
vincentdunn.com/dunn/newsletters/Front_wall_collapse.pdf

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.
BillyG
The Secret List 9-27-07 / 1025 hours

AND

Important Update: The 19-year-old Sharon Hill Firefighter who was very critically injured in the line of duty was actually put on life support yesterday late afternoon. The hospital had incorrectly reported yesterday that FF Michael Reagan had actually died. A hospital spokesperson apologized for the erroneous report, blaming it on an internal miscommunication. Please continue reading.

We have been advised by local Fire personnel that it is the intent to harvest his organs so that others may benefit. As you know Firefighter Reagan of Ridley Township was rushed to the hospital for burns and very serious trauma Wednesday evening after a wall of a garage on fire collapsed on him. Firefighters had to extricate FF Reagan and 2 other Firefighters from the burning collapse.

FF Reagan's LODD was initially and well intentionally advised from the hospital, but a heroic decision by his family to harvest his organs will allow this tragic situation to benefit others..in FF Reagan's honor. The fire began around 2300 hours on Wednesday as a civilian was working on his motorcycle....the gas line broke when he removed the tank, spraying fuel on bug-repellent candles he had lit. He tried to fight the fire with a garden hose before calling the Fire Department.

The other two Firefighters who were injured are Joe Tesauro and Chris Miller. FF Tesauro, 23, suffered leg and back burns and FF Miller, 21, had non-life-threatening injuries to his shoulder and buttock.

Updates to follow.
Take Care-BE CAREFUL.
BillyG
The Secret List 9-29-07 / 0633 hours

Below you will find the latest Everyone Goes Home Newsletter, to assist the fire service with decreasing the line-of-duty-deaths and on-the-job injuries:



www.EveryoneGoesHome.com

EVERYONE GOES HOME®

FIREFIGHTER LIFE SAFETY INITIATIVES

Everyone Goes Home News Alert - August 27, 2007


[New Firefighter Life Safety Learning Media Center Launched on EveryoneGoesHome.com](http://www.EveryoneGoesHome.com)

The National Fallen Firefighters Foundation® and the Everyone Goes Home® Firefighter Life Safety program is pleased to announce the newest edition to the EveryoneGoesHome.com website - the [Firefighter Life Safety Learning Media Center](#). Along with the re-design of our homepage, the [Firefighter Life Safety Learning Media Center](#) is part of a plan to add new content and features to help you make sure you have the tools to ensure Everyone Goes Home®


This new section will showcase the multi-media educational materials currently available in our program. Using variations of the Courage to Be Safe...So Everyone Goes Home® field program, along with material from the Firefighter Life Safety Initiatives Resource Kit Volume 1 and 2 we will develop and deploy two new online learning segments each month.

Coming Soon! In addition to the development of the Learning Media Center, EveryoneGoesHome.com will soon launch the Firefighter Life Safety Research Database. This online resource contains over 2,500 pieces of research on firefighter/fire safety and is categorized based on the [16 Firefighter Life Safety Initiatives](#).

- » Visit: [The Firefighter Life Safety Learning Media Center](#)
- » Tell Us What You Think: [About the changes to EveryoneGoesHome.com](#)



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.



» For More Information Visit: www.everyonegoeshome.com

Due to tightening budgets and limited ability to increase our budgets, most fire departments are being forced to do more with less. Here is a story about a few Central California fire departments who are looking at a form of consolidation, where they are going to share resources, including administrative staff members and reserve firefighter personnel. Most cities are competing for the same pool of reserve/volunteer firefighters, full-time firefighters, and even chief officers, so why not just have one pool to help the regional area and that way, we're not fighting with each other to get the best employees!

Budgets are probably not going to get better, and it will require us to be very creative to ensure we keep the same level of service we have been providing, and also continuously look at ways to increase those levels of service, while still working within our budgets.

For the full story, go to: <http://www.santamariatimes.com/articles/2007/08/30/news/centralcoast/news06.txt>

And from Colorado comes a similar story where a fire department merger will be going to vote to provide more economy of scale for communities and attempt to provide more efficiency to the level of fire protection.

For the full story, go to: http://www.gazette.com/articles/fire_27779_article.html/monument_tri.html

A Toledo (Ohio) Firefighter falls of the apparatus enroute to the call and survives. This should be a wake up call for every firefighter and officer - ensure everybody on board is wearing an operational seatbelt; if the seatbelt is inoperable, the apparatus is out of service!!! Our personnel deserve to be go home at the end of the shift, in one piece. Before you say this is Monday morning quarterbacking, think about this: if he was wearing his seatbelt, would this have happened (especially since the apparatus was not involved in an accident)? Highly doubt it.

Folks, if we don't start policing ourselves and our actions, the Federal Government will come in and do it for us, and I don't think we'll like that. Think back to the consent decrees the Federal Government imposed when fire departments were not hiring enough diversity candidates? Do you want the Feds telling you who to hire or what to wear or how to perform your job?

Go to: [http://cms.firehouse.com/web/online/News/Ohio-Firefighter-Injured-in-Fall-from-Truck/46\\$56186](http://cms.firehouse.com/web/online/News/Ohio-Firefighter-Injured-in-Fall-from-Truck/46$56186)

The District of Columbia Fire Department (DCFD) is investigating claims of an internal prostitution ring within the department.

For the full story, go to:

[http://cms.firehouse.com/web/online/News/DC-Investigates-Firehouse-Prostitution-Ring/46\\$56195](http://cms.firehouse.com/web/online/News/DC-Investigates-Firehouse-Prostitution-Ring/46$56195)

Some more related stories:

<http://www.firerescue1.com/news/309991/>

AND: <http://www.firerescue1.com/laborissues/articles/309854/>

AND: <http://www.firerescue1.com/news/309903/>

AND: <http://cms.firehouse.com/content/article/article.jsp?sectionId=46&id=56305>

Two Boston (MA) Firefighters recently died in the Line of duty. Please share some thoughts and prayers for them, their families and their co-workers. Here are a number

of stories (in addition to the information provided by the United States Fire Academy and www.firefighterclosecalls.com above):

Go to: <http://cms.firehouse.com/content/article/article.jsp?sectionId=39&id=56176>

Apparently they were killed by a backdraft:

<http://cms.firehouse.com/content/article/article.jsp?sectionId=39&id=56190>

Some great fire safety information relating to portable generators, courtesy of my good friend Brian Humphrey of the L.A.F.D. Either you possess one, someone you know possesses one, or someone in your community you respond to has one

For complete information...

<http://lafd.blogspot.com/2005/01/portable-generator-safety.html>

Dear Friend of the LAFD,

With weather conditions having a seasonal impact on energy supplies, many people are turning to portable electric generators as a source of temporary electricity for their homes.

If improperly installed or operated, a portable electric generator can become deadly due to electrical shock and carbon monoxide fumes.

Using a generator indoors CAN KILL YOU IN MINUTES!

Firefighters encourage you to contact a licensed electrician to install your generator to make sure it meets all local codes. Never connect a generator directly to household wiring without an appropriate transfer switch installed and be sure to notify your utility, which may be required by State Law.

Power from generators connected directly to household wiring can backfeed along power lines and electrocute anyone coming in contact with them, including lineworkers making repairs.

The Los Angeles Fire Department reminds you:

- * Generators can produce high levels of carbon monoxide (CO) very quickly, which can be deadly. At least 64 people in our nation died in 2005 from generator-related CO poisoning!
- * Never operate the generator in an enclosed or partially enclosed space such as a patio or garage, and place it far, far away from any structure housing people or pets. Most of the serious carbon monoxide poisonings handled by Los Angeles Firefighters have been from generator exhaust fumes drifting into doors, windows and crawl spaces.
- * Use carbon monoxide detectors in nearby enclosed areas whenever you operate a portable power generator.
- * Read the owner's manual thoroughly and make sure your generator is properly grounded and maintained.
- * Store fuel for your generator safely. Turn the motor off and let it cool before refueling.
- * Keep the generator dry, and make sure extension cords are rated for the load, free of cuts and worn insulation and have three-pronged plugs.
- * Do not overload the generator. A portable generator should be used only when necessary and only to power essential equipment or appliances

- * Use a ground fault circuit interrupter (GFCI) to help prevent electrocutions and electrical shock injuries
- * Turn off all appliances powered by the generator before shutting down the generator
- * Keep children away from portable generators at all times!

Remember: Electricity is a powerful tool and odorless carbon monoxide fumes can quickly lull you to a deep and deadly sleep!

Respectfully Yours in Safety and Service,

Brian Humphrey
Firefighter/Specialist
Public Service Officer
Los Angeles Fire Department

LAFD Home Page: <http://lafd.org>
LAFD News Blog: <http://lafd.org/blog>

Some great fire safety information that may save your life on duty or someone else's life if you are so inclined to share the information. This is from the United States Fire Administration and it is a special report on school fires. Eye-opening information, especially if you or someone you know attends a school.

Release Date: September 5, 2007

USFA RELEASES SCHOOL FIRES REPORT

WASHINGTON D.C. - The U.S. Fire Administration (USFA) has issued a special report that explores the causes and characteristics of school fires. The report, School Fires, developed by the National Fire Data Center under the Federal Emergency Management Agency's USFA, is part of the Topical Fire Research Series and is based on 2003-2005 National Fire Incident Reporting System (NFIRS) data. The report looks at all school fires, including those occurring outdoors on school property and compares such characteristics with those of school structure fires.

"This week marks the return of many students to schools across this nation as well as the start of National Preparedness Month," according to U.S. Fire Administrator Greg Cade. "Fires in buildings as special as our nation's schools are unacceptable. I ask all first responders to encourage students, families, and school faculty members to take the time to know exactly what they will do in the event of any type of school emergency, including fire."

Between the years 2003 and 2005, an estimated, annual average of 14,700 fires occurred on school properties. These fires were responsible for \$85 million in annual property loss and an estimated 100 civilian injuries. No fatalities on school properties were reported to NFIRS during this period. Forty percent of school-related fires occurred outdoors on school property. Forty-three percent of fires on school properties were structure fires, and an additional 6% were vehicle fires.

The leading cause of school structure fires is incendiary or suspicious activity (32%), followed by cooking (29%), and heating (9%). Fires in preschool and day cares are predominantly due to cooking, whereas incendiary or suspicious activity is the leading cause of middle and high school structure fires. The three leading areas of fire origin in school structure fires include restrooms, kitchens, and general assembly areas.

A copy of the full report can be downloaded from the USFA Web site at <http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/downloads/pdf/tfrs/v8i1.pdf>

Two inspiring articles about the challenges of being a recruit firefighter, newly hired and in the academy, or a cadet firefighter, something many have forgotten about and may even take for granted these days. For those future firefighters, some great motivational information to keep you focused and want the badge even more:

For the full story - go to: <http://www.tucsoncitizen.com/daily/local/61468.php>

For a similar story from another Arizona department:

<http://www.azcentral.com/arizonarepublic/local/articles/0904wvrecruits0904.html>

From Houston, Texas comes a very critical look at the Houston Fire Department, in the form of an investigate report on what they can improve on after a near tragic fire. This is not meant to Monday morning quarterback what they did as much as it is meant to let you learn from the mistakes of others so you hopefully will not make the same mistakes in the future! Unfortunately, too many firefighters are injured and killed because of allowing history to repeat itself.

For the full story, go to: <http://cms.firehouse.com/content/article/article.jsp?sectionId=46&id=56259>

More and more fire departments and communities are finding it increasingly challenging to provide a somewhat adequate level of service while attempting to provide a reasonable economy of scale. Here is an article about a number of San Francisco Bay Area fire departments looking at becoming one.

For the full story, go to: http://www.examiner.com/a-917036~Cities_may_join_forces_to_fight_fires.html

A story from Oregon all of us should take note of. Fire fighters are crying foul over budget cuts, something many fire departments are facing on an every day basis across the country. For all of you that think we are considered heroes and can do no wrong in the eye of the taxpayer, take some time to look at the comments from the numerous people who took the time to provide feedback on the article.

We're seeing more and more comments like this from the public, especially when they are seeing our salary and benefit packages all over the headlines. Instead of getting angry at folks like this, do something positive - try to take the time to educate them any way you can on ALL of the positive things we do. Take the time to go the extra mile on EVERY call or public contact made during the day. Take the time to prove to the public they cannot live without us, regardless of our salaries, benefits and working conditions. Instead of telling your friends how much money you make and how much time off you have, try to let them know of the numerous positive services provided by you and your department, and your fire service.

We need to be proactive if we want to continue to enjoy the excellent benefits and working schedule many firefighters are getting to experience. Those days of us getting to sit at the fire station waiting for the bell to ring, and being the insurance policy for the once in a career major event are dwindling. Prove to the public they cannot do without your excellent, top notch customer service and you just may find yourself and your department in a better position for the future.

For the full story, go to:

http://www.dailytidings.com/2007/0904/stories/0904_firefighters.php

Another example of how your off duty behavior can get you disciplined, this time from a Northern California city. Some say this may be double-jeopardy, but take a look at the crimes he is accused of and make your own determination: would you like to work with this person? Would you trust this person around your family members if they come by the fire house? Would you trust someone like this to come into your house at 3 am to touch one of your loved ones suffering from an emergency? You make the call.

For the full story, go to: <http://www.firerescue1.com/fire-ems/articles/310509/>

And a related story: <http://www.firerescue1.com/fire-ems/articles/288905/>

On the subject of drinking, a New York Fire Department is investigating complaints of members drinking while representing the department. Say it isn't so.

For the full story, go to: <http://www.fireengineering.com/news/newsArticleDisplay.html?id=152296>

And a related story regarding the disciplinary action:

<http://www.fireengineering.com/news/newsArticleDisplay.html?id=152330>

Below you will find the September 2007 "Everyone Goes Home" Newsletter with some great firefighter safety related tips:



[Never Forget](#)

With the approach again of the anniversary of the loss of 347 firefighters at the World Trade Center there will be countless memorials to keep good on the promise that we will never forget! Since September 12th 2001 to September 11th 2007, six years, over six hundred firefighters have died in the line of duty.

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

[North Fort Fire Control District Florida Touts Firefighter Life Safety Initiatives](#)

The North Fort Meyers Fire Control District in Florida has announced their endorsement of the 16 Firefighter Life Safety Initiatives. While the endorsement of the 16 Firefighter Life Safety Initiatives are important. It is the actions that a Fire Department takes that will make the difference.

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

[North Dakota Firefighter's Association- 16 Life Safety Initiatives Program Partner](#)

The North Dakota Firefighter's Association is planning to send instructors to the fire departments in North Dakota to present the Courage to be Safe...So Everyone Goes Home Class. The plan calls for all 386 fire departments to receive the training within the next two years.

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

More September 2007 Articles:

- [Seat Belt Design Study Underway](#)
- [Burt Clark Declines to Accept Seal of Excellence Until Excellence Is Achieved](#)
- [USFA 2006 Annual Report on Firefighter Fatalities](#)
- [Researching Risk, Idaho Researchers Question Firefighters](#)

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

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

Incident Management Team All-Hazard Position Task Books available from the United States Fire Academy:

Release Date: September 11, 2007

INCIDENT MANAGEMENT TEAM ALL-HAZARD POSITION TASK BOOKS AVAILABLE FROM USFA

Emmitsburg, MD. - The U.S. Fire Administration (USFA), in cooperation with the Incident Management System Division/National Incident Management System (NIMS) Integration Center and the National Wildfire Coordinating Group (NWCG), announces the availability of position task books for All-Hazard Incident Management Team (IMT) members and others who may serve in those roles. Similar in concept and design to existing position task books used by NWCG, the task books are based on Incident Command System position competencies identified by NWCG and USFA for the NIMS Integration Center.

The position task books are intended for use by the authority having jurisdiction to certify that the person to whom the task book belongs has demonstrated the required competencies and behaviors required by the Incident Management System Division/NIMS Integration Center. Each position task book lists the competencies and behaviors for the specific position in a format that allows a trainee to be evaluated against those competencies and behaviors.

Successful performance of all tasks, as observed and recorded by an evaluator, results in a recommendation that the trainee be certified in that position. Evaluation and confirmation of the individual's performance of all the demonstrated competencies can occur on incidents, in classroom simulation, and in other

October 2007

work situations. These task books are utilized by established All-Hazard IMTs trained through the USFA's All Hazards IMT Technical Assistance Program.

At this time, eight Command and General Staff task books are available for download from the USFA Web site at <http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/fireservice/subjects/incident/imt/imt-training.shtm>

- * All-Hazard Incident Commander
- * All-Hazard Operations Section Chief
- * All-Hazard Planning Section Chief
- * All-Hazard Logistics Section Chief
- * All-Hazard Finance/Administration Section Chief
- * All-Hazard Safety Officer
- * All-Hazard Liaison Officer
- * All-Hazard Public Information Officer

For more information on the AHIMT Technical Assistance Program, please visit <http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/fireservice/subjects/incident/imt/index.shtm> e-mail FEMA-AHIMT@dhs.gov or call (800) 238-3358, ext. 7888 / (301) 447-7888.

This is the competition future firefighters are facing: The St. Louis Fire Department has had to scrap their recent Firefighter exam since 70% of the applicants failed the written exam. The city is in the process of trying to find another test provider, with the hopes that it will be easier and more people will pass.

For the full story, go to:

<http://www.stltoday.com/stltoday/news/stories.nsf/stlouiscitycounty/story/DECB3BDE88EC0F8A8625734E0012FF4F?OpenDocument>

From the Lake Tahoe area, a place where some folks think the local fire departments must be swimming in money due to the high price of real estate, comes a reality check: The North Lake Tahoe is looking for ways to increase revenues, in the form of additional taxes for residents. This should be interesting, in today's world where many folks do not want to pay more taxes and expect the highest level of service while paying the least amount they can, and more importantly - expecting local government to make do with what they are getting and live within their means.

For the full story, go to: <http://www.firerescue1.com/news/310172/>

And a similar story from Oregon, where voters recently shot down a fire tax levy by five (5) votes. Either they didn't do a good enough job walking the streets to educate each voter about the benefits of such a tax, or maybe the public is just sick of paying more taxes for the same levels of service, with not much value added service being perceived or ????

For the full story, go to:

<http://tillamookheadlightherald.com/main.asp?SectionID=8&SubSectionID=8&ArticleID=8099>

But in Colorado, a city is getting additional firefighters and a new fire station, thanks to the public safety tax that was successfully voted in recently. As you can see, what some citizens are willing to pay may not be the same in other communities, and a fire

department really needs to do their homework to ensure the success of any tax increase proposal.

For the full story, go to: http://www.timescall.com/News_Story.asp?id=3674

But another Colorado Fire Chief is very confident a proposed tax will work next year, to help them meet their budget needs. He may be confident, but look at some of the reader comments below and you'll see a familiar theme - people not wanting to pay more, especially when many think governmental workers are overpaid and underworked, and that government is wasting public funds.

For the full story, go to:

<http://www.coloradoan.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20070926/NEWS01/709260331/1002/NEWS01>

Another story from the same Colorado Fire Department above, and once again, take the time to read the reader's comments regarding being sick and tired of paying more taxes. Once again, we can complain about them not wanting to pay more, or we can try to educate them, live within our means, or find alternative funding sources to survive - there are only so many options.

For the full story, go to:

<http://www.coloradoan.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20070924/NEWS01/709240327/-1/WINDSORBEACON>

Another reality check for the fire service - do you have your will (or trust) in order, in the case you lose your life in the line of duty (or even off-duty)? Many firefighters do not, sadly enough, and here is an article to help prevent such issues from occurring. I realize when you're in your 20's, 30's or even 40's, you're probably not thinking about dying any time soon.

However, realize it can and does happen, even to the best of people and when they typically least expect it. Do your family and loves ones a favor and take care of these arrangements while you are still young. Key point: if you get separated or divorced, or some loved ones who are no longer alive or part of your life should no longer be named as beneficiaries - make sure you change the paperwork to reflect those changes!

For the full story, go to: <http://www.firerescue1.com/news/310186/>

The Atlanta Fire Department was the recent recipient of a number of Thermal Imaging Cameras, and they did not have to spend any of their budget to get them! Look at their creative way at funding and take a similar idea back to your own department.

For the full story, go to: <http://www.firerescue1.com/products/thermalimaging/articles/310122/>

Fourteen (14) F.D.N.Y. Firefighters are fined over obtaining false diplomas. Key learning point: take the time to really investigate what you are obtaining, especially when it comes to paperwork relating to degrees and certificates. In some ways, they

are probably lucky they are just being fined as the penalty could have been a lot stiffer. It isn't worth it to try and short cut critical things such as education and training.

For the full story, go to: <http://www.firerescue1.com/news/310172/>

Another story from St. Louis where the Fire Chief is being pressured to make promotions.

For the full story, go to: <http://www.firerescue1.com/careers/articles/310163/>

A Fire Chief from Massachusetts is suspended after making comments regarding their lack of staffing. Yes, it can be lonely at the top, and when you work as an "at will employee" as many Fire Chiefs are, it can be a very challenging process to stay employed, depending on where you work and the political climate. Yes, we do live in a country where we are entitled to "free speech." However, that free speech may get us in trouble, and even cost us part of our salary or our jobs if we are not careful, or are in the wrong position in the wrong department at the wrong time.

For the full story, go to: http://wbztv.com/topstories/local_story_253215738.html

A Volunteer Firefighter from California is charged with setting a vegetation fire; a felony charge. He had aspirations of being a career firefighter; not sure how this will affect his chances.

For the full story, go to: <http://www.sacbee.com/102/story/372502.html>

While we're on the subject of California, here is another story about a wanna-be firefighter impersonating firefighters and falsely representing himself as a firefighter. Yes, there are folks out there, and they may be closer than you think. Someone else who wanted to be a firefighter, and these charges will probably hurt those chances. Granted, when you find out about his previous history (before this story unfolded), it's easy to see why departments did not feel he was worth taking a chance on.

For the full story, go to: <http://www.dailycomet.com/article/20070908/APN/709080606>

For another **related story from New York**, where someone impersonated working for the FDNY, go to: [http://cms.firehouse.com/web/online/News/New-York-Fire-Buff-Conned-FDNY/46\\$56456](http://cms.firehouse.com/web/online/News/New-York-Fire-Buff-Conned-FDNY/46$56456)

An eye-opening story that should wake all of us up in the fire service. Various fire stations around the State of California have been subject to "suspicious individuals" taking pictures. This is probably more wide spread than we are aware of, and something you should be very concerned about, especially in today's world of terrorism.

For the full story, go to: http://www.chicoer.com/news/ci_6944877

Another eye-opening story of residents who live in "unprotected" or if you want to be politically correct "underserved" areas without any form of fire protection. So, when you move into an area, or are looking to move into an area, it may be to your benefit to investigate at the bare minimum, the level (or lack) of fire protection and law enforcement services so you don't find yourself shocked or suprised there is none. There are areas like this all around the country, more than you may imagine, and not necessarily in the middle of nowhere.

For the full story, go to: <http://www.eastvalleytribune.com/story/96987>

Yes, it can be very lonely at the top. I'm surprised it took three months, but the Charleston (SC) Firefighters are looking at replacing their Fire Chief, after their tragic loss of nine (9) firefighters in June 2007.

For the full story, go to: [http://cms.firehouse.com/web/online/Charleston-SC-Tragedy/South-Carolina-Union-Wants-Charleston-Chief-Out/56\\$56471](http://cms.firehouse.com/web/online/Charleston-SC-Tragedy/South-Carolina-Union-Wants-Charleston-Chief-Out/56$56471)

And a related story from Charleston, where firefighters discuss the ordeal they went through: [http://cms.firehouse.com/web/online/Charleston-SC-Tragedy/After-the-Ordeal--Firefighters-Talk-of-Charleston-Fire/56\\$56374](http://cms.firehouse.com/web/online/Charleston-SC-Tragedy/After-the-Ordeal--Firefighters-Talk-of-Charleston-Fire/56$56374)

In New Jersey, a training drill is botched and some heads will probably role for not properly taking the appropriate steps to ensure the drill site and the training event was going to be as safe as it could be; we can't ensure real emergencies are always safe for us to operate in, but we can typically do so for training events.

For the full story, go to: [http://cms.firehouse.com/web/online/News/New-Jersey-Fire-Officials-in-Trouble-Over-Botched-Drill-/46\\$56455](http://cms.firehouse.com/web/online/News/New-Jersey-Fire-Officials-in-Trouble-Over-Botched-Drill-/46$56455)

From Florida comes a story of a fire engine that rolled right out of the station and into the lake across the street. A relatively new fire engine that will never be the same, and the sound of fingers hitting the keyboard of a computer creating a lot of documentation and "dear Chief" letters for what happened while they were on duty and to their assigned apparatus.

For the full story, go to: [http://cms.firehouse.com/web/online/News/Florida-Pumper-Rolls-Out-of-Station--into-Lake/46\\$56454](http://cms.firehouse.com/web/online/News/Florida-Pumper-Rolls-Out-of-Station--into-Lake/46$56454)

After a long, drawn out battle, an arbitrator has agreed in favor of the Vallejo Firefighters, to basically force the fire department to not make certain cuts. However,

for action, there is a reaction, and read the second story below to see what may come out of this action.

For the full story, go to: http://www.timesheraldonline.com/ci_6926854

And while the verdict was positive for the firefighters, it may not be that positive for the rest of the city employees or divisions, and even for other fire department employees. For those folks who think we don't need all of the headquarters staff, remember they are here to:

- Ensure we get paid and receive our benefits.
- Purchase the necessary supplies, apparatus, tools and equipment to do our jobs and also survive around the fire station.
- Put together training programs.
- Do fire prevention inspections.
- Perform fire investigations.
- Manage programs.

So, if we do away with those positions, that means you'll either do without them or you'll have firefighters at the fire stations being forced to now do those projects - something I bet some firefighters do not want to have to immediately start doing, especially if they had not been doing them originally.

Here is what may happen given the arbitrators verdict: http://www.timesheraldonline.com/ci_6948169

And another related story - the City is appealing the verdict: http://www.timesheraldonline.com/ci_7004270

And yet another related story of how the firefighters won the verdict, but the fire department is faced with cutting more non-union positions: http://www.thereporter.com/news/ci_7026267

Here is a positive ending from Palo Alto, CA where the Firefighters were able to successfully work out an agreement with the City Officials, their administration, and their union to come up with a win-win agreement to ensure future firefighters who die are properly honored and with the respect they deserve.

For the full story, go to: <http://www.paloaltodailynews.com/article/2007-9-14-pa-flag-ordinance>

For those of you who think it's easy getting a fire station built in a community, think again. While many communities would love to have an additional fire station, the City of Scottsdale, Arizona is running into numerous roadblocks from local citizens who don't want the new fire station in their backyard - but they still want it "close enough."

For the full story, go to: <http://www.eastvalleytribune.com/story/97441>

Regardless of how well-staffed your fire department is (most are not, and may never be, based on the economic challenges or realities of where you work and who you serve), all of us should be advocates of fire sprinklers in every residential and

commercial building within our jurisdiction. Sprinklers will never put out every fire; however, remember the real reason they are there: life safety and to ensure people (could be you or a loved one) get out safely, and more importantly, needlessly endanger firefighters who are attempting to rescue someone they feel may still be inside, or many actually still be inside.

Unfortunately this is a large, political battle that many people have lost their jobs or ruined their careers over, sad to say. I guess it just makes too much sense.....

For the full story, go to: <http://www.firerescue1.com/news/311439>

For fire service supervisors and managers, a great article from Fire Rescue Magazine - "Understanding what motivates our firefighters."

For the full story, go to <http://www.firerescue1.com/Columnists/Schmidt/articles/311424/>

A jury in St. Louis, Missouri has awarded the family of firefighters lost in the line-of-duty, a \$12 million dollar verdict against the SCBA Manufacturer - Survivair.

For the full story, go to: <http://www.firerescue1.com/firefightersafety/articles/311388/>

A moving slide show from the New York 9/11 memorial, courtesy of Fire Rescue Magazine's website (www.firerescue1.com) -

http://www.firerescue1.com/slideshow_popup.asp?view=310440&pos=1

The L.A.F.D. has settled a lawsuit against a soon-to-be former firefighter, someone who was not without his own share of trouble. All of this which resulted from the firefighter being served dog food by his co-workers. The sad part about this one is that nobody truly wins; the taxpayers lose, the firefighters lose, the fire department loses, and even the firefighter who won the verdict loses after you take away attorney fees and the reputation he is left with. I'm not saying what his co-workers did was right; they participate in inappropriate workplace behavior. However, if you read up on the firefighter who was "discriminated against," you'll see he was not a perfect angel either, and had his share of stirring the pot over the years.

For the full story, go to: <http://www.cnn.com/2007/US/09/22/firefighter.harassment.ap/index.html>

And a related article - "What really happend at Fire Station 5?" Every supervisor or future supervisor (yes, that means Captain, Lieutenant, or Chief Officer - permanent or acting, needs to read this article and see what can happen if they are not acting as the "designated adult" while working as the supervisor." There were many individuals who were responsible for the actions on numerous occasions that led up to this verdict; this could be your firehouse if you're not careful. I'd be amazed if some folks do not

get demoted or terminated, or disciplined in some form or fashion, based on their actions or more importantly - non-actions of what happened on their watch.

For the full story, go to:

<http://www.laweekly.com/news/features/what-really-happened-at-fire-station-5/15887/>

From Nevada comes an oh-so-familiar story of a fire department looking for ways at increasing funding through tax assessments, and their fears of having it not succeed once it goes to the voters. Before you dismiss this issue, it could be happening to your department at some point in the future, given the current situation of decreasing funding and having to do more with less.

For the full story, go to: <http://www.tahoebonanza.com/article/SS/20070923/NEWS/70923006/-1/REGION>

Confined Space Standby Team Employment Opportunity:

Greetings rescue team & associates:

This notice shall serve as confirmation for a new project starting the first week in December 2007.

URGENT: Call asap to get on the board (if you are open) for this project: (510) 386-1241

- **Dates:** December 3-7, 10-14 (Total 10 days) Potential OT or weekends if requested by project contractor
- **Times:** 0700-1650 hrs. (> 8 hrs per day+)
- **Location:** Hwy 152 @ Casa de Fruta
- **Type:** Confined space standby for tunnel & pipeline (Vertical entries, high angle pipeline, some horizontal tunnel entries) Rope Rescue
- **Scope:** Inspection & repair of existing water conveyance system (102" diameter pipe/tunnel)
- **Project requirements:** 3-Confined Space Teams of 2 persons (per team).
- **Openings:** A project Medic or EMT, high-angle rescue tech, confined space rescue tech.

We hope to see you join us for this event!

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Fire personnel in Vail, Colorado are having a tough time finding affordable housing; nothing new there to most of us who live in California. That's not the part of the article that scares me - the part that scares me is the statement that chiefs who are responding from 30 minutes away are having to give orders over their cell phones. I'm

sorry, but if you can't trust your personnel on scene to make decisions, then they shouldn't be working for you.

Also, I'm not an ICS purist per se, but if someone is not on scene, they should not be the Incident Commander. The Incident Commander on scene should be making the decisions, and anyone responding from regardless of how far away should focus on driving safely and not interfering with on-scene activities unless for some strange reason, things sound like they're going south in a hurry. As tempting as it is for me at times to want to give orders or ask questions when I'm responding - at times up to 25 minutes code 3, I've learned to just shut up, soak in everything going on and trust my officers on scene to do the job we pay them to do - manage the incident.

If I can't make it better (which I most likely can't since I'm not on scene), then I need to just shut up and drive, and listen to the activity and try to think big picture, long-term, and focus on overall needs that I can discuss with the officer when I arrive to take over as the Incident Commander. Heck, in 30 minutes, by the time they arrive, most working incidents are not "working" anymore, and into the cleanup or winding down phase where you can just let the initial officers maintain their assignment and support them as needed for experience.

For the full story, go to: http://www.hcn.org/servlets/hcn.Article?article_id=15082

The San Diego Fire Department is facing a problem many fire departments, especially some big city fire departments, are facing: the inability to recruit and retain qualified personnel due to wages and benefits, or lack there of compared to other departments.

For the full story, go to: <http://www.voiceofsandiego.org/articles/2007/09/25/government/659attrition091907.txt>

A Kansas Firefighter is electrocuted while on duty, an accident/line-of-duty-death I am oh-so-familiar with, after losing a brother firefighter, Captain Mark McCormack, back on February 13, 2005. Yes folks, electrical hazards are everywhere and we need to ALWAYS be on the lookout for hazards and practice situational awareness.

For the full story, go to: <http://www.kansas.com/news/story/184009.html>

An article to get you motivated towards improving your fitness - "First Steps to Fitness," courtesy of Fire Rescue Magazine's website - www.firerescue1.com

For the full story, go to: <http://www.firerescue1.com/Columnists/Medeiros/articles/311819/>

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

The Fine Print:

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