

# Instructor's Dispatch

## A Newsletter of the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection Commission on Fire Prevention & Control

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## 2012 Introduction To The Fire Service Graduation



On Sunday, July 22, 2012, the Connecticut Fire Academy held a graduation ceremony for the Introduction to the Fire Service Summer Cadet Camp.

Thirty (30) Cadets from 21 Fire Departments graduated. Alexander S. Primavera of the Scarsdale Fire Department who served as the class Public Information Officer spoke on behalf of the Cadets.

This was thirty-first (31) time that the Connecticut Fire Academy has offered this program to youths who are Juniors/ Explorers members of their local Fire Department.

The delivery was open to youth ages 16-17 and introduces them to the fire service.

A special thanks goes out to Ian Tenney, Program Coordinator and to all instructors for a job well done with the Cadet program.

William Trisler, Director  
of Certification

*“Most of the time, the bad thing that gets you doesn’t come from where you expected it”.*

*By Alan V. Brunacini*

## Spring CPAT Session

The spring CPAT session completed with 753 registered candidates. The passing rate this year was excellent: 64% of females taking the test passed and an incredible 97% for the males.

This demonstrates the drive and determination of the testing candidates. The fall session began in August with about 500 registered candidates.

*(Continued on page 6)*



## New Gator Utility Vehicle

The new Gator Utility Vehicle will be located in the base of the Class B burn Building. It will be a great asset for serving the logistical needs of our quality training programs.

The equipment will be shared between the

CT Fire Academy and Hartford County so please plan accordingly. Oh yes, its cool looking and fun to drive too!!!

Rob Myjak  
Operations and Logistics



## Gator Utility Vehicle XUV 855 Daily Operating Checklist

Purpose: Yard vehicle to transport SCBA and related firefighting tools and equipment between the fire station and Class A Burn Building. GVWR is 3100

pounds. Weight capacity in cargo dump is 990 pounds/driver only, 790 pounds/driver and passenger. Towing capacity is 1500 pounds. **DO NOT OVERLOAD.**

Yard vehicle is a two passenger vehicle. Both driver and passenger will use seat belts provided.

*(Continued on page 3)*

## Gator Utility Vehicle XUV 855D Daily Operating Checklist

(Continued from page 2)

- I. Test safety systems
  - a. Push down on brake pedal and pull up on park brake. To release park brake press center button and release lever down completely. Park brake alarm will sound if park brake is engaged and you try to move forward or reverse.
  - b. Sit on operator seat
  - c. Lock park brake
  - d. Move shift lever to high range position.
  - e. Turn key to START position. Engine should not start. Move key to stop position.
  - f. Move shift lever to reverse position.
  - g. Turn key to START position. Engine should not start. Move key to stop position.
2. Check tire pressure. Pressure = 14 psi
3. Check Fuel Level. Top off Diesel when at or below 1 quarter level.
4. Check engine oil. Add 10W-30 when at fill line on dip stick.
5. Remove debris from engine compartment, muffler area and front grill area.
6. Check below vehicle for leaks. If any, determine source and fill out yellow tag notification.
7. Check brakes for proper operation.
8. Check coolant level.
9. Check brake fluid.
10. Check air restriction indicator.
11. Check for loose hardware.
12. Check seat belt function. Use it whenever operating or riding in vehicle.

**Any anomalies must be reported to be remedied via the yellow tag notification system.**

Adam Piskura, Director of Training

*“Most events cause some people to be happy and some folks to be sad—very few events cause everyone to be all anything”.*  
 By Alan V. Brunacini

## Fast Food Restaurant Fires

The Seminar titled “Fast Food Restaurant Fires” was held on Friday, August 24, 2012. The seminar was presented by Captain Joseph R. Polenzani.

The class analyzes the dangers of the lightweight/high-speed/low-cost construction techniques used by today's chain restaurants and discusses tactics for safely mitigating fires in the restau-

rant environment.

By combining case histories and the instructor's first-hand experience, participants learned effective tactics for fire suppression and RIT operations. Restaurant-specific considerations for size-up, the use of thermal imaging cameras (TICs), fire load and required fire flow, offensive/defensive decisions, forcible entry and exit, plus

special hazards unique to restaurants will be discussed.

### **Instructor Biography**

Captain Joseph R. Polenzani has over twenty years of experience in the fire



(Continued on page 5) **Captain Joseph R. Polenzani**

*“You’re only as good as your last mistake”.*

*By Alan V. Brunacini*

## The Most Important Training Prop

Several things have collided intellectually for me over the past few months, bringing into focus an important point, not only for me as a trainer supremely interested in delivering exciting and technically persuasive training, but for me as a person concerned intimately with the concept of personal safety and the need to avoid at all costs the unnecessary creation of long term disabilities. As a trainer, the point came up while designing a course based on cheap props that lend themselves to good chemistry and great training. As a safety person, I was asked to think about why responders, especially volunteer firefighters, were still getting hurt by the same things that were hurting them twenty five years ago, even though as a nation we have developed great PPE (personal protective equipment) and awesome training courses. So, when driving tens of thousands of miles on back roads going to places like Montour Falls, New York, Orlando, Florida,

and Fort Collins, Colorado for talks, courses and meetings,

I pondered these two problems: good cheap props and responder/volunteer safety at incidents.

Here’s what I came up with. These two problems are not only intimately related, but they are the same problem. Strange, eh? Here’s how I came to that stunning conclusion. While I was compiling the list and the box full of cheap training props, which range from a piece of nylon rug and compact fluorescent bulbs, to butane cigarette lighters and packets of sweeteners from coffee houses, I realized that the most important prop, and thus the most important issue in hazmat training, is the human responder! Duh! Some thousands of miles down the road, I realized that is the exact same reason responders are still getting hurt at incidents unnecessarily, for we as trainers or concentrating on the wrong things. Instead of emphasizing federal mandates, chemical hazards,

new regulations and novel training techniques, we should be keying in on the missing key ingredient, a first responder who truly understands what’s at stake. We should be targeting training to guarantee participants fully know their human bodies, honor and respect a body’s needs, and are willing to regularly and thoughtfully take the proper steps to protect oneself. From what, you say, from everything from burning nylon rugs giving off hydrogen cyanide, to microscopic and sometimes molecular sized particles that can cause lung disease or dust explosions, to blood borne pathogens, crazed meth-heads, and oncoming traffic.

The missing prop and the key ingredient in training are the same thing, a responder who knows, honors, and carefully protects oneself, manages the risks, and only then personally interacts with an incident that is always hazardous to one’s health.

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## Leading Indicators: Here We Go Again...

Over the years, a number of studies have shown the key to building and keeping an organization strong and successful is a combination of both hard factors (organizational design and rigorous processes) and “soft” factors (high employee engagement and a collaborative environment). A new study was recently published by the global management consulting firm, Boston Consulting Group (BCG) in partnership with 12 worldwide management organizations.

So that’s new?

This latest study revealed a correlation between the two aspects such that the organizational design and processes were more effective (leveraged) when supported by effective leadership behaviors.

The bottom line of the study says:

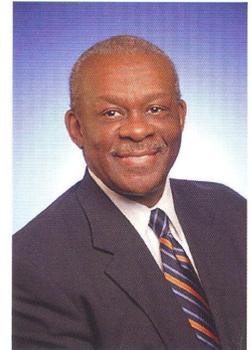
1. Significant gains in performance come from bringing leadership behavior to the forefront;

2. Aligning and improving people practices, and
3. Assuring that business strategy and structure are in alignment.

How does this compare with your priority and actions of your company, department, or platoon?

For a look at the full article, go to:  
<http://tinyurl.com/c4111gz>

By David K. Fortt  
 New Image Associates



David K. Fortt  
 New Image  
 Associates

## Fast Food Restaurant Fires

*(Continued from page 3)*  
 service and is a Captain with the Franklin (TN) Fire Department. He is chairman of Franklin’s training committee and a recruit school instructor.

Captain Polenzani has a bachelor’s degree in fire administration and has taught numerous classes in technical rescue, forcible entry, and fireground operations.

He is an FDIC instructor and has written articles for Fire Engineering magazine on manufactured homes and factory built housing.

*“Watch out for the guys who were born sound asleep (with their eyes closed) and seem to stay that way”.*  
 By Alan V. Brunacini

## Information Regarding PT Timesheets

All timesheets should be submitted promptly. Submission of timesheets that are more than two (2) pay periods behind create logistical nightmares for the payroll staff in Midletown; They have asked that we remind all staff to get their timesheets in promptly.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Mary Grennan  
 DESPP/ Comm. on Fire  
 Protection & Control





## Combined Fire Officer I and II



*“Don’t do work  
you’re not  
comfortable with.*

*By Alan V.  
Brunacini*

The Connecticut Fire Academy offered a pilot delivery of a combined Fire Officer I and II class.

This program meets or exceeds the NFPA 1021-2009 and will offer State and National Certification Testing upon completion.

The program was free to those students who met the requirements and were selected. Funding was provided by the FEMA / NFA State Fire Training Grant.

The class is held on Mondays and Thursdays

of each week, beginning Monday August 6<sup>th</sup> and continuing until October 11<sup>th</sup> with Labor Day off. Classes are held at the Connecticut Fire Academy, Windsor Locks.

Eric Munsell  
Program Manager

## Spring CPAT Session

*(Continued from page 2)*

Congratulations to the candidates and a thank you to all the proctors who put every effort into helping them.

Jacklyn Kilby-Richards  
CPAT Coordinator



## 2012 Advanced Introduction To The Fire Service Graduation



On Sunday, August 19, 2012, the Connecticut Fire Academy held a graduation ceremony for the “Advanced Introduction to the Fire Service Summer Cadet Camp”. Twenty-nine (29) Cadets from twenty-two (22) Fire Departments graduated. Matthew Struble of the North Farms Fire Department, who served as the class Public Information Officer, spoke on behalf of the Cadets.

This program was for graduates of Introduction to the Fire Service who were between the ages of 16-17.

This exciting program continue to prepare youths for a career in firefighting. Topics included leadership, instructional methodology, radio communications, incident rehabilitation, vehicle extrication, technical rescue and advanced engine company operations.

A special thanks goes out to Ian Tenney, Program

Coordinator and to all instructors for a job well done with the Cadet program.

William Trisler  
Director of Certification

*“Don’t ever completely discount the tactical option of running (when stuff like walls are falling)”.*  
By Alan V. Brunacini

**DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY SERVICES AND PUBLIC PROTECTION  
COMMISSION ON FIRE PREVENTION & CONTROL**

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**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.