



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

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6. **CSFA 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Hall of Fame Dinner – April 6, 2017**
7. **2017 CPAT Registration Now Open - Registration Will ONLY be Available Online**

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**1. CT Fire Academy & CFA Bookstore News**

The CT Fire Academy & CFA Bookstore will be closed on Monday, February 13<sup>th</sup>, 2017 for Lincoln's Birthday. We will resume regular business hours for both on Tuesday, February 14<sup>th</sup>.

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**2. Cold Water Rescue on 02/25 and 02/26 – a Few Seats Remain**

This course is designed for first responders operating at the scene of a cold water or ice rescue. Topics covered include: pre-planning, risk assessment, ice types and how they form, hypothermia, cold water drowning, incident size-up, water rescue equipment, and rescue operations. Participants will perform simulated water and ice (if available) rescues using cold water entry suits and associated equipment.

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**3. Firefighter Cancer Registry Act Introduced in the House**

Tuesday, February 7th, Congressman Chris Collins (NY-27) and Congressman Bill Pascrell, Jr. (NJ-9) announced the introduction of H.R. 931, the Firefighter Cancer Registry Act with 76 bipartisan original sponsors. The bill would create a national cancer registry for firefighters diagnosed with cancer.

Studies have indicated a strong link between firefighting and an increased risk of several major cancers, including colon, lung, melanoma, mesothelioma, non-Hodgkin's lymphoma, non-melanoma skin cancer, prostate, rectal, testicular, stomach, multiple myeloma and brain cancer. The heightened risk of cancer among firefighters has been attributed to their frequent exposure to a range of harmful toxins.

Studies examining cancer risks among firefighters have been limited by the availability of important data and relatively small sample sizes that have an underrepresentation of women, minorities, and volunteer

firefighters. As a result, public health researchers have been unable to fully examine and understand the broader epidemiological cancer trends among firefighters. A specialized national cancer registry would expand access to vital epidemiological data and improve research outcomes.

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#### **4. Firefighter Near Miss Report of the Week**

##### **Task Saturation Impacts Situational Awareness**

###### **SUMMARY**

Battling a structure fire is not a casual endeavor, especially when the fire appears to have the upper hand. It requires intense mental concentration and often extreme physical exertion. Sometimes, concentration on accomplishing a specific task on the fireground can impede our ability to react to deteriorating conditions. This is called task saturation and it can have deadly consequences, as this week's report illustrates.

###### **EVENT DESCRIPTION**

Firefighters responded to a large single-family structure fire, reported by the neighbor as having fire coming from the rear of the house. The first arriving engine company reported heavy fire visible from both the Bravo and Charlie sides, with the engine taking the driveway. The fire had obviously been burning for some time, since so much of the structure was involved.

After initial knockdown, the Alpha side of the home was laddered to try and hit the hotspots on what was left of division 2 through the division 2 windows. Mention was made to be cautious of the fascia and soffit of the heavily damaged roof when they began their ground-ladder operation. The firefighter was operating the 1-<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub>" handline from the ladder approximately 12 feet off the ground and had locked in using a traditional leg lock.

Good progress was being made when a loud crack was heard and people began to yell. A large piece of soffit had fallen, striking the firefighter on the ground ladder, nearly pulling him off. The firefighter heeling the ladder also was struck with the falling debris. Luckily, no injuries were sustained from the collapse.

View the Report: [Struck by Falling Soffit and Fascia Board](#)

###### **TAKE-AWAYS**

One of the most common factors that contribute to near-misses, and therefore accidents and injuries, is loss of situational awareness. It's a topic of concern for every organization, especially the aviation industry, the military and emergency services. Understanding exactly what's happening around us and reacting correctly is essential to success in any endeavor and none more so than when personal safety is at stake.

The submitter in this week's report had a narrow escape from injury while working under a weakened structure. The hazard had been noticed and shared among at least some firefighters on scene, but the objective of extinguishing the fire was obviously at the forefront of the operation.

If the crew members involved had not been wearing proper PPE and observing basic ladder safety—locking in on the ladder and heeling—this situation could have turned out much worse. A little luck didn't hurt either, as the report submitter stated in the "Lessons Learned" section: "I was very lucky that myself or the

lieutenant heeling the ladder were not injured. A mere few inches of me leaning farther backward and the falling debris would have struck me directly on the helmet, more than likely causing substantial injuries.”

### **DISCUSSION**

- Can you think of any instances when you’ve lost situational awareness on the emergency scene? What were the outcomes?
- What are some obstacles to maintaining good situational awareness?
- In your opinion, what is the best way to avoid task saturation?
- Who’s responsible for maintaining situational awareness in your department?

### **LEADING PRACTICES**

Yogi Berra may have captured the essence of good situational awareness when he said, “You can observe a lot by watching!”

The problem is, when working on the scene of a fire, vehicle accident, hazmat spill or other emergency, we can’t just stand around watching—we have things to do. The more we’re involved in accomplishing tasks, the less watching we can do.

Being good at our jobs goes a long way to improving situational awareness. Brian Brush, from Edmund, Oklahoma, does a great job of explaining this in this article he penned in 2011, [Scopes of Situational Awareness](#).

Another point Brian emphasizes in the article is that situational awareness varies, depending on each firefighter’s level of responsibility and assignment. Also, having a designated safety officer on each incident, whose only task is observing conditions related to personnel safety, is the best way to guard against loss of situational awareness.

### **RELATED NEAR MISS REPORTS**

- [Gas Tank Explosion Knocks Down Captain](#)
- [Response to Smoldering Utility Pole](#)
- [Lack of Situational Awareness Injures Firefighter](#)
- [Open Window Saves Captain During Structure Collapse](#)

### **ADDITIONAL RESOURCES**

- [Firefighter/EMT Safety, Health & Survival: The PAL Report - A Commander's Situational-Awareness Tool](#)
- [FireRescue1.com Article: Situational awareness factored into Texas wildfire LODD](#)
- [U.S. Coast Guard Situational Awareness Training \(PDF\)](#)
- [SAMatters](#)

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## **5. 29<sup>th</sup> Annual National Fire and Emergency Services Symposium and Dinner – April 5-6, 2017**

Save the date for the 29<sup>th</sup> Annual National Fire and Emergency Services Symposium and Dinner – April 5-6, 2017 to be held in Washington, DC. For additional information and registration visit [www.cfsi.org](http://www.cfsi.org)

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## **6. CSFA 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Hall of Fame Dinner – April 6, 2017**

The Ninth Annual Connecticut State Firefighters Association Hall of Fame Dinner will be held on Thursday, April 6, 2017 beginning at 6 p.m. at the Aqua Turf Club, Mulberry Street in Southington. Cost is \$40 per person. See the attached flyer for Ticket Purchase and Ad Book information and list of Class of 2017 Inductees.

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**7. 2017 CPAT Registration Now Open - Registration Will ONLY be Available Online**

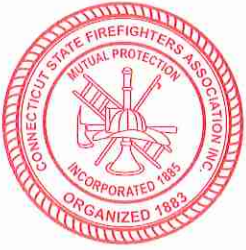
Connecticut Fire Academy is now accepting applications for the 2017 CPAT season. The deadline to apply for the Spring 2017 CPAT season is March 10<sup>th</sup>, 2017. Registration will ONLY be available online for CPAT. Please use the following link to register for the 2017 Spring CPAT season:

<https://ctlms.ct.gov/Saba/Web/Main>

*All those interested must use the online system.* The CFA is not accepting registrations for CPAT over the phone, faxed, or mailed applications. The Registration fee is \$150.00. When using the online registration system please do use mobile Apple devices. PC/Mac users will need to turn off pop-up blockers. AMEX is not accepted for payment, VISA or MasterCard only.

For further information or questions, please contact CPAT Program Manager Jason Decremer at 860-264-9242 or [jason.decremer@ct.gov](mailto:jason.decremer@ct.gov)

**PLEASE DO NOT REPLY TO THIS EMAIL**



## CONNECTICUT STATE FIREFIGHTERS ASSOCIATION, INC.

The Connecticut State Firefighters Association

Ninth Annual  
Hall of Fame Dinner

**Thursday April 6, 2017**  
**6-7 Open Bar      7pm Dinner**

**Aqua Turf—Mulberry Street**  
**Southington**

**Cost \$40.00 per person**

For tickets: CSFA Office (860) 423 -5799, William Coffey  
(203) 746 -1424 or Bob Guthrie (203) 934- 7565

**\*\*ALL TICKETS MUST BE PAID FOR BY April 1, 2017\*\***

### **The Class of 2017 Inductees**

<i>William Abbott</i>	<i>Hartford/State Fire Marsh</i>
<i>Edward B. Amatrudo</i>	<i>Poquonnock Bridge *(Deceased)</i>
<i>Wayne Fletcher</i>	<i>Ashford</i>
<i>Charles Flynn</i>	<i>Suffield/Wethersfield</i>
<i>Burt Hale</i>	<i>Westfield (Middletown)</i>
<i>Kevin Kowalski</i>	<i>Simsbury</i>
<i>James O'Neil</i>	<i>Thomaston</i>
<i>George H. Quinn</i>	<i>Bethany</i>
<i>Clarence Rees</i>	<i>Bethel</i>
<i>David A. Sanford</i>	<i>West Redding * (Deceased)</i>
<i>Robert G. Sawyer III</i>	<i>North Stonington (Deceased)</i>

*\*Edward Amatrudo – Poquonnock Bridge, Noank, Westbrook,  
Nichols, Branford and North Branford*

*\*David Sanford – West Redding, Danbury, Wilton and Westport*



## CONNECTICUT STATE FIREFIGHTERS ASSOCIATION, INC.

The Connecticut State Firefighters Association is holding the Ninth Annual Hall of Fame Dinner. The dinner will be held on Thursday April 6, 2017 (6pm), at the Aqua Turf , (Mulberry Street) in Southington.

We are currently accepting ads for our ad book to help defray the costs of the event. The ad book will measure 5 ½ x 8 ½ and is the perfect opportunity to congratulate the recipients, or promote your products, or organization.

### Program Book Price List

Center Page	\$175.00
Rear Cover	\$145.00
Inside Front Cover	\$130.00
Inside Rear Cover	\$130.00
Full Page	\$125.00
Half Page	\$ 75.00
Business Card	\$ 35.00

Please make your checks payable to CSFA and include with your ad/artwork. Forward ads to:

William Coffey  
45 Beaver Brook Road  
Danbury, CT 06810  
(203) 746 -1424

**\*\*\*Ads MUST be received by March 25, 2017\*\*\***