

Instructor's Dispatch

A Newsletter of the Commission on Fire Prevention & Control

2010 Introduction to the Fire Service Graduation Class # 27



On July 17th, the Connecticut Fire Academy held a graduation ceremony for the Introduction to the Fire Service Summer Cadet Camp. Thirty-four Cadets from 22 Fire Departments graduated. Kaarina Waterhouse of the Windsor Fire Department who served as the class Public Information Officer spoke on behalf of the Cadets. This was the twenty-seventh time that the Connecticut Fire Academy has offered this program to youths who are Juniors/ Explorers or members of their local Fire Department.

The delivery was open to youths ages 14-15 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, Program Manager

Commission on Fire
Prevention & Control



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Residential Home Fires Have Become the Most Dangerous Firefight You will Face

The workshop *Residential Home Fires Have Become the Most Dangerous Firefight You will Face* was held August 20, 2010 covered highlight findings of the research project entitled, "The Structural Stability of Engineered Lumber in Fire Conditions" conducted by the Chicago Fire Department, Underwriters Laboratories, the International Association of Fire Chiefs, and Michigan State University. Participants reviewed video and photographs highlighting the failure times of the tested assemblies, limitations of thermal imaging devices, structural modeling techniques and also were provided with an introduction to the interactive web based outreach program developed for the research project. The workshop discussed fireground size up techniques, risk management strategies and tactical recommendations for firefighting operations in residential buildings constructed with unprotected dimensional lumber or lightweight engineered wood components.

James M. Dalton, Coordinator of Research and Development, Chicago Fire Department

James M. Dalton, FF/EMT is currently the Coordinator of Research and Development and a fire service instructor for the Chicago Fire Department. Mr. Dalton also serves as an adjunct instructor for the City Colleges of Chicago Fire Science and Technology program and is a technical consultant for the Illinois Fire Service Institute specializing in Structural Collapse Operations. Mr. Dalton holds an Associates degree of Applied Science in Fire Science and Technology from the City Colleges of Chicago. He also holds a Baccalaureate and Masters Degree of Architectural Structures from the University of Illinois. Mr. Dalton is also currently a candidate in the Public Safety Administration Masters program with Lewis University.

Pete Van Dorpe, Battalion Chief, Chicago, IL FD

Battalion Chief Peter Van Dorpe is a 28 year veteran of the Chicago Fire Department and currently assigned to the 14th Battalion. He holds a Bachelor's degree in Fire Science Management from Southern Illinois University. He has made presentations on modern fireground challenges at FDIC, Firehouse Expo and the National Fire Academy. In addition to his work as a Field Instructor for the Illinois Fire Service Institute, he is a lead instructor for the Chicago Fire Department's Fire Officer School, and teaches building construction for the fire service through the City Colleges of Chicago. He has recently participated as a Subject Matter Expert for The Department of Homeland Security's Assistant to Firefighters Grant research program entitled "The Structural Stability of Engineered Lumber Under Fire Conditions". Chief Van Dorpe is known for his high energy presentations.



**Battalion Chief
Peter Van Dorpe**



**Coordinator of
Research James M. Dalton**

Proper Driving Conduct

As all of you are aware, our fleet.ct.gov bumper stickers invite the public to report instances of perceived poor driving or inappropriate activity with state-owned vehicles. To this end, the state has received a number of complaints about drivers of state vehicles violating the law. Many complaints involve state employees speeding and/or illegally using hand-held telephones while driving.

This conduct not only violates the law, but reflects poorly on state employees and the important work that we do. This email serves as a reminder that members of the public do call in to report illegal and inappropriate conduct in state vehicles, and that DAS and your agency will investigate all such complaints and will take appropriate action.

Please impress upon your agency drivers that all state employees are to drive safely, abide by General Letter # 115 (<http://www.das.state.ct.us/Fleet/GL11509rev.pdf>) and follow all state laws while driving state vehicles.

Also, please be advised that an updated General Letter #115 will soon be published on the DAS website. Thank-you for your attention in this matter.

Frank Sanzo
Director of Fleet Operations
State of Connecticut
Department of Administrative Services



"It is a lot easier to get lost on the fireground than to get found on the fireground once you're lost (the best way to always be found is simply to never get lost).

By Alan V. Brunacini

Threat, Hazard, Risk, and Common Sense

One of the first things I learned after leaving home and entering into my first specific field of endeavor was that there were real-world words and then there was jargon, argot, and tech-speak. As I have jumped around from medieval history, to environmental protection, to emergency management, to terrorism, to hazardous materials, to geology, to paleontology, to chemistry, to physics and art, I have learned that words change meanings as one travels between specialties.

Real people, people with real jobs who volunteer to be fire fighters or EMS responders, have had to learn one or two new sets of vocabularies in order to perform their response duties responsibly. Usually, however, the new vocabularies differ so much from every day usage that there is no problem with word usage overlap. I have found out that this is not so in the realms of security (and insecurity), hazard, risk, threat and bogeyman analysis.

Threat, my gun-toting federal law enforcement friends often remind me, is reality based. They say "Get real!" Has the person or persons performed these activities previously? Are they known to have the experience, expertise, and equipment to perform these activities? Are they currently in the area or moving toward the area of concern? Treat it as real until data gathering can put it into one of two categories: real threat or hoax. So a bomb threat to a high school principal may not be a bomb threat in reality.

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“The IC must always initiate and move toward correct action. The IC Must also be prepared, capable, and highly inclined to stop incorrect, unsafe action—the IC absolutely must not live with a bad situation.”

By Alan V. Brunacini

Instructor’s Dispatch

Threat, Hazard, Risk, and Common Sense

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Hazard, now that’s a fun one. “Ooh, that’s a high-hazard dam!” “Damn, really?” “Yeah, if it fails it would cause death and destruction on a wide scale!” “Damn, what’s the probability of that happening?” “Near zero.” “Damn! But still it’s high-hazard, huh?” “Yep.”

Risk, now that takes a formula. I was just at a meeting in D.C. where Person A said “risk” and Person B asked “What are the elements in your formula for risk?” Now, folks, that’s not a question about risk the man or woman on the street would ask.

Since we have entered into the era and bailiwick of DHS, where terrorism and bogeymen are part of any analysis and any formula by which we are to receive funding from the federal government, we have left the land of common-sense for the land of “security.” This has left local fire fighters, EMS providers and law enforcement officials both reeling in utter disbelief and laughing at federal grant givers. Ooh, now that’s scary!

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HAZMAT Seminar Series: Rehab the Lab

Presented by: Becky Wehrman



Hazmat Seminar Series: **Rehab the Lab** was presented on September 8, 2010. The presenter was Becky Wehrman.

Becky Wehrman shared information about the Rehab the Lab program that has successfully managed the disposal of more than 250,000 pounds of dangerous chemicals including explosives, radio actives, controlled substances and acute toxins from Iowa schools. Becky gave detail information about the partners that developed the program, the tools that were used to identify chemicals of risk and the options that were implemented for risk minimization. Exciting stories, creative solutions and in-depth knowledge that the students could take back to their community.

Instructor Biography

Becky worked as a research chemist for DuPont and served with the Iowa Department of Natural Resources, creating and managing a network of household hazardous waste collection facilities.

Becky has been recognized by the Iowa Governor’s Office and the EPA for her work with the Rehab the Lab program.

*Presenter Becky Wehrman
Picture by Jim Carroll, Program
Manager*

Elaine Mancino's Retirement Party



Left to right: Mark Lewandowski, Elaine Mancino and Jim Carroll



Left to right: Mark Lewandowski and Elaine Mancino



Left to right: Ed O'Hurley and Elaine Mancino



Left to right: Commissioner Matthew Nelson, Elaine Mancino and Ed O'Hurley



Left to right: Mike Jepeal, Chet Haber and Elaine Mancino



Elaine shows a brick that will be placed in the Fallen Firefighters Memorial Walk

On the evening of July 29, 2010, family, friends and co-workers gathered at the Nutmeg Restaurant in South Windsor to honor Training Division Secretary Elaine M. Mancino upon her retirement from the Connecticut Fire Academy. It was an evening filled with a lot of laughs, a few tears and a boatload of praise and accolades for the guest of honor.

Elaine came from a firefighting family with ties to the CT Fire Academy and Windsor Locks, Fire Department. Her father, Retired Chief Raymond Ouillette, served as a member of the Commission on Fire Prevention and Control and was instrumental in seeing that the construction of the CT Fire Academy came to fruition.

Master of Ceremonies Ed O'Hurley introduced Elaine's family after a moment of silence for our fallen brothers from Bridgeport FD. The evening started with Elaine's daughters, Lisa, Gandy, Terri and Karen presenting her with a "Retirement Kit" that would aide her in planning how she could spend her newly found spare time by helping them out with their kids and errands that needed to be done.

Elaine was presented a flag which was flown over the US Capitol on June 30, 2010 which was her last day of work by Deputy Director of Training Mark D. Lewandowski. Commissioner Matt Nelson presented her a plaque on behalf of the Commission on Fire Prevention and Control. A Certificate of Appreciation was presented to Elaine by Connecticut Fire Department Instructors Association Executive Board Member Mark Salafia. Hartford County Regional Fire School Director Chet Haber and Deputy Director Mike Jepeal thanked her with a plaque for all of the work she did in assisting them with the scheduling of the facility for their fire-fighting programs. Master of Ceremonies Ed O'Hurley also read a few letters from both family and friends that were not able to be present that evening. Presentations were also made from the Certification and Training Divisions with the Certification giving Elaine a brick that will be placed in the Fallen Firefighters Memorial Walk and the Training Division honored

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"An IC who will not disagree with a decision or countermand (and change) an order when necessary, should stay home and watch the fire on TV"

By Alan V. Brunacini



Elaine Mancino's Retirement Party

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her with a "Chiefs" Presentation Gold Leaf Shield. Elaine was also presented the 1st Certification Ceremonial Green Helmet Award that was designed by Certification Coordinator Ed O'Hurley with construction help by a handful of skilled artisan adjuncts. To close out the evening, Elaine took the floor and thanked everyone for the wonderful memories and the unforgettable evening.

It was quite clear that Elaine not only met the daily needs of the Training Divisions staff, the Connecticut Fire Academy and the Commission, she exemplified the brother and sisterhood of the fire service by striving to meet the needs of Connecticut's emergency responders and will be missed by those that had interacted with her.

Hazardous Materials Awareness/Operational/WMD Train-the-Trainer

There is a huge difference between "about to happen" and "just happened." Accurate prediction is the basis of effective pro-action...the really smart folks on the fireground can tell what is going to happen—any dope can tell what has (already) happened.

By Alan V. Brunacini



The HazMat Awareness/Operational/WMD Train-the-Trainer was held for Regions 1-5 during the month of July and August with an in depth review of the NFPA 472-2008 program.

- Awareness Level Personnel: Personnel who, in the course of their normal duties, could encounter an emergency involving hazardous materials/weapons of mass destruction (WMD) and who are expected to recognize the presence of the hazardous materials/weapons of mass destruction (WMD), protect themselves, call for trained personnel, and secure the scene.
- Operations Level Responders: Persons who respond to hazardous materials/weapons of mass destruction (WMD) incidents for the purpose of implementing or supporting actions to protect nearby persons, the environment, or property from the effects of the release.
- Core Competencies NFPA 472-2008 Chapter 5: The knowledge, skills, and judgment needed by operations level responders who respond to releases or potential releases of hazardous materials/weapons of mass destruction (WMD).

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“Remember: Past about one and a half lengths of hose into the hazard area, rapid intervention isn’t rapid...and sometimes it’s impossible to effectively intervene”.

By Alan V. Brunacini

Hazardous Materials Awareness/Operational/WMD Train-the-Trainer

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- Operational “Mission Specific” NFPA 472-2008 Chapter 6: This chapter shall address the following competencies for operations level responders assigned mission-specific responsibilities at Hazardous Materials / WMD incidents by the authority having jurisdiction beyond the core competencies at the operations level (Chapter 5).

The program has been offered to approximately 250 First Responders in the state to include: Fire, Police, EMS, State Fire Marshal’s office, Dept of Public Health, Dept of Environmental Protection and DEMHS.

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

State of Connecticut



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.

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