



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

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1. Emergency Medical Responder/Technician (EMR/EMT) Class to be Held in Southbury, CT

UPCOMING IN JANUARY 2017 EMR/EMT CLASS

Classes to be held Monday & Wednesday evenings from 6 to 10 pm and one mandatory Saturday. Beginning Jan 4, 2017 and ending in April 2017.

To enroll: Contact class instructor Judy Lynch at judithlynch@icloud.com

Location: STS Training School

EMR \$ 425.00 EMT \$ 850.00

CPR Textbook and EMR/EMT textbook included in the class fee

2. Funeral Arrangements for Life Donald Blifford – Clinton FD

Funeral arrangements for Life Member Donald Blifford of the Clinton Fire Department

Services will be held on Saturday December 17th, 2016 10 am

Killingworth Congregational Church 273 Rte 81 Killingworth CT

Interment will immediately follow the service in the rear of the church

Reception to follow at CVFD HQ, 35 East Main St, Clinton CT

All firefighters attending are asked to appear in Class A uniform

Please do not hesitate to call with any questions.

Thank you all for your continued patience and cooperation.

Respectfully,

Brian A. Manware
Chief of Department
203-627-8258

3. Funeral Arrangements for Life Donald Blifford – Clinton FD

The Burrville Fire School will be holding both a Firefighter 1 course and an Exterior Firefighter course. Firefighter 1 will begin in February. The Exterior Firefighter course will begin in March. Please see the attached information for details, schedule, and applications.
Call with questions: 860-307-2267

4. 114th Congress Adjourns After Providing Stopgap Funding Measure

The 114th Congress has adjourned after approving a continuing resolution to fund the federal government through April 28, 2017. The continuing resolution, which was signed by President Obama on December 12th, became necessary when Congress failed to complete work on 11 of the 12 annual spending bills that fund programs and activities for the federal government (funding for military construction and veterans' programs was including in an earlier continuing resolution).

Now that the 114th Congress has adjourned, completion of the Fiscal Year 2017 spending bills will be left to the 115th Congress when it convenes on January 3, 2017. In addition to completing work on the current fiscal year's spending measures, lawmakers will also need to begin work on the Fiscal Year 2018 spending bills, conduct hearings on President-Elect Donald Trump's cabinet nominations, and fill the current vacancy in the Supreme Court. Of particular importance to the fire service, Congress will also need to begin consideration of the reauthorization of the Assistance to Firefighters and Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response Grant Programs and the United States Fire Administration.

5. Firefighter Near Miss Report of the Week

Apparatus Loses Control on Snowy Roads

SUMMARY

Losing control of a fire apparatus on a snowy or icy road is a disconcerting experience and one that can result in injury or vehicle damage. If you drive on snowy roads, you know it can be difficult to respond when roadways become slick.

EVENT DESCRIPTION

We were responding to an automatic fire alarm with reports of smoke. The occupancy was a very familiar retirement-home facility with many previous responses. The crew included a company officer, driver/operator and two firefighters.

There were about four to five inches of fresh snow on the ground. The apparatus was equipped with automatic snow chains and the response route was about two miles long; we could hear and feel the chains operating as we responded.

The last street before the location had a moderate to steep slope. We watched the battalion chief's car drive up it with no problems. The decision was made to go up the street due to the report of smoke and the high occupancy of elderly people.

The apparatus gained momentum up the slope and the transmission shifted half way up the hill. All momentum was lost, and the snow chains only work if the tires are moving. The apparatus started a backward slide straight for a steep ravine and toward an apartment building. We felt sure the apparatus was going to roll over. It came to an abrupt stop against a power pole with flopping power lines directly overhead.

No one was injured and the apparatus received only minor damage.

View the Report: [Quint Slides Backwards on Snowy Hill](#)

TAKE-AWAYS

Emergency assignments often go hand in hand with challenging weather conditions. Winter can challenge a response with snowy roads and icy conditions. When we have to respond in such conditions, a few best practices can help.

In this report, the crew made a quick risk-management decision to continue the response up the hill based on the type of call and occupancy. Sometimes, an alternate route may be needed when responding in these conditions.

Newer apparatus may have the option to adjust traction control systems, lock differentials or use four-wheel drive. These options can help make driving easier, but also require driver training to understand the systems.

Tire chains or cables can give an apparatus additional grip, and auto chains can provide this advantage at the push of a button. As the driver in this report discovered, however, these have limitations and are no guarantee of traction.

DISCUSSION

- What tools does your department have for assisting apparatus in these conditions?
- Do you cover winter driving operations in your initial or continuing driver/operator training?
- What restrictions are placed on apparatus when using tire chains or cables?
- Do you have options for using alternate vehicles, like SUVs or 4X4 trucks for certain types of calls?

LEADING PRACTICES

If you operate in an area that's frequently impacted by winter conditions, ensure your driver training program

takes this into account. Don't assume that firefighters can operate in these conditions simply because they live in the community. They may not originally be from the area, and operating a fire apparatus is markedly different from passenger vehicles, SUVs and pickups.

If you have streets or areas that frequently become impassable due to blowing or drifting snow, preplan strategies for responding to the area. Can you respond to nonfire calls in a four-wheel-drive pickup or SUV?

Consulting with your local street or public-works department may also be an option. They may be able to provide a piece of equipment and operators to respond with emergency services to ensure access during the worst part of a storm.

Tire chains provide a big advantage in some conditions, but can also present problems for the untrained driver. Traditional tire chains or cable traction devices generally have speed restrictions and must be checked to ensure they don't become dislodged and damage the apparatus body or undercarriage. Auto chains eliminate some of these worries but still have speed restrictions and can be ineffective in deep snow. If you have auto chains, ensure your drivers understand operating procedures, and review those procedures each fall.

Engine or transmission retarders or brakes can also cause wheels to lose traction or cause the engine to stall. Consult the manufacturer's instructions to see if these systems should be disabled in winter conditions.

RELATED NEAR MISS REPORTS

- [Aerial Apparatus Stuck in Snow](#)
- [Snow Sends Apparatus into a Slide](#)
- [Ice Causes Apparatus to Slide while in Operation](#)
- [Black Ice Results in Hazardous Conditions](#)

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- [FireEngineering.com Article: Winter Driving Tips for Paramedics and EMTs](#)
- [FireRescueMagazine.com Article: Safety Tips when Operating in Icy Conditions](#)
- [FireRescue1.com Article: Preparing your fire apparatus for winter's chill](#)

6. EMT-Initial Offered by Redding Fire & EMS Company 1

Redding Fire & EMS Company 1 is offering an EM Initial class to be held at Redding Ridge FD 186 Blackrock Turnpike beginning January 31, 2017 and meeting Tuesday and Thursday evenings as well as at least one Saturday each month. See the attached for additional information or call Christy, EMT Course Coordinator at 203-240-4340.

7. IAFC Volunteer and Combination Officers Section Report from the Chair

VCOS Webinar

Join us December 15 at 2:30 PM ET for the next VCOS webinar on “Volunteer/Combination Fire Service Hot Topics from Symposium in the Sun.” [Please register ahead of time online](#). Thanks to TargetSolutions for sponsoring this webinar.

Symposium in the Sun

Thanks to those of you who came to [Symposium in the Sun](#) and made it a success. We had a record number of attendees, with over 700 people! Attendees learned how to make their departments “Operation: Mission Ready.”

Congratulations to the following award winners, who were recognized at the Symposium:

- John M. Buckman III Leadership Award (sponsored by Provident Insurance): Chief Rich Cowger, Columbus (Mont.) Fire Rescue
- Retention & Recruitment Award (sponsored by VFIS): Old Mystic (Conn.) Fire Department
- Illness and Injury Prevention Award (sponsored by VFIS): IAFC's Safety, Health and Survival Section
- Chairman's Award (sponsored by VCOS): Provident Insurance and VFIS

Congratulations also to the following scholarship winners:

- VCOS Scholarship Winner (sponsored by VCOS): Chief William Rector, Dunkirk (Md.) Volunteer Fire Company
- Emerging Leader Scholarship Winner (sponsored by Gasaway Consulting Group): Captain Jeff Gooch, Cranberry (Pa.) Township Volunteer Fire Company

Save Now: Register for Symposium in the West!

We've taken what you love about Symposium in the Sun and moved it *west!* Gain firsthand insights from volunteer and combination leaders, as well as countless new connections. The theme for the Symposium in the West is “Be the Change – Create, Engage, Inspire.” [Register today](#) to attend May 5-6 in Reno!

VCOS Election

In an effort to consolidate the IAFC and section elections, the VCOS election timeline will change for 2017. Anyone interested in running for the VCOS board of directors must submit the required candidate information in February 2017. More information will be emailed and posted to the website in January, so keep an eye out. We hope you consider getting more involved with VCOS.

Follow Us on Social Media!

We hope you'll [like us on Facebook](#) if you haven't already. In addition, follow us on Twitter [@IAFC_VCOS](#). Use social media to stay connected, network with others and see all the latest VCOS news.

PLEASE DO NOT REPLY TO THIS EMAIL