



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

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1. CREC Public Safety Academy Annual Flag Football Tournament and Chili Eating Contest

Dear football lovers and friends,

CREC Public Safety Academy is happy to announce the Hometown Heroes Cup- Football and Chili Eating Contest, to be held on Saturday, November 12, 2016 at CREC Public Safety Academy in Enfield, CT. Each year, the Hometown Heroes Cup will include a summer golf tournament and additional events in the fall, winter and spring to honor the brave men and women who serve in all areas of public safety. All proceeds from this event will fund book scholarships, which will be given to deserving CREC Public Safety Academy Seniors. With your help, we can make this year's event a huge success!

Here are the details:

Event: Hometown Heroes Cup, Flag Football Tournament and Chili Eating Contest

Where: CREC Public Safety Academy – 1617 King Street, Enfield, CT 06082

When: Saturday, November 12th, 2016; 8:30 am Registration – 10:30 am Start

Cost: \$100 per team or \$300 for all three events

Attached, please find an info page and the registration form.

2. 2016 AFG FEMA Region I Application Development Webinar Schedule

The Application period for the 2016 Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program opens on Tuesday, October 11, 2016 at 8:00 AM and ends on Friday, November 18, 2016 at 5:00 PM. In support of

the application period, FEMA Region I Fire Program Specialists are available to provide technical assistance should questions arise through the application development process. As part of this technical assistance, FEMA Region I will be conducting two Application Development Webinars. These webinars will last approximately 2 hours and will include a discussion on what is new for 2016 and tips on how to develop and submit a successful application. This will be followed by an open question and answer session with the Regional Fire Program Specialists. The schedule for the webinars is indicated in the table below.

2016 Region I Application Development Webinar Schedule		
Date	Tuesday, October 18, 2016	Wednesday, October 19, 2016
Time	10:00 AM	6:00 PM
URL	https://fema.connectsolutions.com/r1_2016_afg/	https://fema.connectsolutions.com/r1_2016_afg/
Call-In Number	800-320-4330; PIN: 912403#	800-320-4330; PIN: 912403#

To view the webinar presentation, please click on the URL or paste into your browser. To hear the audio for the presentation, please dial the number and PIN when prompted. If you have any questions please contact one of the Regional Fire Program Specialists below:

Dave Parr
(617) 956-7631
David.parr@fema.dhs.gov

Lance Harbour
(617) 956-7544
lance.harbour@fema.dhs.gov

2. 2016 Fire Service College Fair – Save the Date

The 2016 Fire Service College Fair will be held on Saturday, October 22, 2016 at the Connecticut Fire Academy from 9:30am to 3 pm. Come learn about college, training and career options in the Fire, Emergency Medical Services, Emergency Management and Public Safety Communications Career Paths!

Who should come? High School Students & Parents, Junior Firefighters & Explorers, High School Guidance Counselors, Explorer Post Advisors, Adult Learners interested in Fire, EMS and Emergency Management Degree programs.

For more information contact Ian Tenney, Program Coordinator: Ian.Tenney@ct.gov

Please post the attached flyer in your fire station(s) and plan to attend!

3. Curt Varone Seminar to Benefit Torrington DC Chris Pepler

This seminar has been approved by the Office of the Connecticut State Fire Marshal for 5 Continuing Education Credits.

Please register today, we want to fill every seat to maximize the benefit for DC Pepler.

Online Registration: <http://pepler.ezregister.com>

Digital Imagery & Social Media have been both a blessing and a curse for the fire service, but one thing is undeniable: despite the problems digital imagery and social media are here to stay. The law that applies to social media has been evolving and continues to evolve, with new cases and considerations arising daily. This program focuses on the latest digital imagery and social media cases affecting the fire service, and the lessons learned for fire departments and firefighters.

Thursday, 11/10/16 8:30AM-4:30PM
Farmington Gardens, 999 Farmington Avenue, Farmington, CT

Tickets are \$75 each. Lunch is included.

Prepayment Required.

Make Checks Payable To: Torrington Fire Fighters' Local 1567

Memo: DC Pepler Benefit

Mail To: 849 Middletown Road, Colchester, CT 06415 Provide an Email Address for reservation confirmation.

All proceeds from this event will benefit Torrington Deputy Fire Chief Christopher Pepler, who has been courageously battling cancer for the past year. Chief Pepler has become an outspoken advocate for fire fighters to take steps to protect themselves from being exposed to known carcinogens. East Hartford Fire Chief John Oates will open the morning seminar with a presentation on Fire Fighter Cancer Prevention.

4. Falls Village Truck Pull – Sunday!

The Falls Village Volunteer Fire Department will hold a Truck Pull on Sunday, October 2 from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. 108 Route 63, Falls Village, CT. Truck Pull, Vendors, Food & Lots More!! General Admission is \$10, Kids 12 & under Free! All proceeds benefit the Falls Village Vol. F.D. See attached flyer for additional information.

5. DPH Mass Fatality Exercise – Volunteers Sought

This year Connecticut is hosting a Regional Mass Fatality Training exercise. This is part of the Regional Catastrophic Mass Fatality group which included Connecticut, New York and New Jersey. Over the last six years our state has participated as active members in this endeavor. This is the first time we are hosting the event in Connecticut. It requires setting up an entire mass fatality operation. We are in need of volunteers either as individuals or as organized groups to participate in assisting with the build for this event. The dates are October 18th through October 31st. During the days of the build we will be serving lunch. The registration to the program is free it will be held on October 25, 26,27. We do request that individuals or groups preregister with Katie Young in our office. Her contact information is Katie.Young@ct.gov or 860-509-8282.

6. Firefighter Near Miss Report of the Week

Circular Saw Blade Falls Off

SUMMARY

Even a routine check of a power saw can be hazardous and may cause injury.

EVENT DESCRIPTION

We were conducting training with a circular saw, and while cutting some metal, I noticed the blade started to rotate differently. It looked as if it was wobbling a bit. I set the saw on the ground and secured it and made sure to clear the area in front of the saw.

Before the saw could completely slow down the blade dropped off the bolt it was attached to. I believe the nut worked loose and the saw blade came loose. This caused the blade to roll across a parking area and strike the side of our training building. It was a slow roll but if it at a higher speed, it could cause an injury to someone not wearing PPE.

View the report: [Loose Circular Saw Blade Hits the Wall.](#)

TAKE-AWAYS

There are many reports in the National Near Miss System regarding saws failing during routine checks. We routinely inspect powered equipment such as saws as part of our apparatus checks or during training.

While these tools should be familiar to us, they can still be dangerous and should never be taken for granted. Additionally, new problems can occur with a tool even if it has been recently checked or in service for a while. Bolts can become loose while riding in a compartment or fuel caps can become dislodged.

We should be in the habit of performing effective prestart checks before operating any powered equipment and always consider proper PPE.

DISCUSSION

- How often do you operate power saws? Is it frequent enough to stay familiar with them?
- Do you need to wear the same level of PPE (eye, ear, head, hand and maybe leg protection) when only starting up a saw to check it? Why or why not?
- Do you know if there is a specific prestart checklist or quick inspection process recommended by the equipment manufacturer?
- Have you reviewed the owner's manual for the saw, along with periodic maintenance requirements?

LEADING PRACTICES

When we run powered equipment, we need to be cognizant that the operational risks remain the same regardless of the situation. Is the saw safer because we are just doing a weekly check? In these controlled environments, do we need to spend the time putting on full PPE?

Using good risk management during routine activities (training, equipment inspections, etc.) can prevent a lot of injuries. Most of us spend the majority of our time in non-emergency or routine situations.

For routine checks, have an established procedure in place and suggest a specific location. Establish a safety zone for routine checks, with an area that limits inherent risks to firefighters and the public.

There have been recent cases in the wildland firefighting settings of chainsaws creating fuel geysers. You can get more information on these incidents, as well as recommendations to prevent them, by checking out [the Wildland Lessons Learned Center](#). This is an example of a problem becoming apparent with saws already in use within the fire service.

RELATED NEAR MISS REPORTS

- [Saw Blade Breaks Apart During Drill](#)
- [Radiant Heat Increases Vapor Pressure of Saw](#)
- [Saw Blade Becomes Deadly Projectile](#)
- [Chain Breaks During Daily Check of Chainsaw](#)

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- [Wildland Lessons Learned Center Fuel Geyser RLS](#)
- [FireRescue1.com Article: Power Saw Safety on the Fireground](#)
- [OSHA Quick Card: Chain Saw Safety](#)
- [Swannanoa Volunteer Fire Department's Chainsaw Training Program](#)

