



FIRE & EMS NEWS

February 10, 2013

This latest issue is jam packed with fire service news stories, training opportunities, training and safety information, volunteer opportunities and employment opportunities! Whether you are a future firefighter or a current fire service professional of any rank, you should find valuable information that will help keep you educated and informed, as well as up-to-date with the fire service.

CHABOT COLLEGE 2013 FIRE TECHNOLOGY SCHEDULE:

Looking for Fire Technology related courses to either become a firefighter or continue your education if you are currently a firefighter so you can prepare for promotion or become the best you can be at your current rank? Why not start at Chabot College in Hayward, California where we offer a variety of courses year-round to allow students to obtain their EMT certification or recertify as an EMT, obtain their Firefighter 1 Academy Certification, or a Certificate of Achievement in Fire Technology, or a two-year degree in Fire Technology, or just take various California State Certified classes.

SPRING 2013 Semester: (January through May 2013)

Registration for the Spring 2013 semester at Chabot College has begun, many classes are already full!

The following classes are available!

- For registration information, go to www.chabotcollege.edu

COURSE	DAY
FT 89 (Firefighter 1 Academy evaluation) Note: Class only meets on the following dates: March 6, 8, and 10	Mon & Wed (pm) Saturday (all day)
FT 89 (Firefighter 1 Academy evaluation) Note: Class only meets on the following dates: April 16, 18 and 20	Tue & Thurs (pm) Saturday (all day)
FT 91A (CAL FIRE Wildland Basic Training) Note: Class only meets on the following dates: - April 30, May 2, May 4, 5, 7, 9, 11, 12, 14, 16, 18, 19	Tue & Thurs (pm) Saturday (all day) Sunday (all day)
FT 91B (Haz Mat 1 st Responder-Operations) Note: Class only meets on the following dates: April 23, 25, 27 and 28	Tue & Thurs (pm) Sat/Sun (all day)
FT 91C (I-200; Basic ICS) Note: Class only meets on the following dates: April 16, 18, 20 and 21	Tue & Thurs (pm) Sat/Sun (all day)
FT 91D (Firefighter Survival) Note: Class only meets on the following dates: April 9, 11 and 13	Tue & Thurs (pm) Saturday (all day)
Health 85 (EMT Refresher) Note: Class only meets on the following dates: April 29 through May 11	Monday & Wednesday (pm) Saturday (all day)

NOTE: The above information is to the best of my knowledge as of the time this went to print. For the most up-to-date information (including room numbers & registration numbers) regarding 2013 scheduling, check the Chabot College web site at www.chabotcollege.edu

My suggestion is to register as soon as you are eligible to. Classes fill up quickly, and with more people wanting to become firefighters, I don't see our numbers of students decreasing, only increasing. Also, if you are registered in the Chabot College system, you are eligible to take classes at Las Positas College in Livermore as well. Just because one class is full (or does not fit your schedule) at Chabot doesn't mean it isn't being offered at Las Positas. When you register for classes on the Chabot College website, you can see both schedules – Chabot and Las Positas.

FIRE SERVICE INFORMATION FROM THE U.S. FIRE ADMINISTRATION.

US Fire Administration Releases Highway Vehicle Fires Report

The U.S. Fire Administration issued a special report today examining the characteristics of highway vehicle fires in the United States from 2008-2010. Approximately one in seven fires responded to by fire departments across the nation is a highway vehicle fire. This does not include the tens of thousands of fire department responses to highway vehicle accident sites. Unintentional action (32 percent) was the leading cause of highway vehicle fires.

For more information, go to: <http://www.usfa.fema.gov/media/press/2013releases/010713.shtm>

FIRE SERVICE INFORMATION FROM THE U.S. FIRE ADMINISTRATION.

Chief's Corner: The Roles of Fire and EMS Personnel in Armed Attacks

Extraordinary efforts on the part of fire/rescue and EMS agencies have to be taken to protect first responders and achieve success in saving civilian lives when responding to scenes of violence. Deputy U.S. Fire Administrator Glenn Gaines offers universal steps to help ensure fire and EMS personnel are prepared to meet this unique and challenging threat.

For more information, go to: <http://www.usfa.fema.gov/about/chiefs-corner/010313.shtm>

FIRE ALUMNI'S
2013
FEBRUARY 24

FIREFIGHTER WORKSHOP

LAS POSITAS COLLEGE
"MERTES CENTER FOR THE ARTS"

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Tonya Hoover
California State Fire Marshal

SPECIAL GUEST SPEAKER

Paul Lepore - Division Chief
Redondo Beach Fire Department

WORKSHOP TOPICS

Being the Ideal Candidate
25 Reasons to Hire You
Education
Chief's Interviews
How to Remain Motivated
Technology in the Hiring Process
Application and Resume Development
Discipline and Accountability
Written Exam
THE PLAYBOOK

Reservations

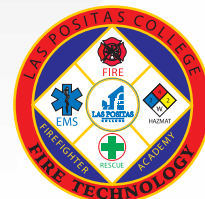
www.firefighterworkshop.com

Event Location: 3000 Campus Hill Dr.
Livermore, Ca.

Event Time: Registration: 7:15am
Event: 8:00am-5:00pm

This was the very best thing that I
have done for my career, hands down.
I learned so much valuable information
that I am already putting into practice
Byron E.

This workshop was very informative
and I am sure it will help me very
much. It was truly worth attending!
Olivia Z.



FIREALUMNI

FIREHOUSE WORLD

FEBRUARY 17–21, 2013

SAN DIEGO CONVENTION CENTER
CALIFORNIA

THE *FUTURE FIREFIGHTER EXPERIENCE*

Firehouse is offering this unique package to all students who are going through the steps to become a firefighter.

Redeem your FREE admission pass today in three easy steps to gain FREE access to education and to hundreds of exhibitors and state-of-the-art equipment:

1 | Visit FirehouseWorld.com 2 | Click the Register Today button 3 | Enter Promo Code: STD11

This program is intended to give future firefighters an upper-hand in hiring process for the position of firefighter. Sessions on hiring and testing are coupled with networking opportunities and the chance to get hands-on with the latest equipment available to firefighters.

Getting Hired as a Firefighter in 2013: How to be the Best You Can Be

90 minutes

Attendees will be exposed to 21 key points that will assist them with being the best firefighter candidate they can be during their next firefighter examination. Veteran fire service instructor Steve Prziborowski will also cover the top 25 reasons that a fire department want to hire you as a firefighter and 25 reasons why they don't want to hire you as a firefighter. Learn from the mistakes of others, including myself, to ensure you are the best you can be on your next firefighter exam!

How to Master the Fire Service Testing Process

90 minutes

Becoming a firefighter is not easy and if it was, everyone would be successful at getting hired. Unfortunately for every one firefighter who is hired, there are hundreds, if not thousands that are never hired. Instead of placing blame on others or being bitter, it is critical that the future firefighter takes responsibility for their career and takes control of their own destiny. Attendees will walk away with a better understanding of locating firefighter exams and the character traits that fire departments are looking for. He will share the common mistakes that you can avoid during the hiring process. Attendees will also be exposed to the most common phases of the Firefighter hiring process, including what to expect in each of the phases, key points for success, and how to best prepare for each phase.

About the Instructor

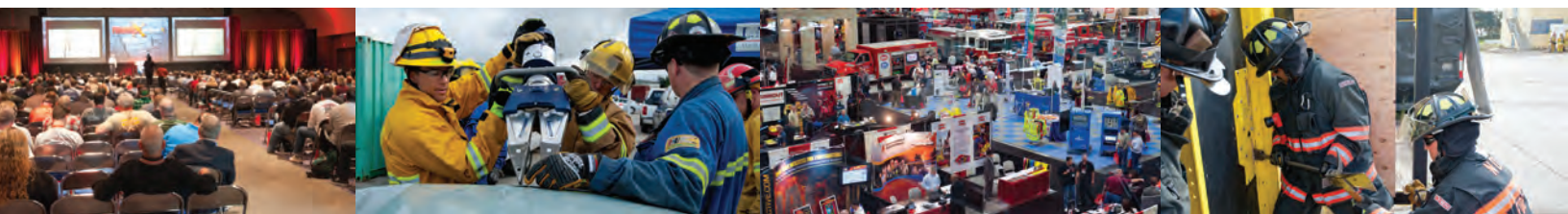
Both sessions will be led by Steve Prziborowski, a deputy chief with the Santa Clara County Fire Department in Los Gatos, CA. Steve began his fire service career in 1991 as a fire explorer in Alameda and then participated in a student ride-along program through Chabot College with the Oakland Fire Department. He served as a paid-call firefighter/paramedic with the Elk Grove Fire Department prior to getting hired in Santa Clara County. He is an instructor for Chabot College's Fire Technology Program and a national speaker and author. He has served as a mentor and coach for entry level and promotional level candidates.

PLUS:

All access-pass to the exhibit hall to see the latest technology and tools available to the fire service.

- Access to Wednesday morning's two keynote addresses. One firefighter will talk about adversity after he was seriously injured during his military career and had to overcome a number of challenges before joining the Long Beach, CA, Fire Department.
- Networking opportunities with firefighters and fire officers from around the country.

» For more information visit FirehouseWorld.com for details and to register



FIRE SERVICE INFORMATION FROM THE U.S. FIRE ADMINISTRATION:



Focus on Fire Safety: Portable Heaters

An estimated 900 portable heater fires in homes are reported to U.S. fire departments each year and cause an estimated 70 deaths, 150 injuries and \$53 million in property loss. Only two percent of heating fires in homes involve portable heaters; however, **portable heaters are involved in 45 percent of all fatal heating fires in homes!** You can prevent a portable heater fire in your home this winter by following a few fire safety steps:

- Turn heaters off when you go to bed or leave the room.
- Keep anything that can burn such as bedding, clothing and curtains at least three feet away.
- Only use portable heaters from a recognized testing laboratory and with an automatic shut-off so that if they tip over, they shut off.
- Plug portable heaters directly into outlets and never into an extension cord or power strip.

Learn more about portable heaters and fire safety at www.usfa.fema.gov/heating/

FIRE SERVICE INFORMATION FROM THE U.S. FIRE ADMINISTRATION:

US Fire Administration Releases 2012 Firefighter Fatality Statistics

The U.S. Fire Administration announced today a provisional total of 83 on-duty firefighter fatalities in the United States as a result of incidents that occurred in 2012, the same number of firefighter losses as in 2011. The 83 fatalities were spread across 34 states. Pennsylvania and North Carolina experienced the highest number of fatalities with nine firefighter deaths each. New York had six firefighter deaths, including the most recent tragic shooting deaths of two firefighters in Webster. California and Texas, each with five firefighter deaths, were the only other states with five or more firefighter fatalities in 2012.

For more information, go to: <http://www.usfa.fema.gov/media/press/2013releases/010713a.shtm>

FIRE SERVICE INFORMATION FROM THE U.S. FIRE ADMINISTRATION.

US Home Fire Deaths Increase as Winter Sets In

While the winter fire months always bring a spike in home fires, the U.S. Fire Administration (USFA) says home fire deaths reported on by the news media are above those reported at this time last year. According to media reports, home fires have already claimed 148 lives this month, 24 more than reported during Jan. 1-16, 2012. Older adults (50 deaths) and children (28 deaths) have accounted for more than half of these deaths.

For more info, go to: <http://www.usfa.fema.gov/media/press/2013releases/011713.shtm>

FIRE SERVICE INFORMATION FROM THE L.A.F.D.:



Dear Friend of the LAFD,



As the New Year approaches, Los Angeles Firefighters (www.lafd.org) along with the Ready Campaign (www.ready.gov) is reminding Americans to "Resolve 2B Ready" in 2013. Did you know? Those who make New Year's resolutions are 11 times more likely to report continued success in achieving a goal than individuals who have not made a resolution, according to the Journal of Clinical Psychology. If you are still searching for this year's resolution, let us help. We would like to make an emergency preparedness resolution easy to keep by providing the tools and resources needed to take four important steps:

- **Be informed** about the different types of emergencies that can happen in your area and the appropriate preparedness steps – <http://www.ready.gov/be-informed>
- Make a **family communications plan** - <http://www.ready.gov/make-a-plan>
- Build an **emergency kit** - <http://www.ready.gov/build-a-kit>
- **Get involved** in community preparedness - <http://www.ready.gov/get-involved>

We hope you will join us... www.ready.gov/pledge

Submitted by Erik Scott, Spokesman - *"Serving with Courage, Integrity and Pride"*
Public Service Officer - Emergency Public Information (EPI) Center - Los Angeles Fire Department
500 East Temple Street, Los Angeles, CA 90012 - [213.576.8938](tel:213.576.8938)
Home Page: LAFD.org News & Info: LAFD.org/blog

Do You Follow the LAFD on Social Media?

-  [@LAFD](https://twitter.com/LAFD) (breaking news)
-  [@LAFDtalk](https://twitter.com/LAFDtalk) (conversation & casual inquiries)
-  [@LAFDFireChief](https://twitter.com/LAFDFireChief) (the Fire Chief's personal thoughts)
-  <https://www.facebook.com/LosAngelesFireDepartment>

FIRE SERVICE INFORMATION FROM THE U.S. FIRE ADMINISTRATION:

New Report: Cooking Fires in Residential Buildings (2008-2010)

According to a new report from the U.S. Fire Administration, cooking remained the leading cause of all residential building fires and injuries for the period 2008-2010. The report, *Cooking Fires in Residential Buildings (2008-2010)*, addresses the characteristics of these fires. An estimated average of 164,500 cooking fires in residential buildings occurred in the United States each year and resulted in an annual average of 110 deaths, 3,525 injuries and \$309 million in property loss.

For more information, go to: <http://www.usfa.fema.gov/media/press/2013releases/012213.shtm>

FIRE SERVICE TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES:

- **Looking to increase your fire service knowledge, skills and abilities (KSAs) or obtain some initial or continuing education?**
- **Check out some of the various fire service & EMS training conferences and seminars around the United States:**

Firehouse World – *San Diego, CA* - February 17 through 21, 2013
Go to www.firehouseworld.com for more information.

Fire Department Instructors Conference (FDIC) – *Indianapolis, IN* – April 22 through 27, 2013.
Go to www.fdic.com for more information.

Firehouse Expo – *Baltimore, MD* – July 2013
Go to www.firehouseexpo.com for more information.

Fire Rescue International – *Chicago, IL* - August 13 through 17, 2013
Go to www.iafc.org/fri for more information.

Fire Shows Reno – *Reno, NV* - October 2013
Go to www.fireshowreno.com for more information.

California Training Officers Fresno Training Symposium – *Fresno, CA* - November 18 through 22, 2013 - Go to <http://register.calchiefs.org/> for more information.

FIRE SERVICE TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES:

Looking for California State Certified fire training courses? Check out the California State Fire Training CLASS SCHEDULE – it is updated every Friday and contains a statewide listing of state certified classes for personnel of all ranks – even future firefighters.

Go to: http://osfm.fire.ca.gov/training/training_classschedule.php

FIRE SERVICE PROMOTIONAL PREPARATION CLASSES BY ANDONI KASTROS:

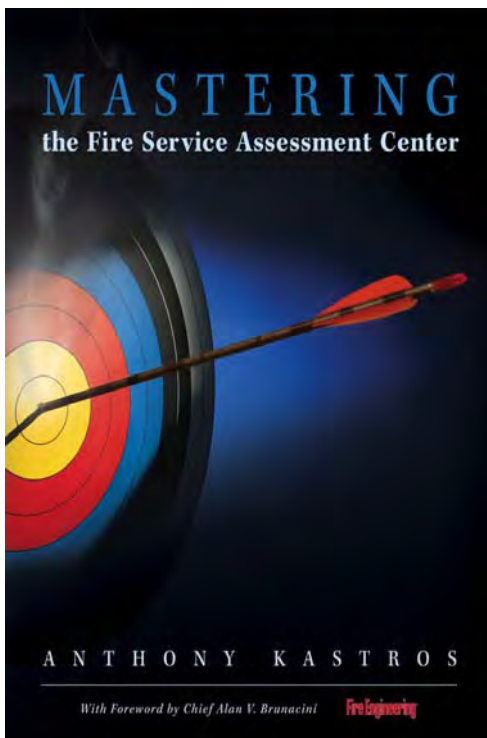


MASTERING THE FIRE SERVICE ASSESSMENT CENTER

4-DAY WORKSHOP

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

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



"I WANT TO THANK YOU FOR THE EXCELLENT SEMINAR THAT YOU GAVE IN PREPARATION FOR LA CITY'S FIRST EVER ASSESSMENT CENTER FOR FIRE CAPTAIN. BETWEEN WHAT I HAD BEEN STUDYING IN YOUR BOOK WITH FRIENDS AND WHAT WENT ON AT THE SEMINAR, WE ATTAINED SCORES OF 93.5% AND 100%. I REALLY LIKED THE FACT THAT YOUR INFORMATION ISN'T BASED ON TECHNIQUES OR GIMMICKS RATHER IT TEACHES HOW TO MOST EFFECTIVELY UTILIZE OUR ALREADY ACQUIRED SKILL SETS."

CHUCK - LA CITY FD

"I JUST WANTED TO DROP YOU A LINE AND LET YOU KNOW THAT I PLACED #1 ON OUR CAPTAINS LIST WITH AN OVERALL SCORE OF 95.36% AND I WAS PROMOTED LAST MONTH. THE PLAN THAT I PUT TOGETHER AFTER YOUR ASSESSMENT CENTER CLASS WORKED. YOUR METHODS ARE PROVEN. I WANT TO THANK YOU FOR YOUR HELP AND YOUR INSPIRATION THAT YOU GAVE ME TO PURSUE MY PROMOTION."

BRIAN - ROSEVILLE FD

"I AM SO, SO HAPPY THAT I TOOK YOUR COURSE. IT WAS ABSOLUTELY THE DIFFERENCE IN ME BEING SUCCESSFUL IN MY PROMOTIONAL PROCESS. I TOOK YOUR COURSE WITH SEVERAL OTHER COLLEAGUES FROM MY DEPARTMENT. I CAME OUT NUMBER 5 OF A LIST OF 47. THERE ARE THREE (3) OF US IN THE TOP 5 FOR CAPTAIN. THERE ARE 5 OF US IN THE TOP 10."
REGGIE - SAN JOSE FD

Anthony Kastros is a 25-year veteran of the fire service. He is a Battalion Chief with the Sacramento (CA) Metro Fire District. He is author of the Fire Engineering DVD series "Mastering Fireground Command - Calm the Chaos!" and author of the Fire Engineering book and video series, "Mastering the Fire Service Assessment Center", that focuses on strategy, tactics, leadership and management. Chief Kastros is an FDIC instructor, teaching fireground tactics and leadership/team building for fire departments throughout the United States. He spent 4 seasons on a Type 1 incident management team, and 10 years as a FEMA USAR Task Force Manager, deploying to New York on 9/11. Anthony is the program director for the Sacramento Metro Fire Command Training Center and is currently a line battalion chief supervising 12 companies.

FEBRUARY 11 - 14, 2013 – MONTEREY, CA - \$595.00*
 FEBRUARY 25 - 28, 2013 – DALLAS, TX - \$595.00*
 MARCH 25 - 28, 2013 – EL DORADO HILLS, CA - \$595.00*

GO TO WWW.TRAINFIREFIGHTERS.COM FOR ONLINE REGISTRATION
 CLASS SIZE LIMITED TO DUE TO DEPTH OF INSTRUCTION

FIRE SERVICE TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES:



The Santa Clara County Fire Department is proud to offer the following California State Fire Marshal certified courses:

<u>COURSE:</u>	<u>DATES:</u>
-Fire Management 2D	March 18 – 22, 2013
-Training Instructor 1C	April 8 – 12, 2013
-S-390 (Introduction to Wildland Fire Behavior Calculations)	April 15 – 18, 2013
-Fire Management 1	May 6 – 10, 2013
-Fire Management 2E	May 13 – 17, 2013
-Regional Instructor Orientation	August 21, 2013
-Ethical Leadership in the Classroom	August 22, 2013

Course Locations: McCormack Training Center
 485 West Sunnyoaks Avenue, Campbell, CA 95008
Behind the Sunnyoaks Fire Station, please park along the fence towards the training tower.

To Register: Please see below for registration form.

More Info: Contact Steve Prziborowski at steve.prziborowski@cnt.sccgov.org or 408-896-6890.

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REGISTRATION FORM

<u>COURSE:</u>	<u>DATES:</u>	<u>COST:</u>	<u>QUANTITY:</u>
Fire Management 2D	March 18 – 22, 2013	\$295.00	_____
Training Instructor 1C	April 8 – 12, 2013	\$265.00	_____
S-390	April 15 – 18, 2013	\$300.00	_____
Fire Management 1	May 6 – 10, 2013	\$265.00	_____
Fire Management 2E	May 13 – 17, 2013	\$295.00	_____
Regional Instructor Orientation	August 21, 2013	\$155.00	_____
Ethical Leadership in Classroom	August 22, 2013	\$100.00	_____
		TOTAL:	_____

Name: _____

Rank: _____

Department: _____

Street Address: _____

City, State, Zip Code: _____

Phone Number: _____

E-mail: _____

For these classes, the only form of payment will be checks.

- **Please make your check payable to:** Santa Clara County Fire Department.
- **Please mail or deliver your check to:**

Santa Clara County Fire Department - Attention: Steve Prziborowski
 14700 Winchester Blvd.
 Los Gatos, CA 95032-1818

- **Cancellation Policy:**

Full refunds will be provided if requested 14 calendar days in advance of each class at 1500 hours. If a class begins on Monday, then the refund deadline is 1500 hours two Mondays prior. If a refund is requested within 14 calendar days before the first day of the class, the student may be given credit for a future course, but not a full refund. No refunds will be provided if the student does not attend the class, or if they begin the class but do not complete the class.

ORALBOARDSUCCESS.COM PRESENTS

FIRE DEPARTMENT ORAL BOARD PREPARATION SEMINAR

6:00 p.m.

April 8, 2012

\$ 40



SUCCESS IS NO ACCIDENT

Join Captain Sean Burrows for an interactive seminar designed to teach candidates how to separate themselves and get your badge! Learn proven techniques that countless of previous candidates have used to secure their dream job!

For most fire department candidates, the oral board interview is the most challenging. Most oral boards are weighted 100% of the total score. That means in order to get the job you must score at the top of the list. Our proven skills and techniques will provide you with the understanding of what the oral board is looking for and how to separate yourself from the hundreds of other candidates.

About the Presenter: Captain Sean Burrows is a 17 year veteran of the fire service. He has coached countless candidates improving their performance and providing tried and true techniques to set them apart from the other candidates.

After the Seminar: Take what you've learned and apply it with individual oral board coaching. This coaching is great to improve your skills and allow your confidence to soar.

Seminar Details

Location:

110 Ryan Industrial Ct. #15
San Ramon, CA 94583

Time:

6:00 p.m.

Cost:

\$40 per person

How to Register:

www.oralboardsuccess.com

Phone: 209.200.3257

ELITE

COMMAND TRAINING

IMPROVING KNOWLEDGE,
SKILLS, AND ABILITIES



Safety Officer S-404 "All Hazard"

(Only 12 spots available - \$350.00)

March 6 - 7 - 8, 2013

This will be one of the most important classes that you will ever attend. The "all hazard" format will test your analytical & intuitive decision-making abilities and situational awareness "risk assessment" knowledge to prevent unsafe actions, to include: class functional exercise, building fires, wildland, hazardous materials, US&R, firefighter injury investigations, CAL & FED OSHA and NIOSH requirements

Hosted By:

Contra Costa County Fire Protection District
2945 Treat Blvd, Concord, Ca. 94510 – (0830 to 1700)

Instructed By:

Assistant Fire Chief Dave Franklin
San Francisco Fire Department

Payment & Registration:

Paypal account "send money" email: elite@elitecommandtraining.com

Cashiers or Certified Check

Mail To:

Elite Command Training – 26741 Portola Pkwy, Suite 1E, #833
Foothill Ranch, CA. 92610

Questions: 626-290-6007



WWW.ELITECOMMANDTRAINING.COM



ELITE@ELITECOMMANDTRAINING.COM



"DON'T BE THE PERSON IN COMMAND WHO DOES NOT KNOW WHAT
THEY ARE REQUIRED TO KNOW AT THE TIME THEY NEED TO KNOW IT" <

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.firerecruit.com
- www.firecareers.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.

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. To see the available dates to take the CPAT at any of the below three locations, visit their website at www.cpatonline.org

- NOTE: Do not wait until the last minute to attempt to complete the CPAT as it is common for people to fail their first attempt and have to go back on another day for a retest. More and more departments are asking for a CPAT card within six months or one year of the date of their testing process and I've seen many candidates fail the CPAT (and even retests) and not be able to continue through a department's testing process because of their failure to plan ahead. Don't let this be you!

CPAT TESTING CENTER LOCATIONS:

Southern California:

626 N. Eckhoff Street
Orange, CA 92868

Northern California

526 Commerce Way
Livermore, CA 94551

Sacramento Area:

1329 N. Market Blvd., #100
Sacramento, CA 95834

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

AUSTRALIAN FIREFIGHTER DIES IN THE LINE OF DUTY AT A DWELLING FIRE

A Volunteer Firefighter died in the Line of Duty earlier today at a dwelling fire northwest of Melbourne Australia. The Country Fire Authority Firefighter, aged in his 40s, was operating at the house fire in Gisborne just before midnight and was found unconscious away from the house about 0130 hours this morning. Fellow Firefighters administered first aid and called an ambulance, but paramedics were unable to revive him. He was married and had two children. Our condolences to all affected. RIP.

UPDATE: FLORIDA FIREFIGHTER CRITICALLY BURNED

Martin County (FL) Firefighter Jahwann McIntyre is still on a ventilator but was able to open his eyes yesterday and even tried to sit up. He suffered very significant burns, 60%, in several areas including his hands, while operating in that dwelling fire on Friday. The suspicious fire has not been labeled an arson as of yet, even though fingers are being pointed by former tenants who moved out days ahead of an eviction in a bank foreclosure on the property.

WEST WEBSTER LODD FUNERAL VIDEO LINK:

HERE is a link to the funeral for those who cannot attend personally (look for the red icon at the top of the page) - <http://www.13wham.com/default.aspx>

SOME ADDITIONAL HISTORY RELATED TO FIREFIGHTER SHOOTINGS:

While extremely rare, shootings are a part of our history. HERE are some additional ones we need to remember:

=MEMPHIS: March 8, 2000 in Memphis, TN when 2 firefighters and a Shelby County Deputy were ambushed by a Firefighter. Lt. Javier Lerma, FF William Blakemore and Deputy Sheriff Rupert Peete were gunned down in cold blood by FF Fred Williams after he killed his wife and set fire to their home.

=JACKSON: April 24, 1996: Jackson MI: It was the darkest day in the history of the Jackson FD. A disgruntled firefighter walked into the main fire station downtown and started shooting. Four of his colleagues were killed. The man who did the shooting, a Jackson Firefighter, Kenneth Tornes, was wounded in a gun battle with two Ridgeland police officers, both of whom were shot, later that day.

=NEWARK: July 15, 1967. Never forget Captain Mike Moran of the Newark FD who was killed on July 15, 1967 during the Newark riots... as he climbed a ladder to check out an automatic alarm about one block from the quarters of Engine 11. RIP.

WORKING FIRE w/MAYDAY IN NY:

Firefighters in Kingston (Ulster County NY) had a working fire around 1630 hours yesterday. While searching the building, two firefighters became trapped on the second floor. They were able to escape through second floor windows. They had to dive out the window to escape the fire. They slid on the roof and came off the roof and landed on the ground. Heavy snow didn't make things any easier for the troops. One Firefighter suffered a chest injury and another had a broken arm. We posted some video on our home page.

UPDATED VIDEO: Heavy, HEAVY FIRE CONDITIONS: 4 ALARM FIRE IN CHICAGO:

February 10, 2013

www.chabotfire.com

Chabot College Fire & EMS News

HERE is some incredible video and radio traffic from yesterdays 4-11 in Chicago-thanks to SteveR. The fire was in a furniture warehouse, 100' x 300':

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AlBixIRsz5U>

Steve's website: <http://ksc711.smugmug.com/> (If you are a fan of the CFD-be sure to check out Steve's website)

REMEMBERING 2 FIREFIGHTER LINE OF DUTY DEATHS IN VERMONT:

Yesterday -December 29, was the anniversary of the infamous Star Hotel in Bellows Falls, that resulted in the 1981 Line of Duty deaths of Firefighters Terry Brown and Dana Fuller, of Bellows Falls FD. RIP.

OUR CONDOLENCES:

To the family and friends of San Antonio (TX) FD Firefighter Matthew Whitley, 31, who was found dead inside his mobile home fire. Whitley, a 10-year veteran, worked at Fire House 20 on the city's southeast side. Whitley was following in the footsteps of his father, who has been with the San Antonio Fire Department for more than 30 years.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 12-30-12 / 0640 Hours

AND:

MEDICAL HELICOPTER CRASH IN IOWA

2 of the 3 emergency medical personnel who were killed in the Line of Duty when that medical helicopter crashed into a northern Iowa field have been identified. The helicopter burst into flames when it went down around 2100 last night just north of Ventura in Cerro Gordo County. The aircraft was affiliated with Mercy Medical Center-North Iowa and had been headed to Emmetsburg to pick up a patient. 2 of the victims: Nurse Shelly Lair-Langenbau and Paramedic Russell Piehl. The pilot was not identified as of this writing. The helicopter was operated by a Lewisville, Texas-based service company, Med-Trans Air Medical Transport. Our condolences to all those affected by this loss. RIP.

ARIZONA FIRE CAPTAIN BURNED

A Phoenix Fire Captain suffered second and third degree burns to his hand this morning. The injured Captain was taken to the Maricopa County Medical Center Burn Unit from burns in a "flash-type" incident when firefighters opened a hole to the house to get to the fire. The fire started in the vacant house near 55th Avenue and Encanto Boulevard early Thursday morning. The fire appears to have started in the garage which was fully involved when the first crews arrived. The fire spread into the house, getting into the kitchen area.

YOUR FIREFIGHTING GLOVES - A REMINDER: While the facts regarding this mornings incident **are not fully available and may be totally unrelated to the following.....**

SEVERAL FIREFIGHTERS AS OF LATE have suffered significant **HAND BURNS**. While in some cases, the injuries may not be avoidable, in MANY cases, their failure to wear issued and/or certified FIREFIGHTING gloves-as well as the wearing of **NON FIREFIGHTING GLOVES** (such as "extrication gloves") at fires have resulted in some very serious and life altering injuries. We will find out what happened this morning and share that with you as soon as it is made available.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 1-3-13 / 0834 Hours

AND:

Hey,

Here is an e-mail sent today from U.S. Deputy Fire Administrator, Chief Glenn Gaines, as more than two hundred and sixty five people have been killed in multiple death armed attacks since the Littleton, Colorado Columbine High School shootings in 1999 through the most recent armed attack at the Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Connecticut.

As members of the fire service we now know that no-notice events such as Aurora, Colorado; Portland, Oregon and Sandy Hook have and will occur anywhere, at any place, to anyone or demographic. There is not one among us who hasn't been touched by the more recent events in Webster, New York where firefighters became the target of a planned armed attack. Accordingly, the U.S. Fire Administration (USFA) is undertaking a study of these events in both this country and internationally to identify risk commonalities and best practices to successfully respond to these diverse incidents. The topical report will be released later this month and is currently undergoing extensive peer reviews. Extraordinary efforts on the part of local fire/rescue and EMS agencies have to be taken in order to protect fire and EMS personnel and experience maximum success in saving civilian lives. These events may play out over an extended period of time, requiring large EMS triage, treatment and transportation efforts, under dangerous and unfamiliar conditions to fire and EMS personnel.

In the interim, USFA offers these universal steps to ensure fire and EMS personnel are best prepared to meet this unique and challenging threat. The most important action we can take is to determine the lead agency for these incidents. In the vast majority of cases, law enforcement will serve in this capacity. Regardless of lead agency declaration, make contact with local or state law enforcement officials and special operations team leadership to become familiar with their strategies and tactical operations. Some possible subjects for discussion and planning follow:

- *Potential roles and equipment law enforcement expects from fire and EMS assets (e.g., forcible entry, lights, aerial devices, etc.).
- *Review command, control and communications operations.
- *Review of NIMS terminology along with any technical law enforcement terminology fire and EMS personnel may have a need to know.
- *A discussion of how survivor triage will occur and if law enforcement desires training in same.
- *How will injured law enforcement officers be managed? Early on in the incident a protected area should be declared and communicated to EMS leadership.
- *Casualty collection points for citizens, EMS triage and how transportation and communications with area hospitals occur.
- *What steps should be taken at high risk occupancies to mitigate the loss of life and coordinate with first response personnel.
- *Once the plan is developed, it should be exercised and updated annually.

There is much more valuable information to be learned from past events and the best practices created by those who have experienced one of these incidents. We encourage you to go to the following sources for more information.

- Baldanza, M. V. (2005). [Fire department response to "active shooter" incidents](#). Fire Engineering. 158(9). 105-106. (requires account to access)
- Hamilton, S. (2012). [Responding to scenes of violence](#). Fire Engineering. 165(9), 26+. (requires account to access)
- Ludwig, G. G. (2012). [The active shooter: A special challenge - plan and practice your fire-EMS response to mass-casualty shootings](#). Firehouse. 37(7), 34.

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- Renaud, C. E. (2010). [Making sense in the edge of chaos: A framework for effective initial response efforts to large-scale incidents](#). Master's Thesis. Monterey, California: Naval Postgraduate School.
- U.S. Fire Administration. (2012). [Fire service operations for the Southeastern tornadoes: April 2011](#) (PDF, 1.5 Mb). Emmitsburg, Md.: The Administration.
- U.S. Fire Administration. (1999). [Wanton violence at Columbine High School](#) (PDF, 2.3 Mb), April 20, 1999: Special report. Emmitsburg, Md.: The Administration.
- Vernon, A. (2012). [Response priorities for mass violence incidents](#). Fire Engineering. 165(6), 95-96+. (requires account to access)
- Wylie, Rob. (October 18, 2012) [Fireground commentary - mass shootings](#). Retrieved from <http://flashovertv.firerescue1.com>

Additionally, here are new links from www.FireFighterCloseCalls.com and previous links we have provided from several recent editions of The Secret List:

BELLMORE NY FIREFIGHTER SHOT:

<http://www.firefighterclosecalls.com/news/fullstory/newsid/130523>

BELLMORE NY FIREFIGHTER SHOT-RADIO AUDIO:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YKzl0hFAvUA>

KY FIRE LT SHOT AND KILLED AT SCENE: <http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/fire/reports/face200411.html>

MO FIREFIGHTER SHOT AND KILLED AT SCENE: <http://www.fboryanhummert.org/>

<http://www.cityofmaplewood.com/index.aspx?nid=181>

PA FIRE CHIEF GUNNED DOWN AT SCENE: <http://tinyurl.com/ctuewa4>

MEMPHIS, TN: March 8, 2000 in Memphis, TN when 2 firefighters and a Shelby County Deputy were ambushed by a Firefighter. <http://tinyurl.com/bqscebn>

JACKSON, MS: April 24, 1996: Jackson MI: A disgruntled firefighter shoots, kills 4 FF's in the Firehouse. <http://murderpedia.org/male.T/t/tornes-kenneth.htm>

NEWARK, NJ: July 15, 1967. Never forget Captain Mike Moran of the Newark FD who was killed on July 15, 1967 during the Newark riots... as he climbed a ladder to check out an automatic alarm about one block from the quarters of Engine 11.

<http://partners.nytimes.com/library/national/race/071667race-ra.html>

RIP.

MORE LINKS FOR Firefighters as well as Dispatchers related to similar incidents:

<http://www.firehouse.com/article/10755387/dispatch-protocols-for-active-shooter-incidents>(FROM FFCC's Barry Furey in Firehouse)

<http://www.usfa.fema.gov/pdf/efop/efo43715.pdf>(FROM Charlotte NC FD)

http://www.dhs.gov/xlibrary/assets/active_shooter_booklet.pdf(FROM DHS)

http://www.fireengineering.com/articles/print/volume-163/issue-4/departments/fire-service_ems/responding-to-active-shooter-incidents.html (Active Shooter Response)

<http://www.jems.com/article/major-incidents/arlington-county-va-task-force> (FROM Arlington County, VA)

<http://www.nypdshield.org/public/SiteFiles/documents/Activeshooter.pdf> (FROM NYPD)

<http://my.firefighternation.com/forum/topics/is-the-fire-service-prepared-for-an-active-shooter-incident> (FireFighterNation Discussion)

FINAL WORD: The Rockton FPD in Illinois has sadly advised us of the passing of long time fire service leader Retired Chief Ronald Weavel. Chief Weavel made a huge impact in the fire service and proved himself to be an exceptional leader, mentor and friend to the Northern Illinois and Southern Wisconsin area. RIP Chief Weavel.

Taker Care-BE CAREFUL,

Chabot College Fire & EMS News

BillyG

The Secret List 1-3-13/1454 Hours

AND:

Hey,

The experts say that the headline grabs the reader - so hopefully this one worked. It's a tough headline: "**Fire Chief Mobbed After The Loss of His Daughter**"--but it's a fact. One of our mutual aid Chiefs is a man named Andy Mitten. He is the Chief of Harlan Township Fire & EMS in Warren County, Ohio--a suburb of Cincinnati. And while we don't run a lot of calls together, there are some areas where both our departments are due on runs. So we catch up from time to time. Andy grew up in Pennsylvania (State College and Towanda) and followed the footsteps of his Dad and Uncle, also Firefighters. Like so many of you, he **LOVES** being a Dad, Husband and Firefighter ...and being a Firefighter pretty much defines who Andy is. **But Andy was "Mobbed" this week.** Read on.

I have had the real pleasure to have Andy as a friend since the early 90's and he is definitely one of a kind. A very low key, unassuming man who gets so much done with so little fanfare--he defines living leadership. He is extremely active and has helped grow and lead a phenomenal, highly respected busy rural volunteer fire and rescue company--as he was a charter member back in 1976. He was one of the first ever Ohio EMT's and helped his department grow from one station with a used pumper, to a fleet of 15 fire and EMS vehicles in 2 stations professionally staffed by 50 volunteers. We've been on some serious runs together, but none like the one he turned out for in 1991. As Firefighter and EMT's, turning out and responding to what ends up being a call for a member of your family, is about as tough as it gets. **The worst day.**

This is about Fire Chief Andy Mitten's worst day. His daughter Dee Dee was killed in a car crash in 1991 that he and his daughter Melissa (then an EMT with the HTFD) both responded to--and arrived first due. When they did, they discovered his daughter Dee Dee was the victim. Her life could not be saved. But through just a few moments he and his wife had to make a decision later at the hospital, other lives were saved as Dee Dee now helped others as an organ and tissue donor. Dee Dee's sister, Melissa, was so motivated and impacted, that she became a nurse and later started working for LifeCenter Organ Donor Network, <http://lifepassiton.org> following her sister's tragic death. She is now the Director of Organ Operations, and her sister's donation is what inspired her to start a career in organ donation. As time has gone on, Andy has continued his role as the Fire Chief in Harlan Township, President of the Warren County Chiefs, a Risk Manager for the Kroger Corporation as well as the Safety Director at Kings Island Amusement Park---along with many other related roles as well as a Dad, husband and friend, always with his daughter Dee Dee in his heart and mind.

MOBBED! One day in 2012, Andy was told he had been selected to participate on a TV documentary about his volunteer fire department--and he had to fly to Hollywood. Naturally, he was thrilled! Little did he know....that his daughter Melissa had proposed--and had received acceptance--to honor her Dad on national TV. She felt so strongly about doing this for the life he has lead--while also drawing needed attention to organ donations. In the episode of Fox's TV Show "**MOBBED**" hosted by Howie Mandell, Andy is messed with **ROYALLY**. As the show goes on though, and the "plot" is slowly unveiled, the Chief is truly honored but also, the Mitten family actually has a surprise meeting with one of the recipients and the family of another of Dee Dee's organs. The episode of **MOBBED** is titled 'You Saved My Life'.

While I don't want to give away the entire show (which can be viewed online--see below how to do so) **you will love** some of the ways they "messed" with Andy---before he found out why he was really there. The show celebrates the Chief who has served--and continues to serve every day as a

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Firefighter, as well as honoring the memory of Dee Dee. The show, hosted by Howie Mandel, combines a hidden camera with a flash mob, resulting in a big surprise for Chief Mitten on the show....and all along, he thought some "Hollywood Big Shots" wanted to do a documentary on his fire department.

HERE are links to the show-so you can watch the entire episode (open the link)

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2013/01/03/mobbed-fire-chief-daughter-organ-video_n_2399932.html (AN EXCELLENT PREVIEW)

<http://www.fox.com/mobbed/full-episodes/13391939938/you-saved-my-life> (LINK-see below**)

<http://donation.best1.eu/local-fire-chief-featured-on-foxs-mobbed-on-wednesday/>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZEivHdxJD9E>

=FIREFIGHTERS, EMT's = ORGAN DONORS

Over 100,000 Americans are on the waiting list in need of an organ. This crisis within the USA is growing rapidly because on average there are only 30,000 transplants performed each year. More than 6,000 people die each year from lack of a donor organ, an average of 19 people a day. Between the years 1988 and 2006 the number of transplants doubled, but the number of patients waiting for an organ grew six times as large. And that's just the USA-here is a LINK to the International picture:

<http://tinyurl.com/2n8tc8>

PLEASE take a few minutes and check out these links-and give serious thought to saving more lives:

LIFE CENTER ORGAN DONOR NETWORK: <http://lifepassiton.org>

NATIONAL NETWORK OF ORGAN DONORS: <http://www.thenationalnetworkoforgandonors.org/>

Q & A: ORGAN DONORS: <http://www.organdonor.gov/index.html>

Take Care-BE CAREFUL. CONSIDER BECOMING A DONOR.

BillyG

The Secret List 1-4-13 / 0815 Hours

AND:

All,

Today marks the 32 year anniversary of the Arlington Street fire where Boston lost two fantastic Jakes ("Jake" = Firefighter) and great guys. In the afternoon hours of January 6th, 1981, FF's from Engine Company No. 37 of the BFD responded to Box Alarm 1539 on Arlington Street. The fire would go to 8 alarms before being brought under control. Tragically, two members from Engine Company No. 37 would also be killed in the Line of Duty. Fire Lieutenant Paul Lentini and Fireman James "Jimmy" Gibbons were both killed in the Line of Duty due to injuries sustained from a collapse while operating. RIP. Please take a second to remember these men HERE:

<http://bostonfiregear.com/en/content/11-bfd-news-media>

CLOSE CALL: FIREFIGHTERS FORCED OUT OF A DWELLING FIRE IN DELAWARE:

According to the Odessa Fire Company: at approximately 1402 hours on Friday, they were alerted by New Castle County for an Engine and Tanker to assist Townsend Fire Company on a Residential Fire. Rescue 26 arrived on scene to find Heavy Smoke Showing from a Two Story Multi-Family Dwelling. Crews from R-26 discovered Fire in a 1st Floor Apartment with extension to the Second Floor and Attic. Firefighters from Odessa and Townsend were advancing a hoseline when conditions deteriorated rapidly and they had to bail out of the second floor window, fortunately no injuries were reported. Crews from Tanker 24/Engine 4/Engine 24/Ambulance 24 assisted with fire suppression/overhaul and were in service for approximately 2.5 hours.

HERE ARE PHOTOS AND MUCH MORE: <http://www.ofc424.com/gallery.cfm?id=263&ss=1>

FDNY SHOPS TOUR:

Ever wonder how the biggest FD in North American maintains it's apparatus? Here is a video we were sent of a tour of "the shops"

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?NR=1&v=fTdmxKbx8m4&feature=endscreen>

OUR CONDOLENCES: VIRGINIA: Condolences to our friend Willie Wines, Roanoke (VA) Fire Captain, on the sudden loss of his only brother, John Charles "Jack" Wines, who died last weekend at the age of 41. Jack is the son of Retired Firefighter Willie Wines Sr. Jack is survived by his wife, Mary Ellen Humphreys Wines; his children, John (Jess) Wines, Charles, Brook, and Amanda Wines; his grandchildren, Josiah and Johanna Wines and many other relatives and friends. RIP. (Here is Willies Blog: <http://ironfiremen.com/>)

GEORGIA: 2 young children of a Georgia Firefighter were killed in a crash on Friday. Mason Greene, 12, and Zach Greene, 6 were killed Friday after the SUV their mother was driving crashed into a tractor-trailer at the intersection of GA 136 and U.S. 411 in Murray County. The boys' father is a Gordon County Firefighter. It was reportedly caused when the driver of the vehicle, identified as the boys' mother, ran a stop sign and collided with the tractor-trailer. Our condolences to all affected by this tragic loss. RIP.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 1-6-13 / 2104 Hours

AND:

Hey,

The U.S. Fire Administration (USFA) announced today a provisional total of 83 on-duty firefighter fatalities in the United States as a result of incidents that occurred in 2012, the same number of firefighter losses as in 2011. The report is linked below. The 83 fatalities were spread across 34 states. Pennsylvania and North Carolina experienced the highest number of fatalities with 9 firefighter deaths each. New York had 6 firefighter deaths, including the most recent tragic shooting deaths of two firefighters in Webster. California and Texas, each with 5 firefighter deaths, were the only other states with 5 or more firefighter fatalities in 2012.

HOW WE DIED:

=Heart attacks or stroke were responsible for the deaths of 41 firefighters (49%) in 2012. This single year total is a near average proportion of firefighter deaths from heart attack or stroke over recent years. This nature of fatal injury has remained relatively constant, while others, on average, have been reduced during the past decade.

=Eleven on-duty firefighters died in association with wildland fires, the same as 2011 and 2010.

AND NOW, READ THIS: The single cause of injury seeing more than a four-fold increase in firefighter deaths during 2012 was vehicle collisions (including aircraft), with 18 deaths. These 2012 firefighter fatality statistics are provisional and will likely change somewhat as the USFA contacts state fire marshals to verify the names of firefighters reported to have died on duty during 2012. The final number of firefighter fatalities will be reported in USFA's annual firefighter fatality report, expected to be available by July.

HERE IS THE PROVISIONAL REPORT:

<http://apps.usfa.fema.gov/firefighter-fatalities/fatalityData/incidentDataReport?idrYearStart=2012&idrYearEnd=2012>

WHAT ARE YOU SO STRESSED ABOUT?

Looking for a low-stress job? Being a full-time university professor is the least stressful career for 2013, according to jobs site CareerCast.com. Yep-thats what we'll do. Of course, it's the first time that

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career has won the title of least stressful in the site's 20-year history of assessing jobs. "Professors are kings of their kingdoms," said Tony Lee, publisher of CareerCast.com and JobsRated.com. "They tell students what they must do." Hmmm. **Sounds slightly familiar.** Their criteria included 11 stress factors like travel, job outlook, deadlines, working in the public eye, competitiveness, physical demands, environmental conditions, hazards encountered, own life at risk, life of another at risk, and meeting the public. Lee said the least stressful careers tend to entail positive feedback from people on a regular basis. In those cases, people are working are generally pleased, he said. "The most stressful list tends to be opposite," he said. The silver lining is that the more stressful a job is, the higher the likelihood you'll get paid more, said Lee. The logic follows somewhat that military enlisted personnel and military generals are the first and second most stressful careers, with median salaries of \$45,528 and \$196,000. Being a firefighter, which was the second most stressful job last year, was ranked as the third most stressful career in the current survey. Lee concedes that what may be stressful for one person may not affect another person. "You can argue a firefighter is not stressed if they relish adrenaline and rushing into a burning building," he said. "But using analytical data, most people would say rushing into a burning building is stressful."

HERE IS THE REPORT: http://abcnews.go.com/Business/harvard-stanford-researchers-find-leaders-stressed/story?id=17320631#.UORw-G_Adfs

TSL: IT WOULD BE interesting to evaluate firefighters in urban vs suburban vs rural, slow vs busy houses...and those who are facing job losses, budget cuts etc.

WANT MORE?

OK, CALM DOWN. FIRST, TAKE A FEW DEEP BREATHERS. DO SOME YOGA, RELAX... ahummmmm. Seriously. Do IT DAMMIT!

NOW WATCH THESE VIDEOS:

<http://www.youtube.com/user/LivestrongWoman?v=ldR9bFBEx4g> Take 8 seconds to breathe.

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3_c5G6DgzMg Chronic Stress issues.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Gk9RCLMH-Bk> Seven Ways To Reduce Stress

AND while we absolutely understand how serious stress, and the issues of stress are, we have found that these TRAINING VIDEOS have helped us over the years:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sslIN2uRFeo> (Little Rascals Stress Reduction System)

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=akt_Onzwb88 (3 Stooges Stress Reduction System)

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kSiwoKCiy-s> (The Fire SUV Reality Check)

Take Care-Relax. OR Get Help In Doing So.

BillyG

The Secret List 1-7-13 / 1527 Hours

AND:

All,

Some breaking news out of Stillwater, NJ, where EMS crews were transporting a critical patient from a 2nd alarm fire this morning when the ambulance crashed. Update from the scene is that the EMS driver is in arrest and the medic and patient are trapped. We'll keep you advised as details come out.

LOCAL MEDIA, PHOTOS, VIDEO:

<http://www.myfoxny.com/story/20528961/ambulance-crashes-racing-to-hospital>

http://abclocal.go.com/wabc/story?section=news/local/new_jersey&id=8946002

NJ ICE RESCUE RADIO TRAFFIC: Also, in NJ, from last night, here is the first 30+ minutes of radio traffic from last night's ice/water search in Budd Lake, NJ. Services plan to resume searching for 2 missing teenagers this morning that reportedly fell through the ice into that northern New Jersey lake.

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Police received reports of screams for help coming from Budd Lake in Mount Olive Township around 1820 hours last night. Acting Morris County Prosecutor Fredric Knapp said the parents of two teenage boys were notified their children are missing. Rescuers broke through more than 100 feet of ice and a New Jersey State Police helicopter illuminated the scene before the search was called off.

RADIO TRAFFIC LINK: <https://soundcloud.com/#alertpage-1/mt-olive-initial-45-minutes>

Take Care-BE CAREFUL,

BillyG

The Secret List 1-8-13 / 0806 Hours

AND:

NJ EMT DIES IN THE LINE OF DUTY WHILE TRANSPORTING CRITICAL BURN VICTIM

We regret to advise you that the EMT from this mornings suspicious fire detail in Stillwater NJ has died in the Line of Duty. The veteran Stillwater Emergency Rescue Squad EMT was driving a critically-burned man from a fire scene this morning when he felt a heart attack coming on - and in his last moments did his best to save the people inside the ambulance. EMT William Martin, of Stillwater, was driving a man seriously burned in a house fire to a landing zone for a Medevac airlift to a hospital. But on a nearby road, he began to feel something off - and tried to stop the ambulance before he succumbed. The ambulance left the road and crashed into a utility pole on Stillwater-Fredon Road. But the three occupants of the vehicle were not injured in the crash which left the ambulance resting at a 45-degree angle up a slope. A paramedic and EMT were in the ambulance with the patient, she added. The early-morning fire killed Dorothy Baer, 70, and critically injured John Baer*, 68 and Baer was taken out of the crashed ambulance and transported to Saint Barnabas Medical Center, where he remained listed in critical condition early this afternoon. Martin was the President of the Stillwater Emergency Rescue Squad and a longtime volunteer. Our condolences to all those who affected.

HERE is the SERS Facebook Page: <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Stillwater-Emergency-Rescue-Squad/132513236759921>

***Interestingly, Mr Baer is the man who accidentally triggered a huge propane explosion at a Newton, NJ depot in 2003. HERE are details about that explosion:**

<http://www.firehouse.com/forums/t57448/>

Take care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 1-8-13 / 1726 Hours

AND:

AUSTRALIAN FIREFIGHTER KILLED IN THE LINE OF DUTY-WILDLAND FIRE

An Australian Firefighter in his 60s died in the Line of Duty yesterday. The Firefighter was found near Taranna, a hamlet on the Tasman Peninsula, where he had been working on foot on the southern boundary of the Forcett Fire about 2 to 3km from the fire's edge. It was unclear exactly how the man died or if he was working alone. The Firefighters death came as fire crews made solid progress on consolidating containment lines around bushfires still burning ahead of **higher fire danger conditions forecast**. Tasmania Fire Service has issued an alert for the uncontained 24,040ha Forcett blaze, where 150 firefighters using 39 tankers and four aircraft continue working on the fire which has a 200km perimeter. Firefighters had been strengthening containment lines around Bream Creek and Marion Bay and also at Lagoon Bay, but had to eventually pull out due to increased winds. The Tasmania Fire Service consists of over 230 brigades with around 250 career firefighters and approximately 4800 volunteer firefighters. Our condolences to all affected. RIP. **HERE** is their home page: <http://www.fire.tas.gov.au/>

OHIO FIRE CAPTAIN CRITICAL AFTER FALL AT THE FIREHOUSE

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Bryan (Ohio) Fire Department Captain Gary Merschdorf was critically injured in a fall at their firehouse Friday morning. Captain Merschdorf fell from a scissor lift as he was working on the doors, and something went wrong, and a door apparently caused the lift to tip over. He was airlifted to Toledo with a critical head injury and remains critical. We'll update as it becomes available. Keep'm in your prayers.

REMEMBERING FF KENNY HEDRICK:

On January 12th 1992, Prince George's County (Maryland) Engine Company 27 (Morningside VFD) was dispatched to 3807 Walls Lane in their due area for a fire. Firefighter Kenneth Michael Hedrick was riding the Engine and responded on the run. On arrival, Kenny entered the house and rescued a 7 year old boy who was trapped inside. Kenny went back inside to search for other reported trapped occupants. While searching the basement Kenny became trapped under debris and died in the Line of Duty. **MORE INFO:** <http://www.morningsidevfd27.com> -Kenny's Mom & Dad (Former Fire Chief Les, and Cathy) were and are still members at Company 27. They are also both active members of the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation and MANY of you know the wonderful Cathy Hedrick, Kenny's Mom and active staffer with the NFFF.

HERE is an interview with Cathy: <http://tinyurl.com/4f63ndw>

HERE is more about Kenny: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=in7fTVPBkWk>

Do you know his Mom Cathy? Consider making a donation to the NFFF in Kenny's name - please visit www.firehero.org . RIP Kenny.

FATAL EMS CRASH IN KENTUCKY

One driver is dead and 2 EMT's were seriously injured following a three-vehicle crash Thursday night in Meade County. A woman driving a Pontiac eastbound on Ky. 333 ran a stop sign at the intersection of Ky. 313 and was struck by a southbound Meade County Emergency Medical Services ambulance that then flipped over. A northbound Volkswagen was struck by one of those two vehicles in a secondary collision, Chaffins said. He said the driver of the Pontiac, a 27-year-old Brandenburg woman, was pronounced dead at the scene. Her name was not immediately released. **Both emergency medical technicians in the ambulance were transported to University Hospital with serious injuries.** 1 EMT has back injuries and the other a crushed pelvis. The infant son of the Pontiac driver was taken to Kosair Children's Hospital with minor injuries. The driver of the Volkswagen was not injured.

OUR CONDOLENCES:

It is with deep regret that we announce the passing of Irvington (Westchester County, NY) Fire Chaplain Monsignor Raymond Byrne. Msgr Byrne became the department Chaplain soon after his arrival in Irvington in 1990. **Bringing this a little closer to home for many of us, Monsignor Byrne is the Uncle of Chief Bobby Halton, Fire Engineering/FDIC.** RIP. **MORE DETAILS HERE:**

<http://www.irvingtonfd.com/>

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 1-13-13 / 0900 Hours

AND:

BRAZIL FF TRAINEE DIES DURING WATER RESCUE TRAINING

We regret to advise you that a Military FF died in the Line of Duty last Friday in the city of Porto Velho in the North of Brazil. As part of recruit school, FF Aussiner Dutra Ferreira was in a water rescue training in a swimming pool when had to be rescued. He died later in the hospital. Our sincere condolences to all affected. RIP. <http://www.rondoniaovivo.com/noticias/tragico-aluno-de-curso-do-corpo-de-bombeiro-morre-durante-treinamento/96631>

TEXAS FIREFIGHTER FLOWN OUT FROM HOUSE FIRE

A Wood County (Texas) Firefighter has been flown to a Tyler hospital from the scene of a house fire today. Details are still sketchy but initial details are that the FF suffered a severe laceration, and while the wound was being treated, he began having heart trouble, so he was airlifted to Tyler. There are 3 FD's operating from Holly Lake, Hawkins or Perryville department. The FF was flown out to East Texas Medical Center.

AUSTRALIA FIREFIGHTER CRITICAL

A Firefighter has been badly burned while operating at an out-of-control brush fire north of Canberra in New South Wales. The NSW Rural Fire Services Firefighter was taken by helicopter on this afternoon to Concord Hospital in Sydney with severe burns. There are numerous fires burning in that side of the world-it's their season fire wildland/bush fires. Keep'm in your prayers.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 1-14-13 / 1702 Hours

AND:

WEST VIRGINIA EMT DIES IN THE LINE OF DUTY-INTERSTATE VEHICLE CRASH

A West Virginia EMT died in the Line of Duty after a crash in Lewis County this morning. EMT Mark Anthony Kinder, a 26-year old of JanCare EMS, died after the ambulance he was riding in was involved in that crash on Interstate 79 south, near mile marker 97. A tractor trailer and the ambulance collided around **0500** but exactly how/why has not been released yet. The paramedic who was driving the ambulance was treated for injuries and released. EMT Kinder was taken to Stonewall Jackson Memorial Hospital where he later died. There were no patients in the ambulance at the time of the accident. Our condolences to all affected. RIP.

BRYAN (OHIO) FIRE CAPTAIN UPDATE

As you know, last Friday, Captain Gary Merschdorf was on a scissor lift working on a bay door opener when the door unexpectedly began to open. The door struck the lift knocking him to approximately 20 feet to the bay floor. He was conscious after the fall and transported to the hospital in Bryan, then flown to UTMIC in Toledo. Currently he is in ICU and sedated to assist in healing. The doctors are hoping to begin the process of removing the ventilator today as he is improving, but not out of the woods yet with a long recovery. We'll keep you updated.

A BELOVED CHIEF PASSES

We are deeply saddened by the passing of FDNY Battalion Chief "Captain" Jack Corcoran. "Capt Jack" as he was affectionately known-and enjoyed being called after his promotion to the rank of Battalion Chief, died from duty related cancer. He was the former Captain of Rescue Co. 4. Lieutenant of Ladder Co. 26 and a Firefighter at Ladder Co.19. Legendary, he was amongst the most highly respected firefighters/fire officers and we apologize for our delay in posting this. The funeral has already been held. RIP Cap.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL,

BillyG

The Secret List 1-15-13 / 2055 Hours

AND:

Hey,

Chabot College Fire & EMS News

It was on this date in 2011 when **Firefighter Mark Falkenhan** of Baltimore County's Lutherville VFD, Maryland, a highly respected veteran career and volunteer Firefighter, died in the Line of Duty at a fire when he became trapped in a multi-family dwelling on Dowling Circle. FF Falkenhan and his partner entered and made their way into the building to search for victims, without a hoseline or the protection of one. The apartment, like ANY dwelling any FF operates in today-is filled with plastics and other petro-chemical based consumer items (carpeting/flooring, furniture, TV's etc) that create a gas filled and subsequent fire environment of explosive potential. Firefighters searching saw fire in the corner of the apartment shortly before coming across a victim-but those conditions were not communicated via radio. At 1841 hours, crews were ordered to evacuate the building and about a minute later Falkenhan called a MAYDAY. At 1850 hours, Firefighters found Falkenhan unconscious and eventually removed him from the building. As hopefully you will also know-or will now know that the Fire Protection Engineers from the ATF Fire Research Laboratory worked with the Baltimore County FD to create a computer model of the fire that resulted in the Line of Duty Death of FF Mark Falkenhan on January 19th, 2011. The following 36 minute video details the entire incident, beginning with the 911 call and ending after the firefighter MAYDAY.

HERE IS THE LINK TO THE ATF VIDEO/AUDIO OF THE DOWLING CIRCLE FIRE:

<http://www.atf.gov/explosives/programs/research-development/fire-research-lab.html>

HERE IS THE EDITED RADIO TRAFFIC: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NMsc8nuEvVw>

HERE IS THE ATF LINK TO THE VIDEO OF THE DOWLING CIRCLE FIRE:

<http://www.atf.gov/explosives/programs/research-development/fire-research-lab.html>

HERE IS THE INITIAL REPORT:

<http://resources.baltimorecountymd.gov/Documents/Fire/report/finalreport120320.pdf>

Once again-the above information provides us with an excellent opportunity to learn, and HONOR the memory of FF Mark Falkenhan. RIP.

OPERATING AT DWELLING FIRES - RELATED FROM UL:

There has been a steady change in the residential fire environment over the last several decades, including larger homes, open floor plans and increased synthetic fuel loads...and some of the previous ways of us operating **will not work...and it has been proven by Firefighters working with UL.**

READ MORE HERE ABOUT THE FACTS, not emotions, RELATED TO OPERATING AT DWELLING FIRES:

<http://www.ul.com/global/eng/pages/offerings/industries/buildingmaterials/fire/fireservice/ventilation/>

TENNESSEE FIREFIGHTER TRAPPED-VICTIM TRAPPED AND RESCUED (VIDEO)

An autistic man injured in a morning house fire remains in critical condition after a rescue that injured the Knoxville Firefighter who rescued him. Navua Woods, 25, was transported after being rescued from the house fire by a firefighter overcome by fire and smoke in the process. Senior Firefighter Chris Medley and Woods were cut off from the front door of the Cumberland Estates rental home at 3916 Deerfield Road and had to be rescued by fellow firefighters who responded to Medley's "Mayday" call for help. Woods suffered second- and third-degree burns to 15 percent of his body.

HERE IS VIDEO: http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_embedded&v=7gi1xBy8i44

MARYLAND MEDEVAC CREW REMEMBERED-1-19-86

MSP Corporal Greg May and Trooper First Class Carrie Poetzman were killed in the Line of Duty while returning to their base of operations in Frederick, Maryland. They had just transported a shooting victim from Eldersburg, Maryland to the University of Maryland Shock Trauma Center. As they were returning to Frederick, they encountered severe fog and poor visibility. Their helicopter crashed into a wooded hillside in West Baltimore. Corporal May, 31, was a certified Aviation Trauma Technician as well as a Pilot. He was a resident of Hagerstown where he lived with his wife, Pamela, and their son. Trooper First Class Poetzman, 28, was the first female Aviation Trauma Technician to

Chabot College Fire & EMS News

serve in the Aviation Command. She resided in Manchester with her husband, Robert Simpson, a former Maryland State Police Pilot. RIP.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 1-19-13 / 1346 Hours

AND:

NY FIREFIGHTER DIES IN THE LINE OF DUTY-STRUCTURAL FIRE FLOOR COLLAPSE

We regret to advise you that an Owego (NY) Firefighter was killed in the Line of Duty and another was injured while operating at a mutual aid a fire in Newark Valley. The fire started just before 2300 last night and several nearby fire departments, including Owego, were called to assist the Newark Fire Department. Owego Firefighters Matthew Porcari and Daniel Gavin were in the building when the floor collapsed. FF Porcari died in the fire. Gavin was taken to Wilson Hospital with burns before being transferred to Upstate University Hospital in Syracuse. We will keep you updated on this tragic loss as details are released. Our condolences to all affected. RIP.

PA FIREFIGHTERS INJURED

4 Allentown (PA) Firefighters were hurt this morning at a restaurant fire. 2 Firefighters suffered burns in the first few hours of the three-alarm fire in the historic building and when a second-floor brick wall fell on two other firefighters who were in the process of getting off an adjacent roof later on. Firefighters were taken to Lehigh Valley Hospital: one firefighter with burns to his forehead while another had burns to his neck and ear.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 1-22-13 / 0740 Hours

AND:

Hey,

Here are links to local news media with photos etc of both the Owego fire (Tioga County, near Binghamton) and the Allentown fire:

OWEGO NY FF LODD: <http://www.pressconnects.com/article/20130122/NEWS01/301220011/NV-blaze-claims-life-of-one-firefighter-injures-another>
<http://www.wbng.com/news/local/Fire-Blazing-in-Tioga-County--187831801.html?vid=a>

OWEGO FIRE DEPARTMENT FACEBOOK PAGE: <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Owego-Fire-Department/273858542858>

ALLENTOWN, PA FF's INJURED www.wfmz.com

www.mcall.com

www.newsworking.net

We'll keep you updated on our home page of on TSL as additional details become available.

Take Care-Be Careful,

BillyG

The Secret List 1-22-13 / 0945 Hours

AND:

All,

Chabot College Fire & EMS News

As you know, the late Capt. Mathew Porcari and FF Daniel Gavin fell through that burning floor of 871 Chamberlain Rd. in Newark Valley last night. About 20 minutes into the fire, Captain Porcari fell all the way to the home's the basement....FF Daniel Gavin* was able to catch and eventually free himself- and has since been released from the hospital. FF Gavin worked himself back to the first floor, and, despite being burned, stayed to try to help rescue the fallen Captain. "They entered the first floor and the floor gave way," said Owego Deputy Fire Chief Bob Williams. **Captain Porcari Owego Fire Co. 3, who loast his life, is survived by his wife, Christina, an 11-year-old daughter and a 9-year-old son,** and was employed at Broome Developmental Center. Captain Porcari joined the department in 1995, and was actively involved with training new recruits. FF Gavin joined in 2000, and is also a deputy with the Tioga County Sheriff's Office and a police officer with the Owego Police Department....but there is a tragic historical connection to FF Gavin...

***A TRAGIC CONNECTION:** Gavin's father, Steve, also an Owego Firefighter, died in the line of duty in 2003 after operating at a fire. That report is below.

NEWS CONFERENCE AND RELATED VIDEO:

<http://www.wicz.com/news/video.asp?video=1%2D22%2D13newv%2Eflv&zone=News>

<http://www.wbng.com/news/local/Newark-Valley-Fire-Press-Conference-Video-187904911.html>

NIOSH REPORT ON THE LODD OF FF GAVIN'S DAD:

<http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/fire/reports/face200335.html>

OWEGO FIRE FACEBOOK SITE: <https://www.facebook.com/Owego?fref=ts>

OWEGO FIRE WEBSITE: <http://www.owegofire.com/>

FFCC Features: "The World Has Gone Nuts" (aka WTF?!)

Yeah, GREAT IDEA...AS LONG AS THERE IS NOT FIRE.

Fire chiefs in Somerset (England) have revealed exactly how they are going to save £5.5 million a year when 'the most savage cuts ever' are imposed by the government. 999 (911) call takers will increasingly send out just one Firefighter to a fire - to "size up" the incident before sending fully-manned fire engines. And fire stations across both Devon and Somerset will see firefighters lose their jobs and be re-employed as 'on-call' retained firefighters.

Fire chiefs said they are lobbying central Government for more money, and admit closing fire stations 'is not where we want to be'. And the Fire Brigades Union described the widespread cuts as 'savage' and said lives will be put at risk. Bob Walker, FBU brigade chair added: "If the cuts proposed go through, there will be fewer firefighters, fewer fire stations and fewer fire engines. "After the recent floods and fires firefighters have dealt with so professionally, the cuts would be a real kick in the teeth for both the public and the service." Firefighters fear lives will be put at risk because of budget cuts. **READ THE ORIGINAL ARTICLE HERE:**

<http://www.thisissomerset.co.uk/Firefighters-assess-seriousness-999-calls-bid/story-17918424-detail/story.html>

THE CONTINUING TRAGEDY OF THE DETROIT FIRE DEPARTMENT:

Things are going from bad to worse to worser in Detroit. ...and this video will help you get a much better understanding:

<http://wap.myfoxdetroit.com/w/news-local/story/83239449/>

And Dave S - who have been following the reporter reporting, has much more:

<http://tinyurl.com/b3nev8h>

SMART STUFF:

You can now download the DOT Hazardous Materials Emergency Response Guide to your phone/table-all at no cost.

Apple iPhone/iPad <https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/erg-2012-for-iphone/id592158838?mt=8&ign-mpt=uo%3D2>

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Andriod format <https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=gov.nih.nlm.erg2012>

Take Care-Be Careful,

BillyG

The Secret List 1-22-13 / 2051 Hours

AND:

All,

January 23, 2005 was "Black Sunday" in New York when FDNY Lt. Curtis W. Meyran (covering Ladder 27 that day) and FF John G. Bellew (Ladder 27) died in the Line of Duty at an apartment fire in the Bronx. Four other FF's were injured: Jeffrey Cool (Rescue 3) the late Joseph DiBernardo (whose recent death was considered line of duty due to this incident, Rescue 3), Brendan Cawley (Ladder 27) and Eugene Stolowski (Ladder 27). All 6 FF's were forced to jump from the 4th floor of an apartment building as they were trapped by the fire. And, as you'll also remember, at a separate incident in Brooklyn that day, just 3 hours after the Bronx fire, FF Richard T. Sclafani (Ladder 103) was killed in the Line of Duty after getting trapped in the basement while operating at a residential fire. **HERE** are links to reports and articles as we remember those who were injured and killed that day.

<http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/fire/reports/face200503.html> (NIOSH Report-BRONX FIRE)

<http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/fire/reports/face200504.html> (NIOSH Report-BROOKLYN FIRE)

<http://nymag.com/news/features/26574/index3.html> (NY Magazine Article Bronx Fire Double LODD)

RIP.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 1-23-13 / 1003 hours

AND:

All,

The funeral services for Captain Matthew Porcari, the volunteer firefighter who died in the Line of Duty Monday night have been posted. In case you haven't seen it, here are details:

=Calling hours will be held on Saturday from 12 to 4 p.m. at the Owego Middle School Gymnasium, 3 Sheldon Guile Blvd., Owego.

=The funeral service will be held on Sunday at 2 p.m., also at Owego Middle School. The service is expected to last 1 hour and 15 minutes. A reception will follow at the Owego Middle School Cafeteria.

The procession from the school to the funeral home will be restricted to family members and members of the Owego Fire Department and invited agencies only. All other agencies are asked to remain at the school for the reception.

Departments wishing to provide apparatus for the processional are asked to adhere to the following guidelines: Departments from Tioga County (NY) - Any and all apparatus are welcome. Departments from counties contiguous to Tioga - One apparatus per department. All other departments - Please only send representatives of your department ***If a department plans to bring apparatus, contact the County Fire Coordinator for details.

Donations/ Memorials

Porcari's family has requested donations be made to the following in memory:

Porcari Children Memorial Fund, c/o First Niagara Bank, 18 Lake St., Owego, NY 13827

Or Croton Hose Company #3, c/o Tom Donovan, 71 Talcott St., Owego, NY 13827

*** Please bring a department patch to donate to the family if you are planning to attend either service.**

For any questions please contact Owego Central Station at: Owegofire@gmail.com - (607) 687-1201

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=EYES OPEN IN TENN-FIREFIGHTER CLOSE CALL:

Chattanooga Firefighters responding to a house fire had a scary moment when a live electrical wire fell across their apparatus. It happened yesterday. **The Firefighters avoided electrocution by jumping from the engine, rather than stepping from it, so it did not create a circuit ground.** While this COULD have created an arc, fortunately it did not and there were no injuries. The small wood frame house was vacant and was boarded up. A neighbor reported seeing a homeless man in the house recently, so firefighters searched to make certain no one was inside. No one was found. The neighbor was taken to a hospital with burns to his hand from trying to pry boards off a window. **USE EXTREME CAUTION** and "size up" a situation like this to determine if this, or awaiting the power company is the best action.

=FIRST DUE VIDEO & RADIO TRAFFIC FROM CHICAGO:

Here is video and radio traffic "first due" from Steve R of that fire in Chicago yesterday. **LISTEN to the reports from 5-1-5 and the solid work of the Fire Alarm Dispatcher:**

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Q7IzrkuRMBw>

=MOVE OVER: MEDIC RECALLS NEAR-LINE OF DUTY DEATH EXPERIENCE:

A former medic is stressing the importance of the Move Over Law 10 years after an incident nearly claimed his life. While working a minor two-car crash on the side of the interstate, Tim Hayes was struck by a tractor-trailer, two SUVs and his own truck.

HERE is are the details:

http://charlotte.news14.com/content/top_stories/683833/former-medic-stresses-importance-of--move-over-law--10-years-after-accident

Take Care-Be Careful-Stay Warm.

BillyG

The Secret List 1-24-13 / 0801 Hours

AND:

It is with deep regret we report the LODD of Trooper Michael Slagle died following a vehicle crash on Longmire Road, near Emory Road, in Knox County. His patrol car slid off the roadway after striking a patch of ice. Despite being stuck in his vehicle, he was able to notify dispatchers of the crash and rescue crews were sent to the scene. A responding fire truck slid on the same patch of ice and flipped over on top of his patrol car while he was still inside. At some point during the incident Trooper Slagle suffered a fatal heart attack. Trooper Slagle had served with the Tennessee Highway Patrol for 28 years and was assigned to the State Supreme Court Detail. He had previously served with the Granger County Sheriff's Office for four years. He is survived by his wife and daughter. See our home page for more information and photos of the crash. Our sincere condolences to all involved. Take Care - Be Careful - Stay Warm

BillyG

TheSecretList 1/25/13 1700hrs

AND:

POLICE OFFICER KILLED, 2 CRITICAL IN FIRE RELATED SHOOTING

We regret to advise you that a Louisiana Police Officer was killed and 2 Sheriff's deputies were critically wounded when they were shot by an assailant while responding to a mobile home fire yesterday. While we normally do not post Law Enforcement LODD's, this has too many similarities to the double Firefighter LODD in West Webster, NY-so we wanted to pass this on. Cops arrested Wilbert Thibodeaux, 48, suspected of fatally shooting the Chitimacha Tribal police officer and critically wounding 2 St. Mary Parish sheriff's deputies after allegedly setting fire to a mobile home in south

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Louisiana, where an elderly man's body was found. The Chitimacha Tribal Police Officer was pronounced dead at the scene of the shootings in Charenton, while two St. Mary Parish sheriff's deputies were critically wounded and taken to local hospitals. Cops identified the deceased man in the mobile home as Eddie Lyons, 78, of Charenton. Detectives suspect Lyons was shot by Thibodeaux before the fire. The slain officer was married and had two grown children. The Sheriff's Deputies are in critical but stable condition. Thibodeaux has been charged with two counts of first degree murder, two counts of attempted first degree murder, and one count of arson. Our condolences to all affected.

VIDEO AND RELATED HERE: <http://tinyurl.com/aofxpdk>

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 1-27-13 / 1746 Hours

AND:

All,

We were sent these links showing fire and rescue personnel operating at the multi fatality club fire in Brazil earlier today:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=s7FsxUvNGsQ>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WZELujh39Jw>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pSfoY9hrASU>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4R4IHj156zA>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ekxj14fAzq0>

And The Beat Goes On...

Deja Vu ALL OVER AGAIN:

And for those younger readers of The Secret List, take a look at the below links of the infamous 2003

Station Nightclub Fire

, West Warwick, RI where 100 people were killed and 230 were hurt under multiple similar circumstances. Much has changed in Rhode Island after that fire but little elsewhere both within and outside of North America.

BELOW IS VIDEO

and a technical recreation of the fire:

STATION NIGHT CLUB UN-EDITED VIDEO FROM START TO WORKING FIRE:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Jae1fglq-9g>

STATION NIGHT CLUB NIST REPORT & RECREATION/MODEL:

http://www.nist.gov/public_affairs/releases/ri_finalreport_june2905.cfm

RELATED FROM NIST: <http://fire.nist.gov/bfrlpubs/fire07/PDF/f07061.pdf>

RELATED WIKI: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Station_nightclub_fire

Not EVERYTHING That Starts With "i" is cool...

WARNING: I-STAIRS.

iPhones cool? Sure. iPads? Yep. iStairs? Not cool. Not at all.

Whats the latest in building construction to challenge us?

I-Stairs.

The I-Stairs have basically no fire resistance requirements. Well...that brings new meaning to the term "hold the basement at the stairs"...you aren't going to hold anything with this latest treat. We reached out to Steve

"Water On The Fire"

Kerber and he reminded us that until Jan 2012 there was no requirement to protect engineered floor systems - but UL testing and research data combined with IAFF's (Sean DeCranes) code negotiating

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got a ½ inch sheet of gypsum board required. Keep in mind this is only for new construction and FFF (Firefighters Fighting for Firefighters)

Jim Dalton and Sean Decrane

are back at the code table trying to get all floor systems protected because wood burns and today's solid wood is not the same as it was 50 years ago. That does not include stairs so the experts we talked to are guessing we may see the same evolution.

We will now have more firefighters falling through stairs and wondering why.

The why is because the home builder saved 27 dollars in cost by reducing the labor required to build a stair section not understanding or caring about its fire performance.

Unfortunately we are unable to keep up with the so called "efficiencies" of the home building industry, so far.

So do we either sprinkler houses ...or cool'm down and gain control with water from wherever we can to get water on the fire- before going in?

The veteran firefighting experts using science and fact say there are few options with the (not so) "new" construction.

Damn.

READ MUCH MORE ABOUT THE I-STAIRS HERE: <http://greenmaltese.com/tag/i-stairs/>

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 1-27-13 / 1536 Hours

AND:

ALABAMA FIREFIGHTER LINE OF DUTY DEATH-MEDICAL EMERGENCY

We regret to advise you that FF Jonathan Wayne Burgess, 33 of the South Alabama Regional Airport Fire Department (Andalusia) died in the Line of Duty on **January 8, 2013**. Firefighter Burgess died from an apparent heart attack while performing safety checks on the runway at the South Alabama Regional Airport. Our condolences to all affected.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL,

BillyG

The Secret List 1-29-13 / 1208 Hours

AND:

Hey,

Another in a series of studies conducted by veteran firefighting experts, using science and not emotion, are continuing to demonstrate the need for tactical change in how we operate at some fires. The following info is from Susie Nicol at Firehouse. The link to the entire article and photos are below. Researchers from the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) are spear-heading yet another project studying the effects of firefighting techniques with the help of career and volunteer firefighters. In addition to typical furniture found in any single-family homes such as a couch, chairs, end tables, lamps, beds and coffee tables, these have been equipped with sensors, monitors and special equipment for video-taping. Researchers from the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) are spear-heading the project studying the effects of firefighting techniques. "The purpose is to translate science and research into training," explained S.C. Fire Marshal Chief Shane Ray. **"This may very well change the way we do business..."**

Firefighters from South Carolina, North Carolina, District of Columbia, Arizona, California, Colorado, Georgia, Illinois, Maryland, Minnesota, Ohio, Oregon, Virginia, Washington and West Virginia are

participating in the study, funded by a \$618,696 AFG grant to the International Society of Fire Service Instructors (ISFSI). Of those participating, 41 percent are combination; 31 volunteer and 28 career. Ray explained to study the impact of various fire attacks, crews are given different scenarios. Some involve only exterior attacks, some interior, some both. Monitoring equipment also is being used to determine whether closed doors make a difference. "We're also seeing what happens when furniture burns and is doused with water. We want to know what gases there are," Ray said, adding that the whole purpose of the study is to improve firefighter safety and effectiveness.

NIST researchers explained that the experiments demonstrate "firefighting methods-individually and in combinations-for strategically ventilating and isolating fires to prevent-or at least delay-flashover, the extremely perilous phenomenon that occurs when heat builds up in a burning structure's contents and components to the point that they burst into flames simultaneously." When the project kicked off last week, more than 160 fire service officials from all over the United States and others were on hand. And, there was much more to experience than simply watching houses burn.

They were able to watch the interior firefighting effort as well as sensors that were monitoring temperatures while Dan Madrzykowski, NIST fire protection engineer, narrated. "It was just incredible. Dan did a great job explaining what was happening, and he did it so a layperson like me understood," said Cathy Hedrick, an official with the NFFF and the mother of a Fallen Firefighter. "While we were watching the live videos, you could hear a pin drop in the tent. Everyone was watching intently. It was incredible to see what was happening."

Hedrick, who told the crowd about losing her firefighter son, Kenny, in a Maryland house fire 21 years ago, said she was impressed with the research, and hopes it sparks a change in firefighter tactics. "Nothing has changed. We're still killing firefighters the same way we did when Kenny was killed," Hedrick said crews need to know they can't keep doing the same things they've been doing for years. Fires are different now, but unfortunately, tactics have not caught up. "There are new theories in tactics, and we have to get firefighters to understand and accept that. It's the only way were going to save both firefighters and civilians lives." Hedrick said Madrzykowski explained while they watched the scenarios how firefighters can still be aggressive, but safe.

"**Getting water on the fire** first to reduce the interior temperature was one of the changes I saw. Getting firefighters to do that instead of busting in through the front door would be one change in culture that needs to take place. He showed the research behind the tactic..."

"I hope they look at the findings with an open mind. They have to realize it's time to change. It's time to get away from 'that's the way it's always been done' attitude."

HERE is more: <http://www.firehouse.com/news/10859817/sc-study-may-change-the-way-firefighters-do-business>

Take Care-BE CAREFUL. Water On The Fire Is Always A Good Idea.

BillyG

The Secret List 1-28-13 / 1556 Hours

AND:

Hey,

An engine company was struck on the Washington DC Beltway in Maryland early this morning leaving several Firefighters injured, with 1 being critical. Several civilians were also injured in the crash. The

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most critical Firefighter has been taken to Union Memorial Hospital in Baltimore, which specializes in severe limb injuries. **The other 3 injured Firefighters were treated at PG Trauma and have been released.** The driver of the tractor trailer and two victims from the Jeep were taken to Medstar. Right now the severity of the civilian's injuries are unknown. Prince George's County Fire Chief Marc Bashoor advises that the crash appears to have occurred when Engine 828 out of West Lanham Hills was returning to quarters after responding on a run. Chief Bashoor says it appears the engine was struck by the tractor trailer from behind, sending both vehicles into the concrete barrier separating the Inner and Outer Loops. This initial collision sent wreckage and concrete debris into the northbound lanes of the Beltway, where a Jeep was also caught up in the crash.

We have posted some photos on our home page-here are some additional links:

<http://tinyurl.com/aouf74h> (From Dave S)

<http://washington.cbslocal.com/2013/01/30/massive-delays-on-beltway-in-md-after-fire-engine-and-tractor-trailer-collide/>

<http://www.wjla.com/articles/2013/01/495-at-route-50-accident-in-maryland-leaves-7-seriously-injured-84626.html>

TWO MORE FDNY LOSSES RELATED TO 9/11

Two more beloved FDNY members have given their lives following their dedication while operating on and following 9/11.

Former FDNY Lt. Martin Fullam, 56, a 9/11 first responder who later became ill and whose efforts helped make the James Zadroga 9/11 Health and Compensation Act a reality, died Monday at home. Lt. Fullam was off on the morning of Sept. 11, 2001, but as soon as he heard the news of the attack on the World Trade Center, he drove to his home base, Ladder Co. 87 in Annadale, packed 10 firefighters into his pickup truck and sped off to Rescue Co. 5 in Concord. He spent weeks sifting through the debris for survivors at Ground Zero. Lt. Fullam served for 24 years with FDNY, beginning his career at Engine Co. 14 in Manhattan. He worked for six years at Ladder 87 in Annadale, and then spent seven years at Ladder 111 in Brooklyn. Mr. Fullam returned to Ladder 87, spending three years there until his promotion to lieutenant in 2003. He was then assigned to the First Division in Lower Manhattan, spending five years there until he went out on disability.

We have also been advised that **Firefighter Charles "Chuck" Jones** very sadly passed away yesterday. In June of 2012, FF Jones was diagnosed with Esophageal Cancer. He too spent days upon days operating at the World Trade Center site, just like thousands of other FDNY members. Chuck has been an active member of FDNY Ladder Company 165 for over 20 years. Prior to joining the FDNY, he served as a NY City Police Officer. Chuck has also been an active Volunteer Firefighter at West Sayville FD on Long Island for his entire life. Chuck leaves behind his wife Leigh Anne and their 3 children in West Sayville, where he is a very active member of the community.

Our sincere condolences to all affected by these losses-and our prayers to the many other FDNY members (as well as NYPD, PAPD and others) who continue to battle for their lives

Take Care-BE CAREFUL,

BillyG

The Secret List 1-30-2013 / 0813 Hours

AND:

NJ EMS LODD

We regret to advise you that Jeffrey J. Garrigan, 53, died on January 30, 2013, following an on duty EMS shift according to our submitter. He was a paramedic for St. Clares Medical Center and Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital in Rahway for the past 31 years. A life member of the Newton First Aid Squad, Jeff joined the squad at the age of 16. He was also a former member of Kittatinny Hose

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and Ladder, which he had joined when he was 18. Jeff is survived by his wife, Donna; three daughters, Jamie of Montague, Kellie of Columbia, SC, and Brittanie of Montague; one son, Jeffrey J., Jr., of Montague; and his brother, Dennis P. Garrigan of Newton. Memorial donations may be made to the Newton First Aid Squad, PO Box 5, Newton, NJ 07860. Our condolences to all affected. RIP.

FORCIBLE ENTRY/EXIT VIDEO:

These clips were submitted to our website this evening-it's of a dwelling explosion in Illinois last night. It appears that the dwelling forced some of it's own doors prior to the arrival of the Firefighters.

MEDIA VIDEO CLIP w/AUDIO: <http://www.nbcchicago.com/news/local/Explosion-Reported-At-Morris-Home-189792671.html>

VIDEO: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IPfW5cpHj1I&sns=em>

DETAILS FROM THE MEDIA A fire that started with an explosion has destroyed an Illinois house belonging to a couple who were out of town. "We didn't have life-safety rescue issues when (the fire department) pulled up because the occupants were out of town, which was good because life rescue would have been impossible with the amount of fire we had," said Morris Fire Chief Tracey Steffes while still on scene this afternoon. The call came in at about 0317 hours as a garage fire and it completely engulfed the house. "As soon as they opened the (fire station) doors they could see the glow in the sky, so they immediately bumped up the box fire alarm," Chief Steffes said. When Firefighters got on scene, there was fire on the first and second floors. The garage door and walls had been blown out, so Firefighters knew there was an explosion. But the cause has not yet been determined, Chief Steffes said.

ACCIDENT VICTIM STRUCK BY ARRIVING FIRE APPARATUS

A woman was hit by a fire pumper/tank-truck and died on the scene on today in the city of Franca, State of Sao Paulo, Brazil. The 47-year-old nurse was taking her grandson to the doctor when her car was hit by a cargo truck and she was ejected from the vehicle. Witnesses called police, fire-rescue and EMS. When the rescue truck arrived, the Firefighter who was driving was not able to stop the truck, hitting the victim. The 6-year-old grandson was uninjured. **PHOTOS HERE:**

<http://estadao.br.msn.com/fotos/bombeiros-atropelam>

<http://g1.globo.com/sp/ribeirao-preto-franca/noticia/2013/02/bombeiro-foi-imprudente-diz-genro-de-mulher-atropelada-por-resgate.html>

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 2-5-13 / 2140 Hours

AND:

Hey,

Yesterday, the

New Orleans Fire Department Training Captain Jamie Harris, a 16 year veteran, flipped a N.O.F.D. four wheeler while operating on the training school grounds. Captain Harris was treated, transported and has been placed in a chemically induced coma - and at this time he is being monitored. Initial reports are that the vehicle flipped and landed on the Captain. **Further details will be forthcoming but his injuries are serious-please keep him in your thoughts and prayers.**

BIG NEWS AND UPDATES FROM ISO:

Below is a link to the latest updates from ISO.

BE SURE

to read their lead story on the newly revised version of ISO's Fire Suppression Rating Schedule - a major revision that reflects current trends in fire prevention and protection. Also, check out their first-ever "You Make the Call" video, which shows an actual wildfire in progress and the resulting property

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destruction. Take note of our "Insurers' Report" column, where we explain why identifying the nearest fire station is insufficient to meet the needs of property insurers. You will be surprised at the fire statistics ISO tracks and updates regularly in "By the Numbers." AND REMEMBER: when CUTS in stations, staffing, brownouts etc are being looked at in your community-BE SURE to reach out to ISO so they can identify the costs that may result in to your community.

ISO UPDATES:

<http://www.isomitigation.com/community-fire-protection/2013-01-22mailer.html#fire>

FIRE SERVICE AWARD CONSIDERATIONS!

CFSI IS ACCEPTING NOMINATIONS NOW FOR TWO PRESTIGIOUS AWARDS:

=CONSIDER NOMINATING AN INDIVIDUAL FOR THE

Mason Lankford Fire Service Leadership Award that recognizes individual leadership, sponsored jointly by CFSI and Motorola Solutions, Inc, the award recognizes individual leadership in advancing firefighter and life safety initiatives. Candidates should exemplify one or more of the following goals:

=Leadership in promoting and supporting fire/emergency service and life safety issues.

=Advancing the readiness of the Fire/EMS services at any level of government (local, county, state, or federal).

=Strengthening fire safety through the development of fire prevention programs.

=Act as a catalyst to improve the fire service.

For additional information about the Lankford Award, click HERE

http://www.cfsi.org/awards/awards_lankford.cfm or visit the CFSI website at www.cfsi.org .

The nomination deadline is March 15, 2013. For info about the CFSI Dinner, go to:

www.cfsi.org

=CONSIDER NOMINATING AN ORGANIZATION OR DEPARTMENT FOR THE Senator Paul S. Sarbanes Fire Service Safety Leadership Award. This award jointly sponsored by CFSI and NFFF with corporate support from State Farm and VFIS. Organizations nominated for the award should exemplify one or more of the following goals:

=Recognition of the Life Safety Initiatives originally developed by the American fire service during the 2004 National Fire Service Summit hosted by the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation.

=Recognizing the need to address firefighter health and safety and becoming an advocate for this cause.

=Leadership in promoting and supporting firefighter health and safety initiatives at the local, state or national level.

=Reaching out to other organizations and developing partnerships to further the cause of firefighter health and safety.

=Engaging government leaders at all levels to work together for positive changes in firefighter health and safety, and for the establishment of government programs that can enhance the personal safety of firefighters.

The nomination deadline is March 15, 2013. It's all about firefighter health and safety and recognizing departments/organizations/association for outstanding achievements in making the fire service and our people more survivable. Here's the link:

http://www.cfsi.org/awards/awards_sarbanes.cfm

For info about the CFSI Dinner, go to: www.cfsi.org

LAST WORD:

CONGRATS-60 YEARS ON THE JOB!

Congrats to Williston, Vt., Fire Lt. Lynwood Osborne, "Ozzie" for turning out for over answering for 60 years. When Lt. Osborne, 80, joined the fire service six decades ago, Williston was mostly farmland. He remembered that firefighters would get water to fires in milk cans.

CHECK OUT THE GREAT VIDEO BELOW. And while he won't respond to runs, the retiree has pledged to help out the department he loves in smaller ways. "Definitely I will be back here to hang out quite often," he said....and he's already looking for a new part-time job. "I just have to keep going," Osborne laughed.

VIDEO FROM BILLS AT FireGeezer: <http://firegeezer.com/2013/02/05/morning-lineup-february-5-6/>

CONDOLENCES:

Condolences to the family and friends of Stoddard (NH) Fire Capt. Shannon Sarcione, 39, who was killed earlier this week. Off duty, Captain Sarcione and another man were cutting down trees Monday afternoon-one of them had cut a notch in the tree, preparing to fell it after clearing some limbs nearby-high winds likely knocked over the tree before the loggers were ready to take it down. The other man was not injured and did not see the tree fall on Sarcione. Captain Sarcione was pronounced dead at the scene. His father, Joseph Sarcione, is the department's deputy chief and has been a Stoddard firefighter for 35 years. Captain Sarcione was a single dad and primary caregiver for his 11-year-old son. RIP to all affected by this loss.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 2-6-13 / 1748 Hours

AND:

Hey,

Here is a CALL TO ACTION related to Firefighter training:

Fairfax, Va., Feb. 6, 2013 - The International Association of Fire Chiefs (IAFC) is asking all members (and of the fire service) to provide public comment in support of a temporary interim amendment (TIA) currently under consideration by the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) 1001 Technical Committee on Firefighter Training. The proposed TIA - seeks to ensure that candidates participating in an NFPA 1001-compliant training program are physically capable of doing so through the completion of an NFPA 1582 physical.

Public comment is being accepted by the NFPA through February 13.

Background

The 2008 edition of NFPA 1001 included the requirement that individuals meet NFPA 1582 prior to participating in an NFPA 1001 training program. In 2012, the NFPA 1001 Technical Committee voted through appropriate process to remove that requirement and inserted new language.

The new edition was intended to create greater flexibility to AHJs in addressing disabilities at the local level but created the consequence of substantially altering the requirements for candidates, and it places a significant burden on certifying health-care practitioners. The language in the new edition is confusing in that it requires job-specific evaluations without actually requiring a medical exam ever be performed. The TIA, submitted by the chair of the [IAFC Safety, Health and Survival Section](#), seeks to return the 1001 standard to its 2008 language.

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The leading cause of death among firefighters is cardiac-related events, accounting for nearly 50% of all fatalities annually. On November 9, 2008, a volunteer firefighter who hadn't received an NFPA 1582 physical before participating in an NFPA 1001 training program died while participating in training. In its recommendations, [the NIOSH report describing the event](#) specifically cited the importance of an NFPA 1582 medical exam to reduce the incidence of similar events.

Act Now

IAFC members are strongly encouraged to submit public comment supporting the language proposed in the TIA. Submit comments via email to tias_errata_fis@nfpa.org; please identify the TIA number (#1087) in the subject line and in the body of the email. Comments can also be sent by mail to NFPA, 1 Batterymarch Park, Quincy, MA 02169-7471.

The closing date to submit comments is February 13, 2013. If you have any questions concerning the content of the proposed TIA, please email [Battalion Chief Matt Tobia](mailto:Matt.Tobia@aacounty.org) : FdTobia@aacounty.org, who is Chair of the IAFC Safety, health and Survival Section.

Take Care-be careful,

BillyG

The Secret List 2-6-13 / 1144 Hours

AND:

All,

This has not been ruled as a Line of Duty Death as of yet-but we do want to share this story with you. **On July 30, 2010, Fire Lieutenant Patrick Nader, 23, of the West Newton FD was responding to a call from his family's home on Mt. Pleasant Road, just outside the borough, when he crashed into a telephone pole to avoid a construction zone near Bible Alliance Church in Turkeytown. The young firefighter, who had dislocated two verte brae and was left a quadriplegic, underwent a number of surgeries.** "He accepted his injury very well, more than I believe I could have at that age," his mother said. Lt. Nader, spent five months in the hospital and four weeks in a rehabilitation center recovering from that spinal cord injury he sustained on July 30, 2010.

Sadly, Lt. Patrick Nader died unexpectedly last Thursday morning at age 25. "I wasn't ready for it to happen," Jackie Nader said, adding that her son seemed to be good health. "It was no different a day than any other." The family believes his death may be the result of complications from his responding crash injuries. They won't know for sure until autopsy results are returned in eight to 12 weeks, his mother said. His death was almost two years to the day that he returned home from rehabilitation, she said. He missed his privacy and being able to spend time alone with his friends, said his father, Joe Nader. "We had to be his parents, his caregivers and his friends," he said. But when asked about the difficulty of the constant care, Joe Nader didn't hesitate: "We did not mind that; we could've done that forever."

The side effects from such a traumatic injury can be ongoing, including pressure sores, respiratory problems or blood clots, even when the person is in a stable condition, said an assistant professor in the health science department at California University of Pennsylvania. "Only a family who's taking care of someone really understands the impact," she said. "I can't even imagine what the family is going through." A lawsuit filed on Patrick Nader's behalf in November 2010 claims the state Department of Transportation was negligent in safely operating a work zone and did not follow proper flagging procedures, according to court documents. The Naders declined comment on the lawsuit. PennDOT has denied the allegations. A trial date has not been set.

LONG ISLAND (NY) FIRE APPARATUS:

Occasionally we'll pass on information about a cool book-and this would be one of those times. This new book "Long Island Fire Apparatus-The Classics" features some really unique fire apparatus from

the Long Island, NY area - now available from Chief Bob Vaccaro. You have probably read Bob's column's and have seen his photos in Fire Rescue Magazine, Fire Apparatus Journal, Firefighter Nation, JEMS, Wildland Firefighter, and Public Safety Communications. This is the second in his series about Long Island Fire Apparatus. **This new book highlights some of the really unusual fire apparatus that was delivered to fire departments in Nassau and Suffolk Counties from the 1920's thru the 1980's.** The book has 76 pages with 141 color and black and white photos. Also available is Bob's first book. "Long Island Fire Apparatus, The Modern Era. That book is 188 pages and over 200 color photos of fire apparatus that has been delivered over the past five years to Long Island Fire Departments. **HERE is the link to check out his latest book:**

<http://www.blurb.com/b/4055017-long-island-fire-apparatus>

Take Care-Be Careful.

BillyG

The Secret List 2-9-13 / 1151 Hours

FIRE SERVICE SAFETY, TRAINING & NEWS STORIES TO LEARN FROM:

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

Budget Related Items:

With no apparent resolution to labor negotiations aimed at scaring up extra money, the City of Tacoma (WA) is set to move ahead this week with an unpopular plan to reduce fire department service in the Proctor district and on the East Side. Fire Chief Jim Duggan said Friday that changes at Station 13 in Proctor and Station 15 on the East Side – among the cuts dealt the department by a \$63 million city budget shortfall – will take effect Tuesday. The closure of the city's only fire station in the Port of Tacoma, also part of the city's budget plan, will happen after the Murray Morgan Bridge reopens in the coming weeks. Duggan said that at least some of the cuts could be easily undone if money-saving concessions are approved after Tuesday. The city's budget assumes, in addition to the closure of Station 6 in the port, the deactivation of Station 13's fire engine and reduced staff and hours. Two firefighters will staff the Proctor station from 7 a.m.-7 p.m. with an emergency response vehicle equipped with medical supplies and some firefighting tools but no pump, hose or water tank. The station will not be staffed overnight, when other city fire stations will serve the district:

<http://www.bellinghamherald.com/2013/01/07/2827912/labor-negotiations-fail-to-spare.html>

The first two weeks of January saw Jeff Donahue perform his final field assignments for Polk Fire District (OR) No. 1 -- testing a fire alarm system at Western Oregon University and assisting the city of Monmouth with construction inspections. Now it's back to what Donahue has been doing since he learned he would be losing his job: putting out feelers for a new one. "I have a lot of applications going out and I'm watching what's available," said Donahue, the district's former fire marshal. "But there's not a lot out there." It's not an easy time being a fire prevention specialist, especially one for a small jurisdiction. Polk No. 1's fire marshal position was eliminated on Friday. Dallas Fire Department cut its fire marshal post by attrition, in November: <http://www.polkio.com/ns/news/24822/polk-district-no-longer-can-afford-fire-marshal>

In a city hall meeting that stretched past midnight this week, dozens of angered Milpitas (CA) Fire Department personnel targeted for a planned reduction in force and temporary layoffs warned city officials that the blood of residents and firefighters alike would be on their hands if

they took what they deemed were draconian steps to curb a \$400,000 budgetary overrun within the department, reportedly due to high amounts overtime being taken by fire service employees. In spite of the warnings, Milpitas City Council voted 4-1 early Wednesday morning, with Vice Mayor Althea Polanski dissenting, to take the fire department's urban search and rescue vehicle and attendant crew out of action, resulting in layoffs of at least four newly hired firefighters out of 10 full-time positions being eliminated through the rest of the 2012-13 fiscal year, which ends June 30:

http://www.mercurynews.com/ci_22388235/temporary-milpitas-firefighter-layoffs-aim-offset-ballooning-overtime

Volunteering ... paying more taxes ... fixing a deteriorating facility themselves. Lafayette residents have plenty of ideas how they could help reopen a fire station shuttered Jan. 15 by the Contra Costa (CA) County Fire Protection District. But Tuesday's nearly-three-hour meeting where residents shared those thoughts wasn't called to find ways to get Station 16 on Los Arabis Drive back open for business. The agenda was to discuss what led to its closure and how firefighters plan to continue protecting residents. Officials closed the station Tuesday along with facilities in Martinez and Walnut Creek after the defeat of a \$75-per-parcel tax in November that would have raised funds to keep the district's 28 stations open. A station in Clayton that was scheduled to close will be operating part time. In addition to describing how the district will maintain and secure the station during the closure, Fire Chief Daryl Louder discussed potential "long-term solutions" and "options" officials are exploring to ensure the community is protected. They include increasing staffing during high fire days, temporarily stationing engines in parking lots, and working with the county's emergency medical services division whose contracted ambulance service will adjust their locations to provide better coverage and responses in Lafayette:

http://www.mercurynews.com/ci_22389401/officials-explain-decision-close-lafayette-fire-station

Pueblo (CO) City officials call lower staffing the 'New Normal.' Police Chief Luis Velez reassigned four detectives and put them back on street patrol last summer to help deal with an officer shortage caused by more than 80 vacant city jobs. City Public Works Director Earl Wilkinson says he's short two construction inspectors, half the number the department usually has to inspect contractor work around the city. Fire Chief Chris Riley says he no longer has six "boomer" firefighters each day to fill in for ill, absent or injured firefighters in his 136-man department. Riley said the fire department is short one deputy chief and six firefighters, although it still is authorized to have a total staff of 140. He normally has two deputy chiefs, but one of those jobs has been empty for two years:

<http://www.firehouse.com/news/10855880/colo-officials-call-lower-staffing-the-new-normal>

The Baltimore (MD) city government is on a path to financial ruin and must enact major reforms to stave off bankruptcy, according to a 10-year forecast the city commissioned from an outside firm. The forecast, obtained by The Associated Press ahead of its release to the public and the City Council on Wednesday, shows that the city will accumulate \$745 million in budget deficits over the next decade because of a widening gap between projected revenues and expenditures. If the city's infrastructure needs and its liability for retiree health care benefits are included, the total shortfall reaches \$2 billion over 10 years, the report found. Baltimore's annual operating budget is \$2.2 billion: <http://www.firerescue1.com/fire-department-management/articles/1401951-Baltimore-forecasts-financial-ruin-Is-it-the-next-Detroit/>

Not-So-Positive Public Relations Items:

The Washington D.C. Fire Department found itself in a crisis situation New Year's Eve when more than a 100 firefighters called in sick. At least 11 ambulances went unstaffed and supervisors were forced to ask for help from Prince George's County. One man died waiting for an ambulance and a stabbing victim was transported to the hospital in a fire truck. The Firefighter's union denies it was behind a coordinated sick out and says the trouble New Year's Eve could have been avoided if the department had staffed up as it did in recent years: <http://www.myfoxdc.com/story/20489099/100-dc-firefighters-call-out-sick-on-new-years-eve#axzz2Gvi9rls8>

The pipe that fed a huge fire at Chevron's Richmond (CA) oil refinery in August appears to have been punctured from the outside, possibly by company firefighters trying to get at a small leak before the blaze ignited, investigators said Thursday. The 40-year-old pipe had already been weakened by the heavy sulfur content of the crude oil being pumped through it, according to a draft metallurgical report on the fire that was prepared for federal and state investigators: <http://www.sfgate.com/bayarea/article/Chevron-firefighters-may-have-gouged-pipe-4166310.php>

After several years' waiting for justice, the chief of Gig Harbor (WA) Fire & Medic One says the district can finally turn the page after state auditors found a former longtime employee bilked its taxpayers out of more than \$50,000. A Pierce County Superior Court judge sentenced Michael E. Cameron to 240 hours of community service on Dec. 10, the day after his 57th birthday, after he pleaded guilty to second-degree theft. The judge waived jail time because Cameron had no prior criminal history. Cameron was the district's lone maintenance worker, who started with the district as a volunteer firefighter in 1973. State auditors found he made purchases using district money that he put toward his private use or toward his side business installing sprinkler systems for lawns. "The person that did this, he lost his job and his career, and the legal process had to run its due course, so therefore I believe he was held accountable," said Fire Chief John Burgess, who wasn't in the position when Cameron's theft was discovered: <http://www.thenewstribune.com/2013/01/04/2424240/fired-in-09-ex-gig-harbor-fire.html>

The Flagler County (FL) city manager has suspended four firefighters with pay, including the chief of the department, after claims surfaced that they drank alcohol while on the job. The documents state that Chief Martin Roberts admitted he and Capt. Steve Wood drank apple pie moonshine and then responded to a house fire. Witnesses said Wood also drank beer then drove the tower truck, which seats five people and has a 95-foot aerial platform, to the fire. According to emails sent to the city manager, there was another alleged incident on Christmas Day. Firefighters reportedly witnessed Assistant Chief Shane Wood, who is the son of the captain, and Jacob Bissonnette both drinking apple pie moonshine at the station in their uniforms. "It's serious, it's definitely serious," said City Commissioner Jane Mealy. "I think they should be let go if it's true." Flagler Beach citizens say they can't believe the firefighters would drink on the job: <http://www.news4jax.com/news/Allegations-of-drinking-moonshine-on-job-spark-firefighters-suspension/-/475880/18077952/-/aeiwfiz/-/index.html>

The Las Vegas (NV) firefighters' union and city management aren't on good terms these days. Negotiations for a new contract were so unproductive that an impasse was declared. Such discord is par for the course in public-sector collective bargaining, especially when the flow of tax revenue has slowed to a trickle. But the union's chest-puffing tactics have crossed into the surreal, just as the Fire Department is making a case for expanded duties that would require more public spending: <http://www.lvrj.com/opinion/firefighters-labor-dispute-reaches-absurd-low-187259201.html>

Police tell the Columbus (OH) Dispatch that Columbus Fire Investigator Jeffrey L. Smith was involved in an on-duty road rage incident with another motorist where Smith drew his weapon and handcuffed the other driver. While Michael J. Watkins was charged with aggravating menacing and Smith was not charged with a crime, the fire investigator has been placed on administrative duty with his city issued weapon taken away while an internal investigation continues. The paper reports the two men were familiar with each other and have had past differences. The article in today's Dispatch by Lucas Sullivan not only talks about the January 2 confrontation between Smith and Watkins at Jack Gibbs Boulevard and Cleveland Avenue, it points to a previous investigation by the paper into the city's armed firefighters. In August, the Dispatch reported the City's Fire Division lacked a gun policy and that 10 of 14 firefighters issued guns, including Smith, were not certified by the Ohio Peace Officer Training Academy: <http://statter911.com/2013/01/11/police-say-oh-fire-investigator-involved-in-on-duty-road-rage-incident-with-gun-columbus-fire-gun-policies-again-under-scrutiny/>

What's going on in Florida? Scathing reports about Flagler Beach & Miami Beach fire departments: <http://statter911.com/2013/02/08/whats-going-on-in-florida-scathing-reports-about-flagler-beach-miami-beach-fire-departments/>

New Haven (CT) Firefighter Aaron Brantley was arrested on attempted bribery charges after turning himself in at police headquarters today. Brantley was released shortly after 12:30 p.m. He is free on \$20,000 bail. He is charged with two counts of bribery of a witness, police spokesman Officer David Hartman said. http://www.nhregister.com/articles/2013/01/14/news/new_haven/doc50f447c9a27de125131266.txt

A top Washington DC lawmaker on Monday warned the city's firefighters not to stage a sickout protest on Inauguration Day, though the employees' union said its members will report to work as scheduled. "It would be a discredit, not just to the city but to firefighters everywhere," said Ward 6 Councilman Tommy Wells of a possible sickout. "It cannot happen." Wells, who chairs the council committee that oversees firefighting services, would not elaborate on the possible ramifications that firefighters would face if they carried out such a protest, but he said any kind of Inauguration Day sickout would "absolutely" prompt a response. Wells' comments came just weeks after city officials said nearly 100 firefighters called in sick on New Year's Eve. The firefighters union denied there was any coordinated protest, but District officials were furious with the absences, which left the city short-staffed and forced authorities to summon help from Prince George's County: <http://washingtonexaminer.com/wells-warns-d.c.-firefighters-against-inauguration-day-sickout/article/2518544#.UPTRqFEqItk>

When it comes to declining gifts of money, Miss Manners suggests profuse thanks followed by polite refusal. Las Vegas (NV) firefighters took a different tack. Offered a \$549 bonus in August, they filed a 10-page complaint with the Nevada Local Government Employee-Management Relations Board. The ongoing dispute, which could grind on for another year, highlights tension between International Association of Firefighters Local 1285 and city leaders and shows how under Nevada law even seemingly straightforward gestures toward employees can be fraught with peril. At issue is a "gain sharing" program city officials rolled out last summer. The city laid off workers and cut pay and benefits during the recession, then set aside \$1.3 million for "a one-time reward to all employees who have shared in the many extensive sacrifices that have been made during the past several years." <http://www.lvrj.com/news/las-vegas-offered-a-bonus-so-firefighters-filed-a-complaint-186883362.html>

The Novato (CA) Fire Protection District has reached a \$250,000 settlement with a former battalion chief who claimed a hostile work environment and whistleblower violations, the district announced late Wednesday afternoon. Michael Hughes, who recently retired, claimed he was subjected to harsh discipline and verbal abuse after questioning his superiors about merit-pay discrepancies, safety issues and other concerns:

http://www.mercurynews.com/ci_22535628/novato-fire-district-settles-lawsuit-former-top-officer

A former Lake County (FL) firefighter was recently ordered by a judge to repay \$45,000 for fraudulent spending of firefighter union dues. Kevin Chamberlain, a 44-year-old Ocala resident, was also sentenced to 10 years' probation after pleading no contest to a felony charge of organized fraud. Chamberlain had been treasurer for the local International Association of Fire Fighters from 1999 to 2011 and an investigation found he used union accounts on thousands of dollars of personal purchases, a county report said. He had worked for the fire department for 22 years and retired as of April 2012, around the same time he was arrested for the fraud: <http://www.orlandosentinel.com/news/local/lake/os-lk-firefighter-probation-fraud-20130117.0.1319945.story>

The Contra Costa (CA) District Attorney's Office will consider filing felony charges next week against a newly retired fire captain accused of ransacking local firehouses of everything from expensive gear and uniforms to toilet paper and pencils. Former Contra Costa Fire District Capt. Jon Wilmot, a 51-year-old Alamo resident, is free from County Jail on \$30,000 bail after his Dec. 10 arrest on suspicion of grand theft and burglary, according to the Sheriff's Office. Search warrants executed that same day at Wilmot's homes in Alamo and Concord, his mother's house in Orinda, and on his six cars and trucks resulted in authorities confiscating 268 items believed to be fire district-owned gear, uniforms, tools and supplies, according to Contra Costa Superior Court documents. Wilmot served the district for 27 years before retiring in mid-December, around the time of his arrest. Wilmot "has made numerous indirect, passive aggressive actions toward members of the Fire District ... the behavior accompanied by his large cache of illegal weapons creates a significant concern for all Fire District employees," the district wrote in a petition for the restraining order obtained exclusively by NBC Bay Area. Wilmot threatened to rape and decapitate a woman who accidentally called his phone and hung up, and he gave a co-worker a bullet with the co-worker's name on it, according to the documents cited by NBC Bay Area: http://www.insidebayarea.com/ci_22443774/contra-costa-fire-captain-accused-stealing-hundreds-items

The San Jose (CA) Fire Department has likely missed its response-time targets more often than previously reported due to a data collection error, but officials would not speculate Thursday what the actual figures might show. Chief William McDonald had alerted the mayor and City Council in a memorandum three weeks ago that there was a problem with the response time reporting, a key performance measure used to gauge how quickly firefighters arrive after an emergency call. But at a public safety committee meeting Thursday, fire officials who explained how the data error occurred would not say what the actual response times might be: http://www.contracostatimes.com/breaking-news/ci_22444847/san-jose-fire-officials-detail-response-data-error

Rank-and-file firefighters saw it as a harmless rite of passage. Administrators viewed it as an unacceptable – and possibly criminal – lack of professionalism. What is certain is that a hazing incident involving Orange County (CA) Fire Authority Station 22 in Laguna Hills has deepened the rift between firefighters and administration. In a confidential [survey](#) of 259 union members, firefighters labeled the hazing investigation as a "witch hunt" and another example of the administration punishing firefighters to satisfy the public. The debate is centered on some bad

haircuts and hungry firefighters. In April 2012, the crew from Station 22 showed up at a nearby In-N-Out Burger, dressed in uniform and arriving in OCFA vehicles. But something was off-kilter with six of the firefighters. They had wild haircuts, such as reverse Mohawks and clumps shaved off their scalps. One firefighter sported a brightly painted pate. They were probationary employees, all being hazed by their veteran colleagues. At least one customer didn't feel firefighters should be clowning around on the public dime. The irate customer notified Fire Chief Keith Richter, who initiated the unpopular investigation – even consulting with the Orange County District Attorney's Office. In all, six probationary employees and seven others were disciplined for unprofessional conduct, said Battalion Chief Kris Concepcion. Details of the discipline were withheld by Concepcion under state confidentiality laws for firefighters, but respondents in the survey said they were given days off. All of the workers involved are still employed by the OCFA. At least two of the probationary employees were held down for their haircuts – a potential assault – but county prosecutors declined to file charges, Concepcion said. <http://taxdollars.ocregister.com/2013/01/29/13-oc-firefighters-punished-in-hazing/165456/>

An investigation has found that the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection hid \$3.6 million in collected legal settlements rather than depositing the money into the state's general fund as required. For seven years, the agency paid the California District Attorneys Association to hold the money and used the cash for equipment purchases and training, the Los Angeles Times reported Saturday. Documents reviewed by the Times show that top agency officials were aware of potential problems with the fund as early as 2008, when an internal audit was launched. The practice didn't end until last year, however, amid questions about whether the fund was legal: <http://www.sfgate.com/news/science/article/Report-Fire-agency-hid-3-6-million-from-state-4225732.php>

Positive Public Relations Items:

At Kent (WA), nine fully-equipped firefighters took 15-minute turns on the StairMaster, climbing a total of 515 floors, a distance of 10.5 miles. The firefighters greeted the public while accepting donations. "We are working hard and determined to reach our goal," said Art Weichbrodt, a veteran firefighter and team captain. Cox, from Station 74, (pictured right) is competing in his second Stairclimb, having covered the distance last year in 18 minutes, 39 seconds. Cox, 46, is looking for a personal best this time around while participating for his uncle, whose leukemia is in remission. Each firefighter – packed with 55-60 pounds of gear and breathing bottled oxygen – will race up 1,311 steps on 69 flights of stairs for an elevation gain of 788 feet to the Columbia Center's observation deck. A total of 1,552 firefighters from 281 departments participated last year and raised a record \$1.2 million for blood cancer research and patient services. Kent firefighters raised more than \$7,000 last year. More than 1,550 firefighters signed up for the event this year, which sold out in 11 minutes: <http://www.kentreporter.com/news/190092031.html>

Training & Safety Related Items:

Detroit (MI) firefighters will not be allowed on the hydraulic ladders on the department's fleet of aerial trucks unless there is an "immediate threat to life" because the trucks haven't undergone safety inspections for years. Fire Commissioner Donald Austin said firefighters will not be allowed on the ladders during water tower operations until the needed inspections are

done: <http://www.freep.com/article/20130204/NEWS01/302040035/Detroit-firefighters-ordered-off-ladders-on-aerial-trucks-fleet-hasn-t-been-inspected-in-years>

The number of firefighters who died while performing their duties last year continued on a downward trend. There were 83 firefighter deaths last year, and of those 16 were classified as Hometown Heroes. A person who dies of a heart attack or stroke within 24 hours of an emergency response is classified as a Hometown Hero, and is eligible for funds under PSOB. There were 83 firefighter fatalities in 2011 as well, and 87 in 2010. Heart attacks or cardiac-related issues continue to be the leading cause of firefighter deaths, cited in at least 34 cases, while trauma killed 27. Eight firefighters died during training, and three were killed at blazes determined to have been intentionally set. Of those who died, 40 were volunteers; 32 were career; four were wildland part-time; three wildland contract; and two paid on-call:

<http://www.firehouse.com/news/10847710/on-duty-firefighter-deaths-continue-downward-trend>

The Thatcher (AZ) Fire Department just got burned by a seven-month-old fire. On Jan. 10, the Industrial Commission of Arizona Division of Occupational Safety and Health issued two citations to the Thatcher Fire Department regarding a June 16 fire training mishap that caused injuries to firefighters. The notification listed one citation as serious and issued a \$3,750 fine to the Fire Department. During the live-fire training exercise, Fire Captain Rob Casillas suffered second- and third-degree burns to his hands, head and portions of his upper and lower back when he found himself without water in a burning room where temperatures soared near 1,200 degrees Fahrenheit. The citation lists numerous subsections of the serious violation that attributed to firefighters being burned. The subsection violations include that the department's written Incident Command System procedure was not followed, and training fires were lit during a planned rehab period; a fire was lit with the purpose of setting the structure on fire instead of the planned type of fire for interior firefighter training meant to be confined to a specific area; a series of three fires were lit in sequence instead of one fire being lit and then extinguished, and firefighters were ordered to enter the structure without a safety monitor being posted to check and account for the firefighters entering and exiting the structure:

http://www.eacourier.com/news/thatcher-fined-for-fire-training-incident/article_be1e6800-64ae-11e2-944f-0019bb2963f4.html

General Fire Service Related Items:

FDNY Commissioner Sal Cassano is bracing for trouble in the ranks. In a memo last week, Cassano said the FDNY, under court order, may bring on up to 293 "priority hires" — minority applicants who took entrance exams in 1999-2002 but didn't get jobs. Cassano then warns that "retaliating against" such hires, or anyone seeking compensation under the litigation, is strictly prohibited. "Disciplinary action will be taken against anyone who is found to retaliate in any manner," he states. Insiders said Cassano has good reason to fret about hotheaded firefighters. "If the FDNY thinks that taking people who failed the test and bringing them to the head of the line will not cause anger and resentment in the ranks, it's dead wrong," said a member. The 293 will have to meet all current FDNY qualifications, except for age limit:

http://www.nypost.com/p/news/local/fdny_hands_off_minority_hires_HvcofZi8NPQ1ANk6rSJ2ZJ?utm_medium=rss&utm_content=Local

They coulda' been contenders — and now they have a second chance. Nearly 300 black and Latino firefighter candidates who didn't score high enough to join the FDNY in 1999 and 2002 are getting a rare opportunity take their entrance exams again. They'll sit for the FDNY written exam Friday, and an intense physical fitness test will follow later. If they can rack up passing

grades on both, the job with generous pension, sick pay and other benefits could be within their grasp. The break is part of a controversial ruling from Brooklyn Judge Nicholas Garaufis, who in July found the FDNY guilty of discrimination after a group of black firefighters and the Vulcan Society successfully challenged the methodology of its entrance exams. Garaufis ordered the city to pay \$187 million in damages. He also found that 186 blacks and 107 Latinos who took the '99 and '02 tests might have made the grade had the process been different, and compelled the city to find as many of them as possible and give them another shot regardless of age — even those over 40. Usually the FDNY won't allow anyone older than 29 to sit for an exam, with an exception for those in the military: <http://www.nydailynews.com/new-york/firefighter-hppefuls-siren-call-article-1.1234003#ixzz2HIBRfbFr>

An angry Selectman Kevin Kiley on Wednesday pressed Fairfield (CT) Fire Chief Richard Felner on whether it is a good management practice to promote firefighters just before they retire -- a custom that Kiley estimated will cost the police/fire pension plan \$1.8 million over the next 30 years. Since June 2011, eight firefighters have retired, according to information from the town Human Resources Department. Of those eight, six received promotions or transfers that boosted their base salary and, as a result, increased their pension payments. In some of those cases, the changes took place just days or weeks before the firefighters' retirement: <http://www.fairfieldcitizenonline.com/news/article/Last-minute-firefighter-promotions-before-4161844.php>

On a recent weekday, two Philadelphia (PA) Fire Department paramedics sat on the cots they almost never have time to sleep on at their neighborhood fire station. Their shift had just begun, and they jokingly bet on how many runs they'd make that day. But before they could finish the thought, a bell rang. On and on they went for the rest of their 12-hour shift, rarely getting time to catch their breath. Meanwhile, back at the station, a crew of firefighters spent much of the night watching movies, checking Facebook and sleeping. Undoubtedly, the firefighters have busy days as well. And no one would argue that the city shouldn't have firefighters ready for when the worst happens. But the new reality for the Philadelphia Fire Department, and in other cities, is that the vast majority of the work is done by medical responders. Because of the exodus of industry and advances in fire prevention and in construction practices, the number of structural fires has been decreasing for decades. And due to an aging population and behavioral factors, medical emergencies have skyrocketed. Many cities have adjusted to this new reality. Philadelphia, by most accounts, has not. Not enough medics the response time for medical calls is far greater than the response time for fires, in large part because there simply aren't enough paramedics to fill the need. A few times a week, the department is so overrun by medical emergencies that no ambulances are available to respond immediately to 9-1-1 calls, according to several paramedics. Of the 276,939 emergencies to which the Fire Department responded in 2012, 84 percent were for medical calls. Yet the city employs 248 paramedics and 1,912 firefighters. "It's a fire department run by firemen, and sometimes they don't realize they're a paramedic department," said one paramedic. "They think they're a fire department that does EMS. And they're not. They're an EMS department that does fires."

http://www.firehouse.com/news/10849852/philly-fire-dept-considers-going-medical-centric?utm_source=FH+Newsday&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=CPS130102005

Hiring plan: How not to hire idiots, thugs and misfits. As much as anything, firefighters will determine how the public and lawmakers support the department — hire wisely:

<http://www.firerescue1.com/fire-department-management/articles/1377396-Hiring-plan-why-every-new-hire-impacts-political-support/>

There's fallout over a controversial recruitment call for the Houston (TX) Fire Department. The call to action was posted on Facebook by a member of Houston's Human Resources Department, who was once a captain with HFD. City officials insist that all departments are equal opportunity employers. But some of those officials are calling one recruiter's actions inappropriate. Former firefighter Dwight Allen works as a recruiter for the city, but you might remember Allen from 2009. He was one of seven Houston firefighters to sue the city, claiming its written tests were unfair to African Americans. The city later settled. Now Allen is back in the spotlight, and some are accusing him of racism. He put up a letter on his personal Facebook page. It reminds readers of the application deadlines and requirements and then says: "We would like to flood the exam with members from our family and neighborhoods with over 50-60 percent taking the test looking just like us or from our neighborhood. Please help me to make this happen!!!" The post ends with his official title and phone number. "If someone wants to post something like that on their own, it's certainly their business, but I think leaving the HR title on there could've been seen as something that we probably did not want," said Allen's boss, human resource director Omar Reid:

<http://abclocal.go.com/ktrk/story?section=news/local&id=8958239>

Cleveland's (OH) new fire chief, [Daryl McGinnis](#), witnessed as a company officer systematic payroll abuse within the fire department under then-Chief Paul Stubbs and reported it up the chain of command. But Stubbs and his assistant chiefs "took it under advisement" without taking action, McGinnis said Wednesday during a meeting with Plain Dealer reporters and editors. And the problems persisted until a series of city audits revealed them -- months before Stubbs' retirement in April of last year. "You could see an abuse and blow the whistle, but then your boss doesn't want to address it," McGinnis said. "I raised the issue in meetings and said, 'When are we going to put a stop to this stuff?' But it starts and ends with the fire chief. You can have people in the chain of command who are as upset and appalled as the average citizen. But you cannot be tougher than your boss."

http://www.cleveland.com/metro/index.ssf/2013/01/clevelands_new_fire_chief_dary.html

Portland (ME) employs more full-time firefighters than any other midsized city in New England, according to an analysis by the Portland Press Herald/Maine Sunday Telegram. The city has 3.54 firefighters for every 1,000 residents, a rate higher than all 45 comparable cities in the region. On a per-capita basis, no other department even comes close. The next largest comparable department is in Taunton, Mass., with 2.72 firefighters per 1,000 residents. About half of the communities in Portland's size range -- 40,000 to 100,000 residents -- have fewer than 2 firefighters per 1,000 residents. Despite its large fire staff, Portland struggles to contain overtime costs that have approached or surpassed \$2 million in each of the past two years. Among other factors potentially adding to the cost of the city's \$16 million fire department is its 24-hour work shifts, a common practice in the industry that some chiefs say costs more money than it saves:

http://www.pressherald.com/news/ls-the-Portland-Maine-fire-department-overstaffed_2013-01-27.html

The city of Key West (FL) is better off settling a worker's compensation claim with a 380-pound retired firefighter rather than risk paying 15 times that if the man suffers a heart attack, according to a city attorney. Wilmer Bringle, 58, a Key West firefighter who retired in 2011 after 30 years on the job, has agreed to settle for \$30,000, which includes \$3,700 for his lawyer and \$1,500 for other costs. Attorney George Helm, of Lake Mary, Fla., advised the city to cut a check to end the risk of a six-figure judgment. The City Commission will consider approving the \$30,000 check at its 6 p.m. Tuesday meeting at Old City Hall, 510 Greene St:

<http://www.firehouse.com/news/10873918/fla-city-urged-to-settle-claim-with-obese-firefighter>

A former Miami-Dade (FL) Fire-Rescue captain, demoted for a seemingly racist rant posted on his Facebook page, offered no apology Tuesday as he and the firefighters' union appealed his punishment. "In hindsight," Brian Beckmann testified Tuesday, his posting was in poor judgment. The hearing Tuesday was before Mark Lurie, an arbitrator whose decision the county and the union have agreed to abide by. Beckmann, then a captain, was busted down to firefighter (a rank equivalent to private) when, in the weeks following the fatal shooting of Miami Gardens teenager Trayvon Martin by a "neighborhood watchman" in Central Florida, he reposted a diatribe disparaging inner city youth. In a statement given early on the Miami Herald, Beckmann said he was a "private citizen" with the "same right to freely express an opinion on any subject" as any other citizen. On his Facebook page, however, Beckmann held himself out as more than a private citizen. "I did identify myself somewhere in there, I believe I did identify myself as a captain of Station 65," Beckmann conceded under grilling by an assistant county attorney: <http://miami.cbslocal.com/2013/02/05/no-apology-from-miami-dade-firefighter-for-facebook-diatribes/>

New York's Bravest can also be the baddest. The FDNY will consider hiring convicted felons with a "Certificate of Good Conduct" from the state parole board, the department said in a notice posted last week. Such applicants will get a "special review." The notice to potential applicants includes the text of a state law aimed at stopping employment discrimination against ex-cons who have done time and stayed clean. "It's not something we signed up for or control. It's something we have to abide by," said FDNY spokesman Jim Long. Sources said the posting stems from the court case in which Brooklyn federal Judge Nicholas Garaufis has ordered the FDNY to remedy racial imbalances: http://www.firehouse.com/news/10860114/fdny-announces-it-will-consider-felon-applicants?utm_source=FH+Newsday&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=CPS130123005

On a rainy Friday morning, Normand Arbour was greeted by Long Beach (CA) Fire Station No. 1 firefighters at Boston's Restaurant and Sports Bar, the business he co-owns with his wife, Ellen. Arbour watched as they came into his 90 Aquarium Way business, checking for fire extinguishers and alarm systems and shining flashlights at the ceiling to check for emergency lights. Until recently, this work was done by one of the five civilian fire inspectors who annually inspected the more than 600 restaurants, banquet halls and other assembly facilities in the city. But they were transferred from the Fire Prevention Bureau to the city's Building Department to save money, so Long Beach fire stations this month stepped in, taking over inspecting their portion of the more than 600 assemblies - or commercial sites where more than 50 people gather for entertainment, dining and similar activities - that were once done by civilian fire inspectors before budget cuts. "When we lost those five, the workload that they have, the amount of inspections that we have now in our Fire Prevention Bureau, it was just too overwhelming," Fire Capt. Jim Arvizu said. Hiring more inspectors was not an option, Deputy Fire Marshal David Zinnen said. In the past five years, the Long Beach Fire Department has slashed more than \$10 million from its operations, including four fire engines, a firetruck and an ambulance. Several weeks ago, Fire Chief Mike DuRee announced a Belmont Shore fire engine was being taken out of service to save \$2 million: http://www.presstelegram.com/news/ci_22476021/smaller-budgets-spark-changes-long-beach-firefighter-duties

A special team of attorneys appointed to assess damages stemming from discriminatory hiring practices at the FDNY say at least 745 minority firefighter applicants should receive monetary damages from the city and be given priority status in hiring. The recommendation is the first finding regarding damages by the court-appointed team — with the numbers expected to grow. "The special masters have determined that to date, 745 of the 3,636 claimants that

sought priority hiring relief are eligible for priority hiring and monetary relief," the team wrote to Brooklyn federal Judge Nicholas Garaufis in a filing made public yesterday. Yesterday's initial recommendation follows months of work by the special-master team, which is interviewing thousands of people who wanted to work for FDNY, but say they weren't hired because of discrimination. Last year, Garaufis, who is overseeing the FDNY case, estimated that the city may have to pay \$128 million in damages to minority applicants who were turned away because of the FDNY's discriminatory hiring practices:

<http://www.firerescue1.com/fire-department-management/articles/1398503-Panel-745-FDNY-applicants-should-receive-money-for-hiring-bias/>

Please make every day a learning opportunity and train like your life depends on it – because it does!

Also, thanks to everyone for their continued support over the years. You may not agree with all of the information contained within these newsletters, but remember why the information is being included: to better prepare you for a career in the fire service, to prepare you for promoting in the fire service, and to just keep you up-to-date with what is going on in your fire service. Even more important than that, this information will hopefully keep you safe and may just save your life or the life of a brother or sister firefighter! Take care and don't just stay safe – make it safe!

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

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