



# Instructor's Dispatch

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## Recruit Firefighter Graduation Class # 43



On May 13, 2009, The Connecticut Fire Academy graduated it's 43rd Recruit Class, at the Rentschler Field East Hartford. The class consisted of 32 firefighters representing 15 Connecticut Fire Departments.

The class was escorted into the ceremony by the Connecticut Firefighter Pipe and Drum Band accompanied by the Connecticut Statewide Firefighters Honor Guard. Fire Chief Peter Sicienski of the Greenwich Fire Department delivered the keynote remarks to the class, while Timothy Kahre of the Branford Fire Department acted as the class spokesman.

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*“Good leadership  
requires you to  
surround yourself  
with people of  
diverse perspectives  
who can disagree  
with you without  
fear of retaliation”.*

*Doris Kearns  
Goodwin*



## Ten\* Carbon, Hydrogen and Oxygen Facts That will Help Responders

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Industrial chemists and organic chemists might tell you hundreds or even thousands of interesting and important things about hydrogen, carbon, oxygen, hydrocarbons, carbohydrates, oxides, organic compounds, etc. However, as a first responder your brain might explode, your memory might give up, and your eyes might glaze over. Yet a mere ten things, given the Pareto Principle, should be quite handy in eighty percent of hazmat responses. And besides, who could come up with a good excuse not to look at just ten things. So here goes!

1. Carbon loves to combine with oxygen and form carbon dioxide,  $\text{CO}_2$  (and sometimes carbon monoxide,  $\text{CO}$ ), and when it does it releases energy and expands, needing more room as a gas. Example, coal dust explosions.
2. When carbon is in a hydrocarbon molecule, the oxidation is multiplied, lots of energy is released, and more gases ( $\text{CO}_2$  along with  $\text{H}_2\text{O}$  vapor) are made. Example: Internal combustion engines.
3. When carbon is in a carbohydrate molecule, more oxidation can take place, also giving off  $\text{CO}_2$  along with  $\text{H}_2\text{O}$ . Examples: Elevator, sugar and flour mill explosions, barn fires and human metabolizing.
4. Hydrogen too can be oxidized, giving off  $\text{H}_2\text{O}$  vapor, and releasing energy in the process. Example: The Hindenburg explosion, not to mention modern fuel cells.
5. Hydrogen loves to combine and form gas and liquid molecules. Example:  $\text{H}_2\text{O}$ ,  $\text{NH}_3$ ,  $\text{HF}$ ,  $\text{HCl}$ ,  $\text{HBr}$ , and  $\text{HI}$ .
6. Oxygen loves to combine, period! Examples: Dust explosives (aluminum, magnesium, coal, flour, sugar, etc.), flammable liquids, flammable gases, rust, etc.
7. Oxygen-hydrogen functional units, as alcohol or hydroxyl ions, are everywhere. Examples, alcohols and hydroxides.
8. Hydrocarbons (HCs), and alcohols (-OHs) make good solvents and energy sources and can be found everywhere you might respond to. Examples: garages, RVs, barns, hardware stores, delivery trucks, tankers, eighteen wheelers, truck stops, filling stations, car wrecks, home improvement centers, and Wally worlds.

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## Ten\* Carbon, Hydrogen and Oxygen Facts That will Help Responders

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9. Meth labs are great places to find lots of the above. Examples: HCl gas is used to make methamphetamine hydrochloride; HI gas sometimes is accidentally made when Iodine is used in the Red P/Iodine method; volatile hydrocarbons are used as solvents and sometimes vaporized; ammonia is present when using the ammonia/lithium method; alcohols are often used as solvents; sodium hydroxide is used as a base; and don't forget the carbon-based, oxygen-using, CO<sub>2</sub> and H<sub>2</sub>O producing organisms.
10. One carbon-hydrogen-oxygen molecule, with the alternative names hydroxyethane or ethyl hydrate, CAS No. 64-17-5, with the molecular formula is C<sub>2</sub>H<sub>5</sub>OH and the empirical formula C<sub>2</sub>H<sub>6</sub>O, is responsible for numerous if not the majority of deaths in transportation, industrial and domestic incidents. It has been involved in countless career busting incidents. It has killed innumerable individuals, families and responders. It is as toxic as it is flammable, addictive as it is ubiquitous. It has been tied to prefrontal cortex, limbic system and brain stem dysfunction and has been known to affect responders' judgment. Incidents involving this product should be strictly monitored.\*\*

\*For more fun things based on simple hydrocarbons, start with methane and work your way up, trying: form-ic acid (from *formica*, ant, thus ant-acid?), form-ate, form-aldehyde, and chloro-form; acet-ic acid (from *acetum*, vinegar, yielding even the anatomists' acetabulum, the vinegar-cup looking hip socket), acet-ate, and acet-one; and acryl-ic acid, acryl-ate and my personal sticky favorite, cyano-acryl-ate. Or, jump to butane and pentane to sniff out putrescine and cadaverine. Or, snake around with Kekulé to benzene, phenol, toluene, and even TNT!

\*\*Also known as ethanol, the "active ingredient," one might say, in beer, whiskey, wine, and in my case, far too many brandy manhattans.



**"Combining strategic modes (offensive/defensive) in the same place is like ordering artillery on yourself"**  
By Alan V. Brunacini



*“In most fire fighting situations, the first five minutes are worth the next five hours”.*

*By Alan v. Brunacini*



**David R. Albert**  
Middletown, FD

## 2009 June School

June School is scheduled to run from June 1-6, 2009. Exciting new programs scheduled for the 2009 June Fire School include Ladder Company Priorities, delivered by F.F. Paul J DeBartolomeo F.D.N.Y. Ladder 28; a full day class on Building Construction and the Fire Service, and the next Seminar Series Firefighter Cancer Support Network, presented by Mike Dubron a California firefighter, cancer survivor and President of FCSN.



Our most popular presentations from past years return, such as Forcible Entry presented by FDNY Rescue 1 Captain Rex Morris covering many forcible entry situations. Due to high demand Flashover Safety and Survival presented by CFA Instructors is offered twice this year.

Some new companion classes are offered this year to classes that have been offered in previous June Fire Schools. These include Advanced Elevator Emergencies which students, who take, or have taken Handling Elevator Emergencies can now apply for. Engine Company Operations Advancing the Initial Handline can be taken as a stand alone class or companioned with Engine Company Operations Alternative Hoseline Stretches or Engine Company Operations Emergency Action Drills and finish up the week with Standpipe Operations.

### The Michael C. Reilly Memorial Hard Charger Award

In honor of Michael C. Reilly fellow members of his Connecticut Fire Academy Recruit Firefighter Class # 26, 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 sixth Michael C. Reilly Memorial Hard Charger Award was presented to David R. Albert, Middletown Fire Department of Recruit Firefighter Class # 43.

# Recruit Firefighter Graduation Class # 43

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**Members of Class # 43**

**Branford F.D.**

Timothy F. Kahre

**Greenwich F.D.**

Daniel W. Byrne

Steven G. Heaney

John E. Polmon

Michael A. Ullrich

**Hamden F.D.**

Nicholas Barnych

**Middletown F.D.**

David R. Albert

Paul A. Brann

Daniel F. Canevari

James A. Ehman

Patrick D. Ehman

**Milford F.D.**

Jason Bocchetta

Paul E. Buda

Zachary O. Daniel

**Norwalk F.D.**

Mark Melnychuk

Roger Roth

**Plainfield F.D.**

Kori B. Kelly

**Poquonnock F.D.**

Jeffery L. Erhart

**Ridgefield F.D.**

David B. Lachelier

**South Fire District F.D.**

Keith M. St. Germain

Michael B. Reiss

**Southington F.D.**

Edwin J. Crandall

**Torrington F.D.**

Randall M. Patterson

**University Health**

**Center**

Joshua R. Levin

Anthony D. Ruggiero

**West Haven F.D.**

Michael P. Alfano

Andrew L. Bennett

Brian A. Elliott

Robert A. Petrie

Joshua J. Schroder

**Willimantic F.D.**

Fernando A. Feliz

Ronald L. Miles, Jr.

**“Life isn’t  
made up of  
only good  
stops (life is  
not perfect).”  
By Alan v.  
Brunacini**

## Firefighter Cancer Support Network

**Presented by Firefighter Mike Dubron**

Due to very low enrollment and the planning process of bringing a speaker in from California the Firefighter Cancer Support Network Seminar Series scheduled for Friday June 5, 2009 has been cancelled. The presenter was scheduled to be firefighter Mike Dubron..

**Firefighters and Cancer:** All too often we hear of firefighters being diagnosed with cancer, almost all of us have been affected by this disease. Your fire department has trained and prepared for many different scenarios, but have you ever thought of being prepared in the event of a cancer diagnosis? Reducing unnecessary exposures that can lead to cancer; and promoting the importance of annual wellness exams, which include specific evaluations, that might identify cancer while it’s still very treatable and curable are important issues. Mike Dubron, President and Founder of the Firefighter Cancer Support Network (FCSN and cancer survivor, will share the insights of his diagnosis and the genesis of the FCSN and cancer related topics. The FCSN has proudly received the endorsements and support of many fire service organizations including the IAFC and IAFF. The FCSN welcomes you to this interactive session as we work on promoting these important issues. “Together We Can Make A Difference”. Firefighter Paramedic Mike Dubron

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*“Basic fire  
frequency axiom:  
the farther you are  
from the last fire,  
the closer you are  
to the next one”.*

*By Alan V.  
Brunacini*

## Firefighter Cancer Support Network

Presented by Firefighter Mike Dubron

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has enjoyed an eighteen year career with Los Angeles County Fire Department. Many of his assignments have been more than fulfilling as a career firefighter, including his present assignment at Air Operations as a Firefighter Paramedic; Crew Chief assigned to one the departments rescue helicopters. He is married and has two children. Mike has prepared himself and his family for many things, both personally and professionally; however the news he received on February 06, 2003 at the age of 39, came as a complete shock, and was met with disbelief. Mike was diagnosed with cancer. Upon Mike’s return to work after a nine month absence he has established a program where firefighters and their families can get immediate assistance in dealing with a diagnosis of cancer.

The Firefighter Cancer Support Network (“FCSN”) is comprised of firefighters and their families who are cancer survivors, care givers and volunteers providing comfort strength and hope to those diagnosed with cancer, provide cancer awareness and education. Mike continues his work as a firefighter, and proudly displays the title; Founder and President of the Firefighter Cancer Support Network as well as cancer survivor.

## Holy Smoke It’s Gas

Presenter John Sachen

**Holy Smoke - It’s A Gas** defines and illustrates the common properties of all gasses through animated slides, videos and classroom table top demonstrations. In addition, the special properties of selected gasses, such as carbon dioxide which sublimates (changes directly from a solid to a gas without going through a liquid phase) are addressed. This course presents very clearly detailed and easily retained explanations of the differences between liquids and gasses and



## Holy Smoke It's Gas

**Presenter John Sachen**

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why a simple definition change could make ethyl ether a gas or butane a liquid. Further, the conversion of typical gasses such as propane, chlorine, ammonia and nitrogen to a liquid and back to a gas is demonstrated with a system virtually every firefighter uses each year - the automobile air conditioning system!

The 2009 HazMat Seminar Series: *Holy Smoke It's gas* will be held June 17, 2009 at the Connecticut Fire Academy. The presenter is John Sachen Senior Fire Instructor, University of Missouri Fire Rescue Training. John is an Industrial Training Coordinator for the University of Missouri Fire Rescue Training Institute and a HazMat Officer and Fire Instructor for the Delta, Missouri Fire Protection District. John has developed courses and procedures for the University of Missouri including the "Ignitable Liquids and Class B Foam", "Methamphetamine Awareness and Operations", "Rapid Intervention Teams", and the video training program "Firefighting it's a Risky Business" for Fire Technology Limited.

**"If a building  
burns, don't  
take it  
personally (you  
didn't make  
the world  
combustible)".  
By Alan V.  
Brunacini**

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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.