

# THE INSTRUCTOR'S DISPATCH



Commission on Fire Prevention and Control  
Connecticut Fire Academy



## Managing Major Fires

The third installment of the 2006 Seminar Series was held at the Connecticut Fire Academy on April 7th with 72 students attending. John "Skip" Coleman, Deputy Chief, Toledo Ohio Fire Department, delivered a presentation entitled "Managing Major Fires".

- The one-day Seminar covered:
- Strategies and Tactics used to handle major fires in your community.
  - Command responsibilities
  - Communications
  - Building constructions

Skip Coleman has written "Incident Management for the Street Smart Fire Officer" (Fire Engineering 1997) and "Managing Major Fires (Fire Engineering 2001). These books are on display in our Bookstore.

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## Miscellaneous Directions

As a service to Staff and Adjunct faculty, we have included on our website driving directions to various places or points of interest. These directions serve to augment the directions currently provided to the locations normally used for testing and training.

For more details go to our Website at: [www.ct.gov/cfpc](http://www.ct.gov/cfpc) at the left of website click on "Adjunct Instructor Resources". Click on "Miscellaneous Directions" and on the Bookmarks tab to the left of the document to navigate through it.

If you have any directions that you would like to include on the website please feel free to contact Deborah Richardson at 860-623-2584 ext. 239 or you can email the information to her at: [debbie.richardson@po.state.ct.us](mailto:debbie.richardson@po.state.ct.us).

## Research Project

We have been notified by John Alexander, Program Administrator for the North Central Connecticut Firehawk Chapter, that they have been invited to formally participate in a research project sponsored by the University of Auckland, New Zealand Department of Psychology dealing with fire setting.



The research project will be on the “International Approaches to Reducing Deliberately Lit Fires”.

The focus will be based on child, adolescent, and also programs that deal with adults. It will be exploring the implementation and operation of International/National programs for people who deliberately light fires.

They will be extrapolating "Best practices" which will be disseminated in the hope of enhancing current practice and policies in this area.

Prevention and Intervention Program Directors and Staff have been selected to participate, for their expert knowledge and insight in this area.

Congratulations to John and the North Central Connecticut Firehawk Chapter!

## Big Rig Rescue I

The Connecticut Fire Academy presented a “Big Rig Rescue 1” program on April 20-21, 2006, at the CPAT Center in Meriden, with 40 students attended.

The featured presenter was Billy Leach, Jr. He was recognized as the Developer and Senior presenter of “Big Rig Rescue”, as presented at the FDIC, Firehouse Magazine’s Expo. FDNY’s Technical Rescue School, and many other venues. This comprehensive

session covered:

- Airbag/Cushion Rescue Systems.
- Timber Cribbing/Strut Support Operations.
- The 5-Step Discipline for Overturns/Underrides.
- The Triangle of Stability.
- Winching/Rigging Gear.

Students at the end of the class received:

- Certificate of attendance.
- Extensive handouts were provided for reference.



Photo Courtesy of Mark Salafia

## Live Fire Audit

The Commission on Fire Prevention and Control has participated for many years in an extremely successful partnership with regional and local training entities to ensure comprehensive evaluation of skills required for state and national certification at the firefighter I and firefighter II levels. In an effort to ensure that Connecticut's firefighters are proficient in all aspects of fire suppression activities and to comply with its national accreditation requirements. The Commission is pleased to embark on a process that will ensure that all live fire suppression activities conducted, for the purpose of certification, will be observed by a member of the Commission's Certification Division.

The Commission has also developed an entire package of materials, including skills evaluation sheets, which are designed to assist the regional or local training entities to conduct these evaluations in a comprehensive, safe manner.

You can go into our website at: [www.ct.gov/cfpc](http://www.ct.gov/cfpc) where the links will take you to various documents that more fully explain the process.

If you have any questions or comments, please contact Director of Certification Fred Piechota at 860-627-6363, extension 225 or Certification Coordinator Ed O'Hurley at 860-627-6363, extension 223.



### **Reminder**

Firefighter I, Firefighter II, and Fire Service Instructor I Skills Evaluation Sheets and Firefighter I and Firefighter II Live Fire Evaluation forms may be found on-line at the Commission on Fire Prevention and Control's Website at: <http://www.ct.gov/cfpc/cwp/vIEW.asp?a=826&Q=258420&cfpcPNavCtr=#39894>.

## Safety Officer Procedure

Revised procedures for certification to the levels of Health and Safety Officer and Incident Safety Officer - Fire Suppression have been republished. The challenge process based upon prior certification as a Certified Safety Officer expires April 29, 2006.

For more information go into our website at: [www.ct.gov/cfpc](http://www.ct.gov/cfpc).

*"You can't separate pain and progress".*

*By Alan V. Brunacini*

## Fire Departments Looking for Information/Equipment

### Hazardville Fire Dept.

The Hazardville Fire Department is looking to see what if any type of "Tactical worksheets" departments are using and would be willing to share.

Please contact Captain John Alexander at [juvfire@hotmail.com](mailto:juvfire@hotmail.com) or 860-749-8344.

### New Hampshire Fire Dept.

Rural New Hampshire Fire Department is in need of approximately 1500' of 4" hose.

If you know of a department willing to donate the supply hose, please contact Wayne Sandford at: [wsandf@comcast.net](mailto:wsandf@comcast.net).



## Regional School Funding on Bond Commission Agenda

The Commission on Fire Prevention and Control received confirmation from the Office of Governor M. Jodi Rell that the Governor will include funds totaling \$367,912 on the March 31, 2006 Bond Commission Agenda.

This funding will permit design/engineering work to commence in support of the New Haven Regional Fire School facility improvement plan.

This is the first step in a multi-year plan to modernize the Regional Fire School infrastructure throughout Connecticut.

State Fire Administrator Jeffrey J. Morrissette also reported that Governor Rell has recommended an additional bond authorization of \$10 million as part of her "FY 2006-07 Midterm Budget" to support the multi-year Regional Fire School plan. This is in addition to a prior \$10 million bond authorization.



*"Not everything that counts can be counted"*

*By Alan V. Brunacini*

## P.J. and Colleen Roche Parents

Congratulations are in order for P. J. and Colleen Roche who became proud parents of a 7-lbs 9-oz. baby boy named Connor Martin Roche on April 8, 2006!

We wish P.J. and Colleen endless happiness with their little bundle of joy.



*Here are a few things to think about that you probably have never thought about;*

- 1) Why do people pay to go up tall buildings and then put money in binoculars to look at things on the ground?*
- 2) Why are you IN a movie, but you're on TV?*

## Students Recognizing our Instructors

We've had several comments from students that attended the March 24th EMT Refresher Class.

Carlos Huertas wrote "Outstanding selection of Instructors. They were well versed in the material and subject matter. This was the best EMT Refresher I've taken"

Justin Czarnota wrote "It's the best in the state".

I would like to thank John Alexander, Larry Hepburn, Cathy Goetz, Freddy Weeks, Carol Stiles and Deb Burch for a job well done!

*Bill Auclair*

Bill Auclair, Program Manager



**Registration is now open for Fire Rescue International 2006 to be Held**

**Sept. 14-16 in Dallas!**

**Fire Rescue International offers something for EVERYONE in the fire service:**

**For more information and to register online, please visit the newly redesigned FRI Web site at: [www.iafc.org/fri](http://www.iafc.org/fri).**

## Point of No Return: SCBA Air Management

The third installment of the Fireground Seminar Series is scheduled June 9, 2006, at the Connecticut Fire Academy.

The presenter will be Captain Phil Jose of the Seattle, Washington FD, speaking on SCBA Air Management.

The Seminar Series Flyer is now on our website at [www.ct.gov/cfpc](http://www.ct.gov/cfpc) and has been mailed.

## 2006 Assistance to Firefighters Grant Officially Closed

At 5:00 pm on April 7, 2006, the application period for the 2006 "Fire grants" officially closed. The Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) Program Office today announced that during the application period it had received 18,160 applications. The Program Office also announced that it had completed its initial assessment of the funds requests received.

Various charts and graphics have now been posted at the Program's website - [www.firegrantsupport.com](http://www.firegrantsupport.com) - and are available to the public.

The applications have been assessed based on a variety of statutory and programmatic aspects, including breakdowns by urban, suburban and rural classifications, and requests by State.

Peer review of approximately half of the received applications will begin, and the Program Office expects to begin FY2006 award announcements in June.

### US Totals:

Applications started online = 20,443 (last year's # 22,045)

Applications started online but not submitted 2,283

Applications submitted = 18,160

Applications for \$2.33 Billion Fed-share (\$2.52 Billion total)

US Vehicles requested = 4,989 Applications for \$1.08 Billion Fed-share

**(\$1.15 Billion total)**

US Regional Projects requested = 254 applications for \$103.0 million

Fed-share (\$123.6 million total).

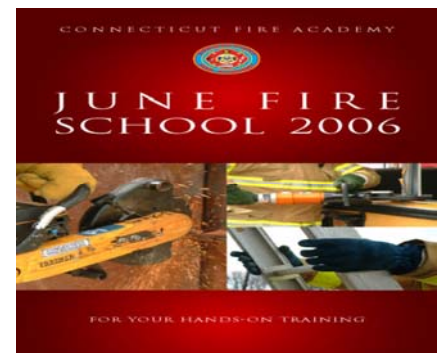
US Non-Affiliated EMS requested = 1,253 applications for \$95 million nationally



## 2006 June School Booklet

The June Fire School booklet is now available for download from the Commission on Fire Prevention and Control website at <http://www.ct.gov/cfpc/lib/cfpc/JuneFireschool06.pdf>.

The 2006 June Fire School will be held at the Connecticut Fire Academy Monday June 5 through Friday June 9, 2006. The main theme for June Fire School this year is "Hands-On Training."





## USFA/IAFF Emergency Vehicle Program

### WASHINGTON, DC. -

The Department of Homeland Security's United States Fire Administration (USFA) and the International Association of Fire Fighters (IAFF) announced today the release of a new emergency vehicle safety program designed to give firefighters a greater awareness of safety issues when riding on fire apparatus and operating at emergency roadway scenes.

Although injuries and death as the result of apparatus collisions are among the easiest to prevent, of the 106 firefighters who died in the line of duty in 2005, 26 were due to emergency vehicle accidents. In fact, emergency vehicle accidents are the second leading cause of on-duty firefighter deaths. "Fire departments have an obligation to adopt and enforce standard operating procedures that improve firefighter

safety," says Charlie Dickinson, acting U.S. Fire Administrator. "This program discusses critical emergency vehicle safety issues, including seatbelt use, intersection safety, roadway operations safety on crowded interstates and local roads, and driver training."



IAFF General President Harold A. Schaitberger adds, "Every firefighter must take responsibility for his or her safety, as well as watch out for and stop any unsafe actions. This emergency vehicle safety program provides basic strategies for improving safety during vehicle and roadway incident operations, and also addresses the need for a cultural shift in mindset in order to practice safer driving."

The USFA-IAFF emergency vehicle safety program is an outgrowth of the partnership with several leading fire service organizations participating in the Emergency Vehicle Safety Initiative, a USFA project developed to reduce the number of firefighters deaths while responding to or returning from the scene of an emergency.

For more information about this program, visit <http://www.iaff.org/evsp>. Additional information about other USFA efforts in emergency vehicle safety is available at <http://www.usfa.fema.gov/research/safety/vehicle.shtm>.

*"Life isn't about how much you take with you when you leave...it's how much you leave behind".*

*By Alan V. Brunacini*

## Recognizing Members of our Staff

A call was received from 2<sup>nd</sup> Asst. Chief Dave Lucia of the Stafford Fire Department expressing his appreciation for the Academy working with him and his department in setting up a delivery of the Hydraulic Vehicle Rescue program .

Several obstacles had to be overcome to get the program delivered to them.

The two instructors involved in the program delivery were Tony Leca and Michael Donovan (PSA)

who he indicated were both excellent and that his members could not stop talking about the training exercise.

*Jeffrey J. Morrisette*  
State Fire Administrator

## Excursions

A lighter look at fire service life

### An exemplary effort

Dear Chief:

I am taking this opportunity to thank you for putting out the fire in my house, although I do not live in that house any longer. I realize now that a fire in the cellar is fairly easy to put out. You just fill it up with water. Too bad the fire wasn't in my cellar.

Knowing very little about fires, I was surprised that a fire that started on my ironing board could cause so much damage. I was quite worried when the fire engines arrived, with all that confusion and running around. My husband said, "It's a good thing it was daytime, or there might have been more accidents." I hope the man who fell off the fire engine when it lurched to a halt in front of the house is all right. He was very lucky. That other engine — the big one — just missed running him over.

They were really fast at getting the hose off the engine, piling it up in the middle of the road, and looking for the ends. One man pulled out one end, put a nozzle on it, and dashed into the house. Another man found the other end, put a nozzle on it, and ran into the other side of the building. These men were both shouting, "Start water."

I felt so sorry for the man with the cap, who was left behind with the engine. He was wringing his hands, and didn't seem to know what else to do. So he got into the engine and drove it down the street out of sight. I also felt sorry for the man with the white helmet who kept dropping his lantern and waving his arms. Lucky for him it was a mild day, because when water finally came out of the hose, it went all over him. I was too far away to hear what he said, but he seemed very angry and upset.

After awhile, I thought it best to get some of my belongings, because the fire was getting worse. I was gathering up some of my more valuable possessions when two men with masks and tanks on their backs

rescued me. How thoughtful of them.

They were in an excitable state, speaking incoherently through the masks. One pointed to a door; I tried to warn them that it was a closet, but it was too late. They opened the door and dashed in. I was able to get the bigger fellow out without too much trouble, but the smaller man's tank was caught in the wall. He certainly hit that wall hard, and the big man was right behind him!

I immediately ran to a window to attract attention. I knew there were a lot of men outside running around and yelling. Just then, a man with 'Lieut.' on his helmet and another man with 'Capt.' on his helmet, who were running around the house at top speed, collided head-on. The 'Capt.' was furious. The 'Lieut.' didn't get up. It's a good thing that they finally moved, though, because that's where the big metal ladder landed when it fell over.

In the excitement, someone closed the door to the closet where the smaller man was. It wasn't until a bell on his tank started ringing that he was remembered. You people certainly think of everything. Imagine, a bell that rings when you get caught in a closet.

They got the poor man out, but he almost suffocated when they attempted to revive him with that resuscitator machine. Everyone was arguing over how to use it. Fortunately, he had enough strength left to keep pushing the mask off his face, or he might have smothered then and there.

I went upstairs. It was very hot and smoky up there, but when I opened the windows, it wasn't bad. Outside some men were struggling with a ladder caught in a tree. Someone had moved it, stranding a man up there, and now they were trying to get it back because he was unable to get down.

Then I heard a lot of noise coming

from the stairs — hacking, coughing and swearing. The language was awful. A man was yelling at the others, "Get up there, get up there." Through the smoke, I could see a man lying on the top step. He shouted, "Hey Lou, there's a lady up there." It must have been Lou who yelled back, "Give her the line, maybe she can get a shot at it, and watch your language, you guys."

Because of the difficulty I had with the hose line, I would suggest that you have your bigger men hold these hoses, and the smaller men run around with the tools.

If you remember, once the fire was out, there was a rash of accidents. A man with a white hat and some stars on his coat came upstairs and berated the man with 'Lieut.' on his hat for not throwing the debris out the window.

A short time later, there were shouts of "Stop." The man with the white hat had just gotten hit with a sofa. The safety driver was injured and almost drowned when he fell through a hole into the cellar. A chair had been placed over the hole, but the chief who had gotten all wet told the fellow to remove it because someone might trip over it. He told the safety officer he was a dopey bastard anyway. Such language!

A 'Lieut.' was making a close examination of a wall when someone struck it from the opposite side with a heavy tool. The 'Lieut.' seemed all right, but his helmet was wedged on his head; they couldn't get it off. He also appeared somewhat shorter.

The man with the white helmet was pleasant to me even though he was still quite wet. He told me how lucky I was, and pointed out to myself and my neighbors the importance of immediately calling the fire department in case of fire. Most big fires are the result of delayed alarms. Imagine what would have happened had I waited.

In closing, I would like to say we haven't had as much commotion and excitement around here since a little boy rang a false alarm, and the big ladder truck rolled down the hill and ran into the car with the bell on the front.

Thank you again for your efforts on my behalf. I promise not to leave the iron on the ironing board again.

Sincerely,

A grateful citizen



## Office of the Director of Training

### Gasoline

It makes our cars go, fuels our power equipment, and as we learned in science, makes lives easier by providing energy to perform work. As the crude oil it comes from becomes scarcer, whether in reality or by a manufactured situation, discussions center on its cost. Perhaps the conversation should shift to what gasoline accomplishes at what cost per measure. Regardless of the cost, what are we going to use to run our saws, heat our homes and move people from home to work and back again?

As people and their governments move to replace oil products, distances will be reduced when families return to urban areas (where the work is). Community heating and air conditioning projects will become more palatable than individual household units. Fuel cells will begin to become a cost effective alternative to purchased hydrocarbon fuels. Compressed gases provide alternative power to move vehicles. Steam may make a return to both the workplace and vehicle propulsion. And hey, steam is nothing more than visible water vapor.

The primary byproduct of fuel cells is water. If we, as members of a representative government can control the opportunist, then, when you think of it, losing gasoline as a primary fuel for vehicles may not be so traumatic after all. Come on dad, step on the hydrogen!

It is axiomatic that as our society embraces new and alternative methods to power equipment, the fire service must be ready to provide response capabilities. Besides fires, disentanglements, collisions, the unplanned release of unbreathable atmospheres and the like all contribute to an enhanced fire service response. We must become educated in each of the fuel considerations as they materialize.

Recently several luminaries of the U.S. fire service have left us. Tom Brennan, Ed McCormick, Dick Sylvia and Frank Brannagin have passed on leaving legacies and stories that will be handed from one generation to the next. "Bruno" has retired (as of June) and has left a tremendous impression upon the national fire service. Remember his creation of NFPA 1500? How about NFPA 471/472?

Who is in line to replace these gentlemen? No one expects someone to step directly into a predecessors shoes; however, who has the stature to command a national audience when they speak?

Our 2006 Seminar Series is an attempt to introduce you to the second generation of platform speakers. Those individuals that regularly contribute to trade magazines and appear at trade shows as workshop and general session presenters. While most of these folks are not the caliber of the exiting people, they may shortly become the "go to people" for such leadership.

Please seriously consider these individuals as possible soothsayers for a new generation.

*Adam D Piskura*

Adam D. Piskura, Director  
Connecticut Fire Academy

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