

INSTRUCTOR'S DISPATCH

A Newsletter of the Commission on Fire Prevention & Control



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CONNECTICUT FIRE ACADEMY

FIRE SMOKE AND CYANIDE: TRUTH AND TREATMENT

*James J Augustine,
M.D.*



For 2011 the very popular Connecticut Fire Academy Seminar Series continues to bring nationally known fire service speakers to Connecticut dealing with current and engaging fire service topics.

The Seminar Series titled *Fire Smoke and Cyanide: Truth and Treatment* was held on Friday April 15, 2011. The seminar was presented by James J. Augustine M. D. The seminar addressed the toxic composition of smoke, reducing smoke toxicity, and understanding cyanide poisoning. Learn the signs

Continued on page 5

Inside this issue:

Fire Smoke and Cyanide: Truth and Treatment	1 & 5	U.S. Army Reserves Attend Training at the CFA	5 & 8
2011 Fire Officer's Weekend	2 & 7	Request for Active Engagement	6
Agency Vehicle Use Informational Update	3	Connecticut Fire Service Day at the Capitol	9
A Thousand Times, Ten Thousand Hours	3-4		
Selection to IFSTA Panel	4		
Building on Fire 2011: Tactical Renaissance And the New Rules of Combat Fire Engagement	5		

2011 FIRE OFFICER'S WEEKEND



The Connecticut Fire Academy sponsored Fire Officers Weekend was held at the National Fire Academy on the grounds of the National Emergency Training Center in Emmitsburg, Maryland April 1st through April 3rd, 2011. There were 156 students that applied for one of the six available National Fire Academy classes.

The National Fallen Firefighters Memorial was the location of the first function of the weekend, the annual memorial service to honor Connecticut Firefighters who have died in the line-of-duty since 1981 when the National Fallen Firefighters Memorial was dedicated. The Memorial service consisted of reading the individual names of each of the fallen firefighters while a red rose was placed at the memorial in memory of each. Special thanks go out to bag piper Mike Noga from the Windsor Fire Department, the Color Guard of the Colchester Fire Department, Jon St. Louis from the CT Statewide Honor Guard and bell ringer Brian Auld from East Haddam Fire Department for their assistance with the memorial service on a cold evening.

Beginning Saturday and into Sunday the National Fire Academy adjunct instructors performed an impressive job delivering classes in; Incident Safety Officer; Prevention and Mitigation Advocacy for Small Department Responders; NIMS Incident Command System for the Fire Service; Preparation for Initial Company Operations; Strategy and Tactics for Initial Company Operations and Decision Making for Initial Company Operations.

**“A confused
fireground
situation
cannot be
corrected by a
confused IC”.**

**By Alan V.
Brunacini**

Continued on page 7

AGENCY VEHICLE USE INFORMATIONAL UPDATE



Please remember that when you are using a state vehicle ANY and ALL violations of state/local motor vehicle laws and/or ordinances that result in an issued infraction for such violation(s) is issued to YOU as the identified driver MUST be paid in full by YOU within the appropriate time-frame as defined by the issued ticket. Failure to do so will cause increasing penalties to the original fine that YOU will also still be responsible for paying.

Driving a state vehicle while conducting state business DOES NOT allow you (or any state official) immunity from motor vehicle violations, so extra care should be taken when parking and driving state vehicles as you would with your own car!

Additionally employee's must notify his or her Agency Transportation Administrator (Agency Head) and the Director of DAS Fleet Operations within 72 hours if he or she has been convicted of or has made payment for any motor vehicle violation (not including parking tickets) while driving a state

“Never confuse repeat fires for routine fires; the same basic deadly elements are present at every fire—there is no such thing as a routine, pip-squeak fire”.

By Alan V. Brunacini

A THOUSAND TIMES, TEN THOUSAND HOURS

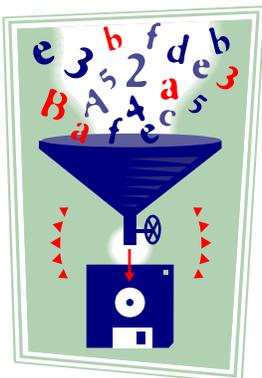
What did Woody Allen say, oh yeah, “You know, I’ve always wanted to know how to spell Connecticut!” C’mon, folks, what he was really saying is we whine about wanting to do things that we could do if we only put some effort into it. I hear it all the time, “You’re an artist, you’ve got talent, I can’t draw a stick person.”

You can’t draw a stick person, folks, because you don’t practice.

Stick people are hard to draw well, ask the Indian who first drew Kokopelli. My mentor in art, the Blackfeet artist King Kuka, said he could teach anyone to draw or paint, if they would just shut up, listen, learn, and practice. I was his poster child for this concept.

King would say to me, “If you want to paint a tree, be a tree.” Like some Zen koan, this bugged me, all I could think was, “What the hell is he talking about?” Then I went out and sat and looked at trees, hours on end. I finally saw a well grounded, barked entity climbing up, looking for sunlight. So I go back and King says, “If you want to paint a tree, paint a thousand trees, throw them away, and bring me the thousand and first one.” Sure, change the rules. But I did it, at age forty, and now I paint a damn good tree.

Continued on page 4



A THOUSAND TIMES, TEN THOUSAND HOURS

Continued from page 3



**"We will survive
only to the
extent we can
proact ahead of
react...simply,
the more we
"prehab" the
less we must
"rehab"
By Alan V.
Brunacini**

Now I tell that to people, especially those whiners who won't practice drawing stick people, or learn how to spell Connecticut.

Recently, I read Malcolm Gladwell's books (try them all Blink, Tipping Point, and Outliers) and he has somewhat the same idea, but instead of a thousand times he has ten thousand hours, the time it takes to get your mind and body wrapped around something to become really, really good at it (that was in Outliers). So I looked back and reviewed my ten year adventure at becoming science literate. Not a scientist, but someone who understands science at the Science 101 level, in chemistry, physics, biology, paleontology, geology, neuroscience, etc. I feel that way, now, having spent four to six hours a day studying basic science for ten years. Oh yeah, it comes to something over ten thousand hours.

So you want to draw a stick man? Or a tree? A thousand times. Want to become an artist? Or ecologist? Or writer? Ten thousand hours. Or stop whining, please!

Frederick J. (Fred) Cowie, Ph.D.
PO Box 6214
Helena, MT 50604
24 hr cell: 406-431-3531
Website: fredcowie.com
E-mail: fredcowie@aol.com
MySpace: myspace.com/fredcowie

SELECTION TO IFSTA PANEL

Gentlemen,

Particularly to those who allowed me to use them as references, please be advised that I have the pleasure of telling you that I have been appointed to the IFSTA committee working on the new "Pumping Apparatus Driver/Operator Third Edition" textbook

Steve Coulon
Adjunct Instructor



FIRE SMOKE AND CYANIDE: TRUTH AND TREATMENT

Continued from page 1

and symptoms of cyanide exposure to firefighters and civilians.

Instructor Biography

James J Augustine, M.D. is an emergency physician from Cincinnati, Ohio. He served recently as Assistant Fire Chief and Medical Director for the District of Columbia Fire EMS Department. He served as Medical Director at Atlanta Fire Rescue prior to that.

U. S. ARMY RESERVE ATTEND TRAINING AT THE CFA

“Safety prevents paperwork and meetings.”

By Alan V. Brunacini



USAR FSI -I

In February, members of the U. S. Army Reserve (USAR) 530th Engineer Detachment, Danvers, MA, from the USAR 368th Engineer Battalion, Londonderry, NH, completed Fire Service Instructor 1 and Fire Officer 1 as residence programs at the CFA. Training was a requirement prior to deployment to Afghanistan and with a small window of opportunity, the USAR reached out to the CFA for assistance in meeting their mission objectives. Fire Service Instructor 1 was conducted from February 7th through February 12th, including practical and written examination. Fire Officer 1 was conducted from February 14th through February 24th, including practical and written examination. Nine members

Continued on page 8



"Sometimes on the fireground, the first thing you get is the last thing you need (or want)."

By Alan V. Brunacini

REQUEST FOR ACTIVE ENGAGEMENT

Folks, we are experiencing significant demand for course deliveries that we are unable to meet or comply with customer expectations. Program Managers are reporting great difficulty in securing adjunct instructors volunteering for assignments.

Consequently, I have sent letters to nonperformers failing to meet our policy requirement of 80 hours per year. These folks have until the end of the year (December 31, 2011) to accumulate the necessary hours.

This action is about having an instructor cadre available that is active, engaged and volunteering for assignments. We need you to conduct our classes and assist in other projects. There is only a small percentage of adjuncts that are far exceeding expectations with their time and support.

At the same time, accommodations can be arranged for those instructors that might have a personal situation that requires some temporary time away from teaching. But we need to hear from you in order to know your status and availability.

Even more importantly, if your priorities have shifted, and you no longer view teaching for the Connecticut Fire Academy as rewarding, then please do us the favor of contacting us directly to resign. We might be able to surprise you with modest retirement benefits.

As vacancies are created we can refill these spots with new adjuncts, who are (hopefully) energetic and hungry for work. Within a few months we will be adding 8 new adjuncts. State government personnel changes are difficult and slow at best. Please help us to help you.

Please contact me directly to discuss any aspect of your employment with the Commission on Fire Prevention and Control. Success stories are always welcome. Perhaps, we could also help with the disappointing experiences as well.

On behalf of our customers (your peers) I thank you for the classes you have delivered, no doubt making our state's firefighters more capable and safe.

Adam D. Piskura, Director
Connecticut Fire Academy
860-627-6363 Ext. 272 Direct

2011 FIRE OFFICER'S WEEKEND



Continued from page 2

During the two days of classroom sessions funds were collected by Chief Flynn of Wethersfield to purchase a brick in the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation Walk of Honor. Enough was collected to not only purchase a brick but also to make a sizable donation to the NFFF. The Brick will be inscribed similar to bricks from earlier years. The brick from last year is in section 26 brick #121 and reads Connecticut Fire Officers Weekend 2010.

Throughout the weekend there was plenty of food supplied by the food service and plenty of networking supplied by the students and instructors. Emergency responders from Connecticut as always had a successful weekend receiving additional training to better serve the residents of this state. The Connecticut Fire Officers Weekend for next year is scheduled for March 23 through March 25, 2012.

**“Don’t ever
think the fire is
getting tired
just because
you are.”**

**By Alan V.
Brunacini**

U. S. ARMY RESERVES ATTEND TRAINING AT THE CFA



“Keep it simple...the fewer parts of the plan, the fewer things can get screwed up.”

By Alan v. Brunacini

Continued from page 5

attended each session with four members attending both sessions. After training, a seven member firefighting unit was scheduled for deployment to Afghanistan. A larger contingent is scheduled to attend Technical Rescue Training at the Florida State Fire Academy in Ocala, Florida. The 530th ENG DET, as part of its CBRNE mission, is mutual aid to all 50 states.

The soldiers put in many long hours to complete the training within the limitations of their orders and the CFA Instructors realigned the course schedule to meet their needs. Instructors involved in the training sessions were Ted Borowski, Jason Decremer, Don Farquhar, Ed Goetz, Ron Joanis, Carol Stiles, John Tsokalas, and Alan Zygmunt. The courses and the professionalism of the CFA staff and facilities were very well received and the USAR is interested in using the CFA to meet future training needs.

William Trisler, M.Ed.
Program Manager

CONNECTICUT FIRE SERVICE DAY AT THE CAPITOL

The Joint Council of Connecticut Fire Service Organizations has re-scheduled their annual Fire Service Day at the State Capitol to Wednesday, April 27, 2011 from 9 a.m. until 2 p.m. This date change from April 28th will provide greater exposure as the General Assembly is scheduled to be in session in addition to this also being proclaimed Husky Day! All fire service personnel are welcome and strongly encouraged to attend!!

Please contact members of your legislative delegation and invite them to visit displays in the concourse area between the Legislative Office Building and State Capitol. Better yet, schedule a meeting with them for that day and personally escort them to visit the displays.

**"It's difficult
(and painful) to
attempt to
manage
something you
are trying to
save yourself
from.**

**By Alan v.
Brunacini**

CONNECTICUT FIRE ACADEMY

34 Perimeter Road
Windsor Locks, CT 06096
Phone: 860-627-6363
Fax: 860-654-1889

We're on the web
www.ct.gov/cfpc



Ethics Statement

**Commission on Fire Prevention and Control
Connecticut Fire Academy**

The Mission of the Commission on Fire Prevention and Control is to prevent or mitigate the effects of fire and disasters, either natural or manmade, on the citizens of the State of Connecticut. This Mission is accomplished through the development and delivery of state-of-the-art educational programs designed to meet nationally recognized standards, certification of individuals to such standards and maintenance of up-to-date resources for use by fire service personnel, public educators and other first responders. Towards this endeavor, all Commission employees represent the State of Connecticut and have positions of significant trust and responsibility that require them to adhere to the highest ethical standards. Ethical conduct and avoiding the appearance of impropriety are of critical importance in our relationship with members of Connecticut's fire service, the public and other agencies and private contractors. Commission employees shall acquaint themselves and comply with both the letter and spirit of all laws, regulations and policies governing professional ethical conduct.