



Instructor's Dispatch

A Newsletter of the Commission on Fire Prevention & Control

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Changes to Fire Service Instructor

By William Trisler, Program Manager

As of January 1, 2010 and the new CFA calendar, we will change the textbook to Jones and Bartlett *Fire Service Instructor; Principles and Practice*. Changing the textbook allows me to align the curriculum with NFPA 1041. Fire Service Instructor I (FSI-I) candidates will no longer develop lesson plans for 10 minute presentations. They will however be required to make five presentations. The course will be 40 hours in length and Station Evaluator Training will be included.

The following changes will be made to Fire Service Instructor II (FSI-II). A 40 hour FSI-II course will be offered using the new text. The present portfolio assignments will remain with additional reporting and recordkeeping requirements. A FSI-II/III and a Fire Service Instructor III (FSI-III) course will be added to the class offerings. The combined FSI-II/III course will include additional class work for FSI-III during the 40 hours scheduled for FSI-II. The student, upon successful completion of the 40 hour class will be eligible to take the FSI-II Written Certification Exam (WCE) and will have 90 days to complete the course work and portfolio requirements for FSI-III. All requirements for FSI-III will be completed online through JB Course Manager with several class meetings to work with the instructor. Upon successful completion the student will be eligible to take the FSI-III WCE. Current FSI-II level instructors that take the FSI-III course will have several class meetings and 90 days to complete the course work online at JB Course Manager.

All three courses in the Fire Service Instructor Program will have mandatory online assignments. This is a major change and will require all students to have computer and internet access.

All levels of instruction are currently in development. I plan on having a Train-the-Trainer in December at the CFA to present the new materials and review student requirement and familiarize instructors with the online requirements.



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

Doris Kearns Goodwin



Grow Up! Or Personal Growth Hurts

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If we look around us, or at us, ourselves, we see lots of room for improvement, lots of potential for personal growth. But the rub is, getting better and getting bigger involves change, and we don't always like change. Change comes from the outside, it's new, it's different. We don't like change much and we don't like outsiders at all. We even have a name for this dislike: xenophobia, fear of outsiders. We kick people we don't like outside, into the darkness. We have words for that too: shunning, ostracism, excommunication. Plus, we laugh at our kids when they “drop out” to “find themselves.” Yes, as a rule, we mock those who are different from us; we demean those of us who embrace change; we banish those who evolve; and we build walls and moats and defenses to guarantee the righteousness of our beliefs. Then, POOF! Retirement, we find ourselves outside, and we don't know what to do with ourselves.

I see it all the time, retired cops are lost, so they get jobs as federal court security guards; retired firemen are bored so become consulting fire safety inspectors; or retired state and federal emergency managers become city and county emergency managers. Change? NO! Growth? NO! Learning? NO!

As an old white man I know why the highest suicide rate in America is for non-Hispanic white males over sixty-five: we quit growing, growing up, so we kill ourselves. Well, all I have to say is **GROW UP!** or as my wife hate's to hear, **SUCK IT UP, BUTTERCUP!**

In my stress management courses I emphasize the need to promote self growth and change—aggressively, regularly, purposefully. If one simply reinforces current stressors (for instance, by getting a part time job in one's career field, simply because one is qualified, has the certifications, and has friends in the business), that's just taking the easy way out to more stress. One becomes better (not good, just better), by changing. Changing one's breathing habits. Doing more exercises. Eating more nutritious foods. Learning new skills. Building new neuropath ways. As I tell my fellow twelve-steppers, putting forks in roads that previously had no forks and all of that is hard.

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Grow Up! Or Personal Growth Hurts

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Unfortunately, we are born into and live totally immersed in a culture which has equated “hard” with “bad,” which has put equal signs between “pain” and “bad,” and which calls “different” “bad.” Then, when we do collapse from our inability to cope, for we have not been given the education, training or skills needed for personal growth, we gobble pills or booze or eat our guns.

Now, the real question is, how do we stop before we, well, stop ourselves permanently? First, train to your weaknesses. I always hated bosses who sent computer geeks to computer classes and HR people to communication courses. Send the nerds to communication classes and the personnel folks to tetchy classes and the world—and those employees—would be better off. Second, go to school or find a tutor for that “I’ve always wanted to –b-l-a-n-k-“ thing. Third, aggressively practice deep breathing, smiling, thinking recurring positive thoughts (for the only automatic recurring thoughts are the negative ones). Fourth, be proud of being different, different from others, different from the old you. Know, when doing this, that you don’t give up the old you, you just add on. And to show you are proud of the new you, signal it. Shave a beard, wear a bright shirt, buy a walking stick. Finally, admit that we have wasted half a lifetime or more being culturally right and personally wrong. Like we say, “and when we are wrong promptly admit it.” Even if it means admitting we have been wrong for over half a century.

Sure, this is hard, painful and really different, but, guess what, it’s not bad and it just might save your life. So, what do we have to do? Grow up!

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**“Good, better,
best; never let
it rest till your
good is better
and your
better is best”.**

Anonymous



FireXChange Demonstration

Wednesday September 30, 2009, Tyco Fire Suppression & Building Products will have the mobile FireXChange interactive fire protection technology demonstration unit at the Connecticut Fire Academy for a full day of 45 minute tours.



“Firefighters who are tough enough to eat nails and spit pumpers will generally become extremely fragile when mistakes occur (smart bosses must then become good coaches)”.

By Alan V. Brunacini

HazMat Seminar Series - Liquids

Presented by Becky Wehrman

The Connecticut Fire Academy HazMat Seminar Series continues on September 30, 2009 with Becky Wehrman presenting Hazardous Materials Liquids: In this course, we will focus on the nature of liquids and the risks associated with liquid management. We will also emphasize the risks associated with outdated and unstable liquids and where to focus inspections in schools and industry to locate the highest risks to assure proper management. Join us for a day of education, case study evaluation and exploration into the world of hazardous liquids!”

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. She has been recognized by the Iowa Governor’s Office and the EPA for her work with the Rehab the Lab program. She has instructed various courses in the Iowa Fire Service Training Bureau since 2000. She is currently working on refining the management of contaminated sites. Becky has assisted various Bomb Squads, Police Departments and Fire Departments throughout Iowa.



Presenter Becky Wehrman

*Picture by
Jim Carroll, Program Manager*

Leadership III: Strategies for Supervisory Success



The Leadership III: Strategies for Supervisory Success was held here at the Academy September 12th and 13th. This 2-day course provided the company officer with the basic leadership skills and tools to perform effectively in the fire service environment. The course covered when and how to delegate to subordinates, assess personal leadership styles through situational leadership, discipline subordinates, and apply coaching/motivating techniques.

“It’s hard to legislate love, but good bosses teach and support good playground behaviors (... plays well with others)”.
By Alan V. Brunacini

Recognizing Our Staff

Recently, Charlotte Murphy a state resident stopped by the Academy with her grandson. She was actually on her way to the New England Air Museum and mistakenly turned into the Academy where she encountered Ian Tenney. Ian offered to show her grandson the fire trucks and a quick visual tour of the training grounds. Upon her return home Ms. Murphy called to extend her personal thanks and recognition of Ian. She stated “he was wonderful young man, gentle with my grandson”. When the story was shared with Ian he stated “it was the right thing for me to do”. Congratulations to Ian, for doing the right thing. His simple, matter of fact action left a life long impression upon a young boy and his grandmother.

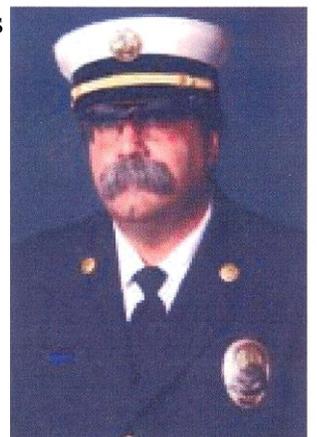


Not Everyone Goes Home

Presented by Chief Billy Goldfeder

For 2009 the very popular Connecticut Fire Academy Seminar Series continues to bring nationally known fire service speakers to Connecticut. Again this year, the scheduled presenters will engage and inform their audiences with relevant and thought provoking deliveries.

The next scheduled Seminar Series is titled Not Everyone Goes Home scheduled for Friday October 9, 2009. The seminar is presented by Chief Billy Goldfeder of the Loveland-Symmes, Ohio Fire Department. Chief Goldfeder is the first Seminar Series speaker to return to the CFA for a second engagement which is due to requests from the fire service to have him back.



*Presenter
Chief Billy Goldfeder*

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Not Everyone Goes Home

Presented by Chief Billy Goldfeder

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Instructor Biography

Chief Billy Goldfeder, EFO, a firefighter since 1973, serves as Deputy Fire Chief of the Loveland-Symmes FD in Ohio. A Chief Officer since 1982, he has served as a Fire Chief in Ohio, Virginia and Florida. A 1993 graduate of the National Fire Academy's Executive Fire Officer Program, he is the former Chair of the International Association of Fire Chiefs VCOS Section. In 2001, Chief Goldfeder was honored with an appointment of Hon. Battalion Chief of F.D.N.Y. and is a member of the Board of Directors of the September 11th Families Association, the Board of Directors of the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation and provides assistance to the NIOSH Fire Fighter Fatality Investigation and Prevention Program.

"When someone screws up, has a problem, or needs help, yell at them (preferably in front of a lot of others); they'll love it and they'll quickly forget you did it...sure they will".

By Alan V. Brunacini

National Honor Guard Academy

By Jim McLoughlin, Commander

On August 30th-Sept. 4th 2009, the Connecticut Statewide Honor Guard hosted the National Honor Guard Academy here in CT at the Connecticut Fire Academy. Students came from the NYC Dept of Corrections, Police Departments in Massachusetts and Connecticut as well as representatives of the Fire Service. The National Honor Guard Academy (NHGA) lasts for 6 days, most of them 12 hours a day.



The NHGA specializes in providing honor guard training to firefighters, police officers, and EMS personnel.

Our honor guard training focuses on how to care for the family of an emergency service provider on their greatest day of need – the day they bury their loved one.

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National Honor Guard Academy

By Jim McLoughlin, Commander

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There are a host of traditions in the emergency service community and we teach honor guards how to preserve those traditions with honor, dignity and respect. We are the trusted team that brings tradition and precision together. We are the ambassadors that match the compassionate needs of the family with the traditional needs of the emergency service department.



***“If you violate,
compensate”.***

Alan V. Brunacini

Should one of our brothers or sisters pay the ultimate sacrifice, the newly acquired knowledge of NHGA graduates makes them properly prepared to provide a family with the support needed to properly honor their loved one.

The NHGA was founded by fire service honor guard members who appreciated the need to elevate the professionalism and presentation of Emergency Service Honor Guards.

Now we travel the nation providing honor guard training and enhancing the knowledge of law enforcement officers, firefighters, and EMS providers like you.

The Academy focuses on several simple principles:

- Preserve pride, honor and tradition.
- Pay precise attention to detail.
- Build a network of local and national resources.

The Academy provides you and your honor guard members the foundation to build your team from the ground up, or strengthen your existing team to precision. Additionally, the course format provides for team building and promotes the importance of graduates utilizing the contacts they have made after they return to their department. This assembly of unlimited resources will prove to be a valuable asset to any honor guard team.

Breadth of Training: Honor Guards are often called upon to perform under tremendous adversity.

The assignments they take on are physically and emotionally draining and it requires a great deal of focus, or even the ability to temporarily disconnect, in order to function properly. We make every effort to prepare students for what they will face in preparation for an event, be it a groundbreaking ceremony or a full-honors Line of Duty Death (LODD) funeral.

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“Tell me what you need, and I’ll tell you how to get along without it”.

National Honor Guard Academy

By Jim McLoughlin, Commander

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Honor Guards provide one of the most visible and positive images for their department. Be it a parade, ground breaking, sporting event or funeral, the presence alone of the honor guard immediately draws attention and raises the formality of the event.

The Academy is built on honor, dignity and respect, with the utmost concern for the needs and wishes of the affected family and department. We share an overwhelming pride in our country and the traditions of our Public Safety Agencies, and pass on that passion to you.



Hazardous Materials Week Oct 19th-23rd, 2009

Hazardous Materials Week is scheduled for October 19th-23rd, 2009. Exciting programs scheduled for the 2009 Hazardous Materials Week include: Regional Team Demonstrations and Class, Is Something Out There?, Blowing Up Can Ruin Your Whole Day, 472 Hazardous Materials Technician Refresher, Hazardous Materials Awareness Operational/WMD Train-the-Trainer, Incident Command for Emergency Medical Services, HazMat IQ, Cameo/Marplot/ALOHA, Decision-Making in Chemical Warfare Agent (CWA) Response, Basic and HazMat Metering, Level B/C for Law Enforcement & EMS, Advanced HazMat Life Support.



Special Offer To All CFA Adjunct Instructor's

The bookstore will be taking orders for an embroidered Instructor Jacket **until October 16, 2009**. The bookstore has a sample of the jacket which is a Harvard Square 3 season nylon storm jacket. Wind and water resistant nylon shell. 75% polyester/25% rayon charcoal heather fleece lining. Nylon quilted sleeves. Rib knit cuffs. Inside right chest zipper pocket. Two front zipper pockets. Zip front with inside storm flap. Metal zip pull.

Color: Navy

CFA Logo will be embroidered on the left chest, with Instructor in white under logo.

Sizes available: Small, Medium, Large, XL, 2X, 3X, 4X and 5X.

Prices: Small-XL...\$44.00

2X...\$48.00

3X...\$52.00

4X...\$56.00

5X...\$60.00

ALL ORDERS MUST BE PRE-PAID.

Please contact Pam or Karen in the bookstore to place your order.

CFA Bookstore
860-627-6363 ext. 271 or ext. 244



THIS IS ONLY A SAMPLE OF THE JACKET....

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We're on the web at: 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.