

# The Instructor's Dispatch

## Commission on Fire Prevention & Control

### Recruit Firefighter Class # 41 Graduation



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On May 22, 2008 the Recruit Class # 41 graduated, at the Theater of the Performing Arts, in Hartford. The class consisted of 49 firefighters representing 17 Connecticut fire departments.

The Connecticut Firefighters Pipe and Drum Band, accompanied by the Connecticut State-wide Firefighter Honor Guard ushered the recruits into the Theater.

Fire Chief Kenneth Scandariato of the Norwich Fire Department delivered the keynote remarks to the class, while Platoon Leader Chris Persichilli of the Stratford Fire Department acted as the class spokesman.

**Members of Class # 41 Danbury F.D.**

- Dickon J. Brown
- Michael J. Finn
- Gregory W. Korotash
- Allen P. Lewis
- Paul G. Perrotti
- Jordan C. Sherman

**Greenwich F.D.**

- Dustin A. Holt
- Manchester F.D.**
- Cory M. Boisvert
- Phillippe J. Brochu
- Matthew E. LeRoux

**Middletown F.D.**

- Joel E. Gillooly
- Craig R. Vincelette
- Milford F.D.**
- James A. DeVico
- Jeffrey F. Hilliard
- Matthew S. LaVecchia
- Philip J. Stratton

**Newington F.D.**

- Sean M. Piscopiello
- New Britain F.D.**
- John S. Aniolowski
- Christopher G. Choinski
- Timothy R. Cyr
- Conrad Czarnota
- Damion V. Della Ventura

**Paul J. DeMaio**

- Brian L. Doiron
- Patrick J. Duplessis
- Richardson Masson

**Norwalk F.D.**

- David J. Dustin
- Jason J. MacNevin

**Norwich F.D.**

- Nicholas J. Mathieu
- Kyle B. Seitz
- Ryan J. Southworth
- Andrew L. Thomasson

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*“Playing catch up on the fireground causes lots of problems and pain”.*

*By Alan V. Brunacini*



## Great Response is Non-Sense!

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Much development in life for over five hundred million years has been tied to the extension of bodily senses, from E. coli to Einstein. As humans, we live in a sensual world and have developed languages that reflect our sense-based lives. Missouri is the “Show Me” state. We say like “Seeing is believing.” “That smells bad.” “Did you hear that?” “This tastes funny.” “Feel that cold wind.” Comparative analyses of the senses through paleontology and biology give us insight into the wide variety of naturally occurring sense organs and systems. Nothing is more natural than the senses. Nothing feels better.

For many thousands of years, mankind has striven to protect our sensitive bodies, please our senses and to further extend these same senses through science and technology. Microscopes, telescopes, and eyeglasses; microphones and hearing aids; aromatherapy, bath oils, and exotic spices; tweezers and pliers; as well as such sense-protecting items clothing, houses, and city walls, extending out the body’s natural protective layer, our largest organ, the skin. These late-coming, human-type inventions are held closely by humans, none is far removed from the senses

from which they grew.

The twentieth century, however, pushed us past the senses. Most of the great breakthroughs are mysterious to the uninitiated. They are counterintuitive and beyond belief—unbelievable! Special and general relativity, quantum chemistry and physics, molecular biology and DNA, the neuro-endocrine-immuno complex, radioactivity, computer science and a gazillion synapses generating electro-digital memories—all of these are beyond the comprehension of we normal women and men on the street. These fields have allowed us to develop such things we are all somehow familiar with: moon landings, lasers, SSRIs, computer modeling, cell phones, and even brain surgery to alleviate the symptoms of Parkinson’s Disease. Fortunately, a fair amount of this magical whiz-bang modern technology has made it down to all of us, who among you has not used a computer, PowerPoint®, a laser pointer, GPS, or a cell phone? How many responders have a PID, a handheld GCMS and hands-free communication devices? Our bells and whistles, yet for all of that, we are still sense-based humans. We are just folks who spend the entire day seeing, hearing, feeling,

smelling and tasting. Often when push comes to shove, we rely on our senses because all of those gadgets are somehow magical and mysterious, with theories that are out of sight and out of mind. Our senses, in our final analysis, are real! We have gut feelings—and we go with them.

But to paraphrase the country western song, I must ask: “I know what you’re feeling, but what are you thinking?” Hazardous materials are often insensible, chemistry somehow nonsensical. Eyes can’t see well (or much at all for particles under 100 or so microns) and some of the most interactive waves are below (infrared) or above (ultraviolet light, X-ray and gamma rays) visible light; fingers can’t feel small things well, or very big things for that matter (remember the elephant story); noses can’t smell or after a while quit smelling many toxic gases and vapors; sound travels slowly in air (we all wait for the thunder), the shorter waves bounce around (like cricket sounds), while long, deep sounds overwhelm (low organ notes in church); and tastes buds can differentiate sweet (sugars), sour (acids), bitter (alkalis) and salty (salts), but some toxins are tasteless.

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## Great Response is Non-Sense!

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Senses are fallible and deceive. No matter how we feel, we must admit that our senses are not very good guides to many critical, life or death responses. So we must always, every time, use our high-tech tools: our digital detectors and analyzers, our PPE, our computers and our brains “Heads on” before “hands on.” For in some ways,

great response is non-sense and non-sense is good! Just ask any pilot flying on instruments!



## Recruit Class # 40 and # 41 Challenge Coins

### *How do you get yours?*

As indicated in the Director of Training’s closing, challenge coins have been issued to the graduating recruits, Commissioners, Fire Department Chiefs/Training Officers and Adjunct Instructors that have instructed programs. I have tried to seek out each instructor

involved with both classes and have issued quite a few coins, but still have more to issue.

If you have participated in either Recruit Class # 40 or Recruit Class # 41 and have not received your challenge coins, please contact me by email at: [mark.lewandowski@po.state.ct.us](mailto:mark.lewandowski@po.state.ct.us) or you can reach me at

877-528-3473 extension 240 or just stop by next time your at the Academy.

Mark D. Lewandowski  
Deputy Director of Training

## Recruit Firefighter Graduation Class # 41

*Continued from page 1*

### Poquonnock Bridge F.D.

Timothy P. Devine  
Keith W. Gomes

### Ridgefield F.D.

Nicholas M. DeAngelo  
Ryan E. Eckhoff

### Stamford F.D.

Christopher P. Brennan  
James P. Doherty

Dominick P. Errico

Paul M. Esposito

### Stratford F.D.

Timothy B. Gravius  
Frederick M. Maler  
Chris Persichilli

### UConn F.D.

Lawrence A. Bowden  
Elizabeth M. Holmes

### Voluntown F.D.

Andrew J. Ivanick

### West Shore F.D.

Christopher M. Haley  
Collin J. McBurney

### Willimantic F.D.

Kyle E. Chapin  
Paul G. DeGemmis



*Recruit Class # 41 Challenge Coin*



*Recruit Class # 40 Challenge Coin*

*“Remember courage is only fear that has said its prayers.”*

*By Alan V. Brunacini*



## Recognizing Members of Our Staff

### Letter From Lt. Pisani West Haven Fire Department

Lt. Pisani of the West Haven Fire Department wrote recognizing Peter Morotto, Ron Rolfe, Chris Zak, and Michael Donovan who taught in a recent R.I.T. Class for that department. He wrote "The knowledge on R.I.T. was incredible. They all had a great attitude and pride for the job. Their enthusiasm was contagious to everyone in the class.

Thank you and congratulation to all on a job well done!

### Letter from Carl Catalonatto, President of the Connecticut Fire Police Association

Carl Catalonatto, President of the Connecticut Fire Police Association (CFPA) wrote on behalf of that organization thanking Adam Piskura for participating and speaking at their Joint CT/NY Meeting in March. He wrote "the information in your talk was invaluable! Your time and assistance to CFPA is much appreciated."

### Letter from Levitan Ellington VFD Explorer Post 43 President

Blaize Levitan, Ellington VFD Explorer Post 43 President wrote thanking Program Manager Bill Trisler for the tour and overview of the Academy for their members. "All the Explorers had a great time and enjoyed having a chance to see what certified fire training is like." The Academy takes pride in reaching out to the next generation of Connecticut firefighters!

Jeffrey J. Morrissette,  
State Fire Administrator

*"Keep it simple... the fewer parts of the plan, the fewer things can get screwed up".*

*By Alan V. Brunacini*



Jeffrey Hilliard  
Milford Fire Department

## The Michael C. Reilly Memorial Hard Charger Award

In honor of Michael C. Reilly fellow members of his Connecticut Fire Academy Recruit Firefighter Class, along with members of the Stratford Fire Department, wanted to establish an Award to recognize future Recruit Firefighters that exhibited the same outstanding traits as their

friend and classmate.

The effort was spearheaded by Stratford Firefighter Mike Tiberio and on December 18, 2006, the first Michael C. Reilly Memorial Hard Charger Award was presented to a member of Recruit Firefighter Class # 37.

The Recipient of the Michael C. Reilly Memorial Hard Charger Award was presented to Jeffrey Hilliard of the Milford Fire Dept. member of Recruit Firefighter Class # 41 on May 22, 2008.

## Rescue Technician Program

At the April 29 meeting of the Commissioners, the issue regarding the maximum two-year timeframe for competency qualification on Rescue Technician programming was brought

before the Commissioners. After some discussion, the Commission voted to rescind the timeframe mandate as part of the procedure for certification.

The decision was immediately instituted.

Thanks!

Tom McGowan  
Director of Certification

## From the Office of Governor M. Jodie Reil



M. JODI REIL  
GOVERNOR

May 23, 2008

STATE OF CONNECTICUT  
EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS

To All Commissioners and Agency Heads:

On April 29, I directed the Department of Administrative Services to work with all state agency commissioners and transportation administrators to review vehicle needs, usage and reimbursement policies when it comes to our state fleet. At a time when we are facing record-high gas prices, the hardworking taxpayers of this state deserve nothing less from state government.

Today, another serious concern has come to my attention that some state employees driving state-owned vehicles are not abiding by our motor vehicle laws, particularly when it comes to speeding on our roadways.

My message last month was crystal clear: We must set a goal of reducing total agency mileage and accompanying gasoline consumption by 10 percent by June 30, 2008. In addition, I set a goal to reduce mileage and consumption by 25 percent by June 30, 2009.

This conservation measure has drawn a great deal of public attention to state vehicles and their use. As a result, Fleet Operations has been receiving an unusually large number of citizen complaints relating to the speed at which state vehicles are being driven on state roads and highways, seatbelt violations and reports of employees using cell phones while driving state vehicles.

I am reminding you of your responsibility for enforcing General Letter 115, which governs the use of state-owned and rental vehicles. We are all responsible for obeying motor vehicle laws and regulations. Please review General Letter 115 with your employees to ensure that drivers are compliant with this policy and all motor vehicle laws and regulations.

Let me be clear: State employees who are repeatedly breaking our motor vehicle laws will be banned from using state-owned vehicles. Not only are they showing a blatant disregard for state laws, they are making it very difficult for us to achieve our conservation goals.

We can all do our part to reduce fuel consumption. One of the simplest ways of accomplishing this goal is to obey the speed limit, drive courteously and maintain a standard of safe and professional use of state vehicles.

We are doing our best to make agencies aware of these complaints as they come in and where we have sufficient information to identify the vehicles at issue. I want to thank you for your immediate attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

M. Jodie Reil  
Governor

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[www.ct.gov](http://www.ct.gov)



*"Lessons we learn in the street are always serious".*

*By Alan V. Brunacini*



## Office of the Director of Training

The newly established tradition of the Director of Training awarding challenge coins to recruit class graduates continued with Recruit Class # 41. With each class, the reverse (tails) design will change while the Connecticut Fire Academy logo will reappear with each issue. These collectables are also given to Commission on Fire Prevention and Control staff and each instructor participating in the minted class. For those folks, it is a symbol of our appreciation for assisting the group to realize their dream of becoming a career firefighter.



*Recruit Class # 41 Challenge Coin*

Connected to the recruit program is the venue we currently use for graduation (the Theater for the Performing Arts in the Hartford Learning Corridor). While we have only had use of this location for two classes, it has been received very well by families, chief officers, elected and appointed officials. So it is with mild dismay that I share with you that we are again on the hunt for another graduation site.

Evidently, the Hartford School District is assuming control over the entire location from Capitol Region Education Council (CREC). That transfer negates our future use of the theater. However, CREC has promised to assist us with alternatives.

Continuing with our theme that everything's connected to everything else: CREC has an initiative to create a **Public Safety Magnet School** called the Greater Hartford Public Safety Academy (GHPSA) encompassing police, fire, EMS and emergency management. This project went from a plan to fruition rapidly with the second settlement/reinterpretation of the Sheff case in Hartford.

For over a year, representatives from law enforcement (including Connecticut State Police) the fire service (fire chiefs and Commission on Fire Prevention and Control) and Emergency Medical Services (including paramedics and Hospitals), have been meeting to discuss the scope and application of the curriculum for the 6<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> graders. The determination of subjects covered has driven the physical design of the school estimated to cost about 30 million dollars.

For example, CPAT will be incorporated into the structure to allow fire service students the opportunity to practice CPAT

prior to actually attaining the age to participate in an actual test. This benefit is directly related to the mission of the GHPSA to prepare children to become part of the public safety workforce of the future.

This project has accelerated to include a summer school class this year! An incubator space has been located in Enfield, CT to start the first three grades this September in a converted elementary school. It has space for a drill ground an adequate number of classrooms until the new school is constructed. The new structure's location has not been determined and will not necessarily be located in Enfield; but under consideration is any one of the 22 CREC communities.

GHPSA students will wear uniforms and be expected to match the expectations and behavior of the respective discipline they have chosen to pursue. During discussions it was noted by the Hartford PD Chief that many students are excluded from a career in law enforcement, due to poor choices made during adolescence. The Connecticut State Police pointed out that a poor credit rating will destroy an applicant's ability to proceed. By getting to the children early, it is hoped that such information may contribute to their individual success to achieve a career in public safety.

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*"Keep working on the basics—most of us are not advanced enough to make advanced mistakes".*

*By Alan V. Brunacini*



## Office of the Director of Training

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Joe Townsley, Ed.D. is the Coordinator of Magnet School Development for CREC. He may be contacted at 860-509-3633 or [jtownley@crec.org](mailto:jtownley@crec.org) for additional information.

If their goal sounds similar to efforts within our own adult Recruit program they are. Many spouses have voiced (written) appreciation to our leads and adjuncts for their contributions to making their husband a new man. For example they pick up after themselves or now make the bed. Consideration is contagious, and as Connecticut's own Martha Stewart would say, "That's a good thing."

The Recruit program will be changing to accommodate the new 2008 NFPA 1001 Standard. The Recruit program leads and Connecticut Fire Academy staff recently (May 27<sup>th</sup>) met with the Career Fire Chief's training subcommittee. Many items were discussed from rappelling to ladder instruction, evaluation methods and professional courtesies. There is a very real possibility that the Recruit program may expand again to incorporate the requirements of Rescue Technician core and its testing.

While we need to act quickly to prepare for the September 8th start of Recruit Class # 42, the career fire chiefs will need several meetings to determine whether they will sup-

port any expansion. Meanwhile the leads and CFA staff will be addressing the changes in Haz Mat requirements as well as choosing a current edition text and curricula.

The burn building has had extensive maintenance performed upon it. Chris Johnston has diligently prepared it for the June Fire School. He is also preparing for a complete inspection and rehab of the water system tank and supply system. All of our classrooms now have video projectors, ceiling mounted speakers and a wall mounted control system (Pole Vault) for connecting and control. Any laptop with any software may be connected into the system and projected upon new screens sized to maximize the image.



Adjunct instructor, Pano Koukopoulos has a safety article published in the May 2008 edition of [Fire Chief Magazine](#).

The online link to it is:

▶  [Safe Practice: Training Basics, Drill Should Be Realistic | Fire Chief | May 2008\\*](#).

He speaks intelligently with the voice of someone who

is a real time practitioner. Congratulations to Pano for making us all look good. His article reflects well upon us all.

For those of you that are out there every day making us look good with small wins, thank you. You certainly don't have to be published to make a life long impact upon a student or customer.

Best Personal Regards,

Adam D. Piskura, Director  
Connecticut Fire Academy

*New Classroom Pole Vault System*



*"What you see is news,  
what you know is  
background, what you feel is  
opinion."  
- Lester Markel, American  
editor (1894-1977)*



State of Connecticut

**Commission on Fire Prevention & Control**

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WE'RE ON THE WEB!  
AT  
[WWW.CT.GOV/CFPC](http://WWW.CT.GOV/CFPC)



**Agency Mission**

To prevent or mitigate the effects of fire and disasters, either natural or manmade, on the citizens of the State of Connecticut. This objective shall be 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.