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Developing a Risk Management Program Emergency

Vehicle Driving

The Seminar Series titled "Developing a Risk Management Program Emergency Vehicle Driving" was held on Friday December 16, 2011. The seminar was presented by Lieutenant Mike Wilbur a career firefighter with the New York City Fire Department for 30-years.

The seminar covered a comprehensive driver training program to help reduce emergency vehicle and POV accidents that result in firefighter and civilian injuries and deaths.

This seminar will help career firefighters to understand the risks of emergency vehicle operations and will help fire department to

develop a plan to lessen the liability and help protect the fire department and its firefighters.

Mark Salafia
Program Manager



Lieutenant Mike Wilbur, FDNY

Leading Indicators: January 2012 by David Fortt, New Image Associates

The search for the "little white pill" is synonymous with instant success and nowhere is this more evident than when businesses are in position to hire or promote. Profiling these job candidates is a significant part of our business, and clients will often ask questions that indi-

cate their interest in finding a key indicator that outweighs all others.

Well, there is one. You should pay close attention to it in 2012. It's called Personal Accountability, and fifty percent of the population is above average in this personal skill. Research over the last twelve years reveals that

ninety-eight percent of all jobs require this skill to be above average for the candidate to achieve superior performance in the position.

From the perspective of behavior, personal accountability sounds like, "What can I do to fix this?" while the absence of it sounds more like, "Hey!

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Leading Indicators: January 2012 by David Fortt, New Image Associates

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This thing was screwed up when I go here!" You'll notice that the first statement is more results-focused (what) while the second is more blame-centered (who). This is an important difference.

There is more to this discussion, and it matters

whether you are hiring sales people or looking to building company officers. Please contact us to discuss the specific application of this vital personal skill in your work environment.

Don't ever think a really bad thing can't happen to you twice".

By Alan V. Brunacini

Vent Enter and Search in Today's Fire Buildings

The Seminar Series titled "Vent Enter and Search in Today's Fire Buildings" was held on Friday, February 3, 2012.

The seminar was presented by Michael M. Dugan a 27-year veteran of the FDNY, serving as the Captain of Ladder Company 123, in Crown Heights Brooklyn.

As a Lieutenant, Dugan served in Ladder Company 42 in the South Bronx. Captain Dugan has been involved with the Fire Service for 38 years.

The seminar addressed the ventilation practices and how ventilation can

affect the fire building of today. Fires are hotter because of plastic furnishings and construction materials and methods.

This seminar reviewed the SOP for proper ventilation and the way we can make the fire building behave if we use proper ventilation techniques that are well coordinated, controlled and we communicate effectively.



Captain Michael M. Dugan, FDNY

Mark Salafia, Program Manager

Chemistry for Emergency Response

Members of the 14th Civil Support Team and area First Responders attended a two week, intense class named “Chemistry for Emergency Response” at the CFA on February. 6th -17th, 2012.

This course was delivered by the National Fire Academy (NFA) Instructors which is part of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).



Members of the 14th Civil Support Team

This program deals with dissecting the periodic table and developing an understanding of element molecular structures and how they combine to form new chemicals.

Students were taught to recognize chemical nomenclature and basic principles of chemistry in order to assess the risk to responders and the public.

This information help responders better understand the UN Categories’ such as Explosives, Compressed Gases, Flammable Liquids, Flammable solids, Oxidizers & Organic Peroxides, Poisons, Radioactive and Corrosives.

Eric Munsell, Program Manager

There is no such thing as harmless smoke—all smoke is toxic and evil. The basic rule is pretty simple: don't ever breath smoke”.

By Alan V. Brunacini

16 Alternatives to Death by PowerPoint

The workshop titled “16 Alternatives to Death by PowerPoint” was held on Saturday March 10, 2012 at the Connecticut Fire Academy.

The workshop was presented by Howard Cross who has spent a significant portion of his professional career, more than twenty-five years working

with individuals and groups in both private and public sectors, in developing their abilities as effective trainers/facilitators.

The overall goal of this workshop was to teach the participants a number of alternatives to PowerPoint as a vehicle for student acquisition of skills, knowledge and concepts.

As a result of these workshops participants now have a better understanding of how to present material in a quick-learning format.



Mark Salafia, Program Manager



“Don’t let where the fire has been distract you from where the fire is going”.

By Alan V. Bruncini

2012 Connecticut Fire Officer Weekend

The Connecticut Fire Academy Fire Officer’s Weekend was held at the National Fire Academy on the grounds of the National Emergency Training Center in Emmitsburg Maryland March 23, through March 25, 2012. There were 135 students present for the weekend. Over 210 students had applied to attend the

weekend which was well above the allotted 180 seats available. The student count was cut even more due to a major construction project being undertaken at the campus. One class had to be moved to shared dates with Georgia in April due to the Geo-Thermal HVAC project that continues and required the closing of two dormitories. Students had their choice to apply for one of the six National Fire Academy classes. As continues to be the case heightened security at federal facilities requires a complete search of all baggage and vehicles entering the Training Center. Students then proceeded to registration where check-in was completed with photo ID’s taken of all applicants.

The first function of the weekend was the memorial service to honor Connecticut Firefighters who have died in the line-of-duty since 1981 when the



National Fallen Firefighters Memorial was dedicated. The memorial service consisted of reading the individual names of each of the firefighters while a red carnation was placed at the memorial in memory of each. Special thanks go out to bag piper Mike Noga from Windsor Fire Department, members of the East Haddam Fire Department who acted as Honor Guard for presenting the colors and bell ringer. The carnations were placed by members of the Monroe Fire Department and the Dayville Fire Department.

The memorial service was followed immediately by the orientation held in the auditorium of “J” Building. Participants were asked for a show of hands for first time attendees at the Fire Officer Weekend which was a smaller group than other years. We hope that all those and more will return for weekends in the future. Following the Orientation a social hour with light fare and refreshments provided by the Connecticut Fire Department Instructors Association was held in the pub/recreation hall providing a great chance for participants to network with each other and other students at the NFA.

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2012 Connecticut Fire Officer Weekend

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Saturday was down to business time with all classes beginning at 8 a.m. NFA adjunct instructors performed an impressive job of delivering classes in Community Risk Issues and Prevention Interventions, Strategy and Tactics for Initial Company Operations, Introduction to Unified Command for Multi-Agency and Catastrophic Incidents, Courtroom Preparation and Testimony for First Responders, and Health and Safety Officer.

Deputy U.S. Fire Administrator Glenn Gaines and National Fire Academy Superintendent Denis Onieal visited all the classes to welcome students and to determine if there were any student needs that could be addressed. As happens every year, NFA instructors remarked that they were impressed with the knowledge base of the students from Connecticut.



Throughout the weekend there was plenty of food from the food service along with the ability to network with other firefighters while watching some great NCAA basketball games in the off class hours. Sunday classes began on a quiet morning and were completed in the afternoon for all to begin the trip back to Connecticut, all with just a little more knowledge to better serve the residents of Connecticut when emergencies occur.

Save the weekend of March 16 -17, 2013, as we are already looking forward to the next Connecticut Fire Officer's Weekend.

Mark Salafia, Program Manager

A Note to Trainers and Teachers

There is a syndrome which I have always called "graduate-school-itis," although after training cops I sometimes call it "law-enforcement-academy-itis." Teachers coming right out of school as well as cops coming right out of the academy (and even hazmat techs coming right out a chemistry class), all have the tendency to ignore the humanity of the folks in front of them, and place extreme, undue emphasis upon facts: facts of whatever specialty they have just spent days, weeks, and

years accumulating. It might be called the know-it-all syndrome, an extension of the call-on-me syndrome from grade school, for we all know the kid who always had her/his hand up because she/he had actually done all the homework and reading.

Let me state, right here, that facts are important, and facts are critical, especially in the hard sciences like physics and chemistry, which are the basis of hazmat preparedness and response. Oh yes, let me

state, right here up front, that I am a stickler for facts and I do an extreme amount of research to make sure I have my facts right. I am not always right, and I want and expect people (readers, class attendees, family members) to let me know when I am wrong, because I want to know. BUT (and this is a big but), given that all trainers' facts should be correct, what then?

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"Don't ever think a really bad thing can't happen to you twice".

By Alan V. Brunacini

"if a building burns, don't take it personally (you didn't make the world combustible)".

By Alan V. Brunacini



A Note to Trainers and Teachers

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That all has to be taken care of before the teacher, trainer, or boss enters the room. That is all about prep work. That is about being a professional learner. Okay, I get it. It's a given, facts are important. Yet, now we must learn to leave the hazmat class, the graduate school, and/or the law enforcement academy at the door, forget we were anal-retentive students who were facts-oriented looking for certificates and degrees, and we must somehow morph into terrific student-oriented, humanity-oriented teachers, trainers, and supervisors. Poof!

We have to change, become that which we are not, otherwise we will become she/he who we all dreaded. We all have heard the speaker who was the "mouthpiece" for the company or agency line and we quit listening after the first sentence. We have all been in a class where the teacher spoke over our heads and the facts died

sliding down the back wall to the floor. We have all cringed when the trainer put up a slide which was a copy of the textbook page—and then read it to us! If we don't go to new classes and read new books and learn to skills, training and teaching skills, we become of whom was said: who he was spoke so loudly I couldn't hear what he said!

Frederick J. Cowie, Ph. D.
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"The only way to approach a fire is to fight it (fully protected, with adequate water, and effective command) — don't ever get close to a fire to just evaluate it, consider it, wonder about it, etc.

By Alan V. Brunacini



**Battalion Chief
George K. Healy**

Command and Control of Maydays for the Incident Commander

The Seminar Series titled "*Command and Control of Maydays for the Incident Commander*" was held on Friday, April 27, 2012.

In his presentation, Chief Healy drew upon his experience in mayday scenarios and line-of-duty deaths that he has operated

at. He discussed his thoughts on command and control of fire operations, focusing on risk management for the incident

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Command and Control of Maydays for the Incident Commander

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commander as well as breaking the error chain in an effort to prevent mayday scenarios from developing.

Chief Healy highlighted resources that would assist the incident commander in managing a mayday on the fire ground and focusing on the role and positions for chief officers at the scene.

On Friday, May 18, 2012, Chief Healy will be returning due to the overwhelming request by students to present another seminar on “Command and Control of Maydays for the Incident Commander.

Mark Salafia, Program
Manager

“Good procedures are so simple you don’t need to write them down to remember them or use a dictionary to understand them”.
By Alan V. Brunacini

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**Ethics Statement
Commission on Fire Prevention and Control
Connecticut Fire Academy**

The Mission of the Commission on Fire Prevention and Control is to prevent or mitigate the effects of fire and disasters, either natural or manmade, on the citizens of the State of Connecticut. This Mission is accomplished through the development and delivery of state-of-the-art educational programs designed to meet nationally recognized standards, certification of individuals to such standards and maintenance of up-to-date resources for use by fire service personnel, public educators and other first responders. Towards this endeavor, all Commission employees represent the State of Connecticut and have positions of significant trust and responsibility that require them to adhere to the highest ethical standards. Ethical conduct and avoiding the appearance of impropriety are of critical importance in our relationship with members of Connecticut's fire service, the public and other agencies and private contractors. Commission employees shall acquaint themselves and comply with both the letter and spirit of all laws, regulations and policies governing professional ethical conduct.