



**State of Connecticut
Department of Emergency Services & Public Protection
Commission on Fire Prevention and Control**

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1. 2016 Seminar Series – **Tomorrow** – Walk-Ins Welcome - CFA

The course is not Responding to and Preventing Acts of Violence it is Responding to and Preparing for Acts of Violence, sorry for any inconvenience this might of caused

Friday, December 2, 2016 @ CT Fire Academy – Course # 17037 - \$55.00 Lunch included

Speaker – Lt. Steven Hamilton, Fort Jackson Fire and Emergency Services, South Carolina

Description:

This presentation discusses fire service response to all aspects of violent scenes--single-company response to a victim of domestic violence through to the multiagency active shooter response. Elements of terrorism response are evaluated. Various scenarios are covered: violence, terrorism, active shooter, mass shootings, domestic violence, and suicide by secondary means. Covered are pre-incident planning, policies and procedures for response to such incidents, case history analysis, as well as reporting and documenting violent incidents involving responders. Statistical data are examined to support the hidden dangers emergency responders face at violent incidents.

2. 2017 Connecticut Fire Officers Weekend

Registration for the 2017 Connecticut Fire Officer Weekend in Emmitsburg, Maryland at the National Fire Academy is now open. We will be attending March 10-12, 2017.

Please review the attached documents for course information, Student ID requirements, application, and Driver License requirements.

Applications are due to the CT Fire Academy on January 27, 2017. Please prioritize your course choices as noted on the application. Also, note that the application has an expiration date of November 2016. The NFA has granted an extension on the application expiration date and will accept the form provided.

Any questions, please contact Program Manager Jason Decremer at 860-264-9242 or jason.decremer@ct.gov

3. Employment Opportunity – Fire Safety Code Inspector - South Windsor

Fire Safety Code Inspector– Town of South Windsor – Entry level part time position up to 20 hours per week with a starting salary of \$20.00 per hour. No benefits. 2nd Shift and weekends required. Connecticut Fire Marshal Certification Required. Responsibilities include, but are not limited to the inspection of buildings in the Town for the purpose of eliminating fire hazards and code violations, public fire safety education, juvenile fire safety education, and administrative duties. To view a full job description and to apply online please visit our website at www.southwindsor.org under Employment Opportunities. Applications and resumes must be submitted online by midnight, Monday, December 19, 2016. The Town of South Windsor is an Equal Opportunity Employer

4. CFA Bookstore 20% off Holiday Sale

The CFA Bookstore is having a **Holiday Sale starting today until Dec. 23rd**. All apparel,(including CFA Instructor apparel), collectibles, gift items, toys, all BOOKS, etc. is **20% off**. CFA Bookstore items make unique holiday gifts for all the firefighters on your list, big or small!!!

FREE GIFT WRAPPING is available. We can ship your holiday gifts for you!!! Stop by, give us a call or order by email. The bookstore is open 6 days a week from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and until 8:00 p.m. every Tuesday. Pam Cooney 860-264-9271, pam.cooney@ct.gov or Karen Junguzza 860-264-9244, karen.junguzza@ct.gov.

Thanks, Pam and Karen
CFA Bookstore

5. Firefighter Near Miss Report of the Week

Mercaptan Leak Injures Three Firefighters

SUMMARY

Winter will be here before we know it and natural gas usage will increase, resulting in higher chance of gas emergencies. Hazmat releases and odor investigations put firefighters at risk; the presence of a toxic

chemical often may not be seen or smelled. In this report, first responders put themselves and each other at risk by deviating from basic procedures while investigating a gas odor.

EVENT DESCRIPTION

A complaint about an outside odor of natural gas was received in a rural area of the fire district. When the first engine arrived on scene, there was a very strong odor of natural gas present. They grabbed their 4-gas meter and combustible gas detector and began an investigation, which led them to the pumping station where the odor was the strongest.

They cut the lock to the gate and made entry onto the property with no SCBA, just bunker gear, and began to obtain minimal readings of H₂S and the tic rate increased slightly on the leak detector.

One of the members walked around the backside of the pump station and meeting a wall of mercaptan, immediately fell to their knees. The firefighter crawled to safety and the other two members exited safely.

Two more members went in with full PPE including SCBA, but not on air until they walked into the same mercaptan release. Dispatch was notified by the officer to contact the gas company and to call in the hazmat team for a leaking tank.

On arriving, the hazmat team performed a recon of the area and located a leaking valve in a tank. They weren't able to isolate the leak so they retreated and were deconned by the engine company.

The exposed firefighters were medically evaluated at the scene and given oxygen, and all were decontaminated and taken to the hospital where they were treated and released the same day.

View the Report: [Mercaptan Leak Injures Three Firefighters](#)

TAKE-AWAYS

This report is a perfect example of the “Normalization of Deviance” in the fire service, where the gradual use of unacceptable behavior becomes the norm and may be then considered, acceptable. In this day, with the technology, PPE and SCBAs available to firefighters, no one should investigate any hazmat call without full PPE and SCBA in place.

Investigations of natural gas, hydrogen sulfide (AKA sewer gas) and carbon monoxide are bread-and-butter calls. The reporter clearly states that due to a lack of adherence to a best-practice approach, firefighters were injured.

Structural firefighting gear and SCBAs will afford firefighters protection for some chemicals in the cities we serve, as long as there aren't fluorine or corrosive gases in air.

The outcome of this call would have been very different with minimal risk to firefighters if they had donned their proper PPE and SCBA upon the initial entry for recon.

DISCUSSION

- What gas meters does your department use to investigate suspicious odor calls?
- At what level of parts per million does hydrogen sulfide (H₂S) odorize?

- Does your photo ionizing detector detect H₂S, carbon monoxide and natural gas?
- Other than the obvious reason, why is it dangerous to rely on your sense of smell when dealing with H₂S?
- What is the intended use of mercaptan as it relates to natural gas and what is its molecular weight compared to air?

LEADING PRACTICES

First arriving units that aren't hazmat technicians need to respect the discipline of hazmat response and treat these calls to their level of training. You can't see toxicity with your eyes and you need to use meters to determine if an IDLH atmosphere exists.

IDLH should never come into play with first responders. Always wear your SCBA with mask in place to avert a situation like the one that occurred in this report.

Understand your opponent, which in this case was the mercaptan. Utilize proven resources like the DOT Emergency Response Guidebook, NIOSH Pocket Guide, WISER or HazMatIQ to predict the hazards present and counter with a sound and deliberate plan to survey the scene.

The International Association of Firefighters provides a myriad of hazmat training for first responders, including First Responder Operations, Hazmat Technician and Emergency Response to Terrorism. [Check out these programs online](#). The International Association of Fire Chiefs also provides hazmat training through their [Hazmat Fusion Center](#). Utilize these online training resources to ensure that you are protecting the health and safety of yourself and your department.

RELATED NEAR MISS REPORTS

- [Hazmat Technician Has a Leak Around Wrist](#)
- [Isolation Distances Set Up Late at Chlorine Release](#)
- [Hazmat Call Poses Problem for Entry Team](#)
- [Hazmat Incident at Chemical Suicide](#)

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- [Firehouse.com Article: Massive Alabama Gas Explosion Leaves One Dead and Several Injured](#)
- [OregonLive.com Article: Explosion reported in NW Portland; 8 injured, including 3 firefighters](#)
- [HazMatIQ: Daily updates of real-world hazmat events](#)
- [NYTimes.com: Battalion Chief Killed in Bronx Explosion After Report of Gas Leak](#)

6. Employment Opportunity – Firefighter – UConn Health Center FD

UConn Health Fire Department announces openings for the position of Firefighter. Minimum Requirements include NFPA Firefighter 2, Connecticut EMT certification OR Paramedic licensure, and Connecticut Class D motor vehicle license. Preferred Requirements include CPAT, Graduation from Connecticut Fire Academy Recruit Firefighter Training Program, and CDL Class A/CDL Class B/Equivalent Military Operator Classification/Q Endorsement license. Schedule is a rotation of 2-10 hour days, 2-14 hour nights, and 4 full days off. Starting salary is \$59,037. More information and application can be found

at https://jobs.uchc.edu/CSS_External/CSSPage_Referred.ASP?Req=2017-429. Applications are due December 7, 2016.

7. Employment Opportunity – Fire Lieutenant – UConn Health Center FD

UConn Health Fire Department announces an opening for the position of Fire Lieutenant. Applicants **MUST** appear on the current Connecticut state exam list for Fire Lieutenant or be currently employed by a state agency in the classification of Fire Lieutenant. Minimum Requirements also include three years of experience as a Firefighter in an organized fire department at the level of NFPA Firefighter 2 or in the state firefighting service, certification to the NFPA Fire Officer 1 level, valid Connecticut motor vehicle licensure with proper endorsements, and Connecticut EMT certification OR Paramedic licensure. Schedule is a rotation of 2-10 hour days, 2-14 hour nights, and 4 full days off. Starting salary is \$63,527. More information and application can be found at https://jobs.uchc.edu/CSS_External/CSSPage_Referred.ASP?Req=2017-556. Applications are due December 7, 2016.

PLEASE DO NOT REPLY TO THIS EMAIL