



# Instructor's Dispatch

A Newsletter of the Commission on Fire Prevention & Control

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## Think Like an Incident Commander

Presented by Deputy Chief Thomas Dunne



Picture taken by Mark Salafia, Program Manager

The final 2009 Seminar Series presentation was held on Friday December 4, 2009. The subject was **Think Like an Incident Commander** presented by Deputy Chief Thomas Dunne FDNY dealing with fireground staffing, tactics, geography and construction. An analysis of the specific tactical and strategic challenges were used in regards to strip mall fires during the presentation. The Seminar Series was held at the Connecticut Fire Academy.

### Instructor Biography

Deputy Chief Thomas Dunne is a 27 year veteran of the New York City Fire Department with extensive experience in Mid-Manhattan and the Bronx. He has been the Incident Commander at hundreds of fires in residential, commercial and high rise buildings. Chief Dunne has written numerous articles for Fire Engineering.



*“Good leadership  
requires you to  
surround yourself  
with people of  
diverse perspectives  
who can disagree  
with you without  
fear of retaliation”.*

**Doris Kearns  
Goodwin**



## Southington Firefighter of the Year



**Adjunct Instructor Scott Lee**

**Picture taken by Program Manager Jim Carroll.**

The Southington Elks Lodge #1669 held its annual Public Safety Night Recognition Dinner on Thursday, November 19, 2009, in Southington.

Each year, the lodge recognizes a Southington Firefighter, Southington Police Officer and State Trooper, who has gone above and beyond their call of duty. This year’s Southington Firefighter award recipient was Adjunct Instructor Scott Lee. Congratulations to Scott!

## Recognizing Members of our Staff

An email was received from MSgt Kurt Smith, from the 14<sup>th</sup> Civil Support Team thanking the instructors of the recent HazMat Week CAMEO Class Steve Veneziano and Stefan Coutoulakis from East Greenwich , RI, as well as the Staff of the Academy for the outstanding program. He wrote “Truly a first class operation! I always enjoy attending classes there.”

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## Recruit Firefighter Graduation Class # 44



On December 18, 2009, The Connecticut Fire Academy graduated it's 44th Recruit Class, at the Theater of the Performing Arts, in Hartford. The class consisted of thirty-six (36) firefighters representing seventeen (17) Connecticut Fire Departments.

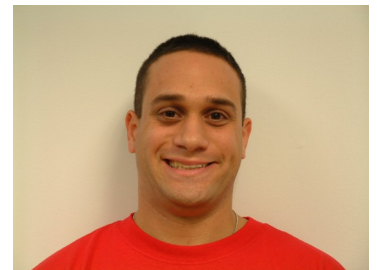
The class was escorted into the ceremony by the Connecticut Firefighter Pipe and Drum Band accompanied by the Connecticut Statewide Firefighters Honor Guard. Fire Chief Peter Vincent Landisio, North Haven Fire Department delivered the keynote remarks to the class, while Christopher Shea, North Haven Fire Department acted as the class spokesman.

***“Small sign  
over old safety  
officer’s desk  
“shit better  
not happen”.  
By Alan V.  
Brunacini***

## The Michael C. Reilly Memorial Hard Charger Award

In honor of Michael C. Reilly fellow members of his Connecticut Fire Academy Recruit Firefighter Class # 26, along with members of the Stratford Fire Department, wanted to establish an Award to recognize future Recruit Firefighters that exhibited the same outstanding traits as their friend and classmate.

The effort was spearheaded by Stratford firefighter Mike Tiberio and on December 18, 2006, the first Michael C. Reilly Memorial Hard Charger Award was presented to a member of Recruit Firefighter Class # 37. The Recipient of the eighth Michael C. Reilly Memorial Hard Charger Award was presented to David Pignataro, Norwalk Fire Department of Recruit Firefighter Class # 44.



***Recruit # 34  
David Pignataro  
Norwalk Fire Dept.***



<p>Save the Date Future 2010 Seminar Series</p>
<p>February 26, 2010 Fireground Safety for the Company Officer Guest Speaker Battalion Chief Forest Reader</p>
<p>April 9, 2010 Technical Rescue Incidents Guest Speaker Chief Fred Lafemina</p>
<p>June 11, 2010 Company Officer Academy Guest Speaker Chief Michael Barakey</p>

## Thank You to Clinton Volunteer Fire Dept.

I would like to thank the Clinton Volunteer Fire Dept. for a job well done. I have been a Foster Parent for nearly (6) six years now. Every year the Department of Child Services puts on a great holiday party for “Foster Families and the Children” in their care. This includes a meal, a visit from Santa and a small gift. As we all know, the state does not have the resources in these tough economic times to supply such a gathering.

The party was in jeopardy of not happening. Well, when the members of the Clinton Volunteer Fire Dept. got wind of this they stepped up and offered not only a place to hold this party, **BUT** also provided an incredible breakfast, and servers. All on there dime!

As a Foster Dad, 15 years as a Volunteer Firefighter and an employee of the Connecticut Fire Academy, **THANK YOU** to all involved in making a great thing happen for kids who don't have a lot of great things happen to them. This truly “Tis the Season” Brotherhood really has no boundaries.

Sincerely,  
Rob Myjak

## Hazardous Materials Program

A lot of work has been done by the Connecticut Fire Academy Adjunct instructors and staff to upgrade and enhance the Hazardous Materials Programs.

To begin with, in the summer of 2008, the Certification Division took on the much overdue task of providing a “Certification Level” for the Awareness / Operational / WMD based on N.F.P.A. 472 – 2008 edition. At the time of this undertaking, the Training Division still was lacking an updated program; so many departments including the CFA Recruit program were “patching” the older version with some existing stand alone programs, as well as adding their own touch.

Since then, a completely new program has been developed to meet the N.F.P.A. 472 – 2008 and still to be tested “certification”. It should be pointed out that the references in this article deal with the N.F.P.A. Standard and not O.S.H.A., so please do not confuse the two.

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## Hazardous Materials Program

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If anyone has the resource to read the 472, the beginning outlines the major changes to the 2004 version. It is obvious, most changes are to the Awareness / Operational Level. Awareness is *No Longer* considered a “First Responder Level”. It still applies to the basic labor force for the educational needs but not for the First Responder for them it is the “First Step”.

Chapter 4 of the 472 is the “Competencies for Awareness Level Personnel”. Awareness is still a requirement for the First Responder as a pre-requisite for the Operational Level of Training. It still consist of an in depth education on Recognition and Identification, Placarding, the Emergency Response Guide, the NIOSH Guide. Some basic information has been added concerning Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) and Illicit Drug Laboratories. This is due to the fact that many of the WMD are in fact Hazardous Materials with the specific intent to kill or harm and that much of the ingredients for making illicit drugs such as methamphetamine are extremely hazardous.

Chapter 5 of the 472 is now referred to as the “Core Competencies for Operations Level Responders”. This “Core” is required for all First Responders as well as similar to the old rescue programs with the core being the “basic foundation” of the Operational Level Responder. This Chapter goes more in depth into the Recognition and Identification, covering individual Railroad Cars, Transportation Trucks, Containers, Pipelines, Storage, Specific Hazard Classes such as Explosives, Compressed Gases, Flammable Liquids and Solids, Oxidizers, Poisons, Radiation, Corrosives. The Chapter covers the Incident Management System and how it applies to a Hazardous Materials incident and the various methods that may be adopted by a local jurisdiction to handle and Haz Mat incident. It gets more in depth with identifying how Haz Mats may enter our world such as leaks, ruptures, accidents etc. and helps to identify the many questions a First Responder needs to answer to safely determine if they can deal with the incident or need to get further assistance and how to protect the People, Property and Environment. Again a major addition is the emphasis on WMD and Drug Labs and the hazards that they create to the First Responder and a basic education of the potential Hazards and Harm that they can create.

Chapter 6 is known as “Competencies for Operations Level Responders Assigned Mission-Specific Responsibilities”. There are eight (8) Mission Specific topics. In the standard it states that only those deemed appropriate by the Authority Having Jurisdiction with a few “Required” apply. The Connecticut Fire Academy has taken the bold step to provide training information on all eight topics and the Certification is for all eight topics.



***“There are no degrees of being dead...always avoid anything to do with dead”.***

***By Alan V. Brunacini***



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**“Poorly managed  
HAZMAT entry suits:  
body bags with a  
window”**

**By Alan V. Brunacini**

## Hazardous Materials Program

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These topics are:

1. Personal Protective Equipment
2. Mass Decontamination
3. Technical Decontamination
4. Evidence Preservation and Sampling
5. Product Control
6. Air Monitoring and Sampling
7. Victim Rescue and Recovery
8. Illicit Laboratory Incidents

As one can gather; Chapters 4 and 5 are predominantly Classroom / Lecture /Discussion with some hands on with resource materials such as the ERG or NIOSH guide.

Chapter 6 has the in depth information on each specific topic as well as lots of “Practical Applications” training which requires more resources, time and planning for the instructors. Responders must perform donning and doffing level B – P.P.E., assisting doffing a responder with a Level A suit. Responders will perform various types of Mass Decontamination and Technical Decontamination applications. A much awaited and overlooked section deals with the Decontamination and Procedures for Canines and Law Enforcement with Weapons. An in depth study of various types of meters, how they work, how they are tested, calibrated and used and the information interpreted is required. Responders have information on Patient Care in a Hazardous Environment and the State of Connecticut Department of Public Health adopted SMART Tag system for Triage. Responders need to perform the Damming, Diking and Diverting as well as using Manual and Emergency Shut Offs for containers and vessels. Responders learn how to preserve a crime scene and if required the proper methods to actually take samples of chemicals and to preserve evidence and maintain the “Chain of Evidence”. Responders learn the special hazards of Illicit Laboratories whether Drug or Weapons of Mass Destruction and the booby traps and hazards specifically directed at Responders and from the

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# Hazardous Materials Program

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materials used. Each topic highlights the overlap with other modules and the importance of communications, multi-agency cooperation and strong disciplined personnel and leadership.

You must keep in mind that the N.F.P.A. is an internationally used standard and although we may not think some topics apply to Connecticut, others may not be as fortunate with resources.

The most important component is to keep in mind is that this basic level of training will be with the First Responder for his or her entire career, so it really should not be short changed for the convenience of the responder or the management. Think Safety.

In the next Hazardous Materials Article we will discuss the Technician Program and some of the various “specialty” classes.

Eric Munsell  
Program Manager

# Recognizing Our Staff

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*Letter from Kathleen A. Eagen, Town Manager, Town of Farmington*

Kathleen A. Eagen, Town Manager of the Town of Farmington wrote thanking Tom McGowan, Director of Certification...She wrote “I want to thank you for both your expertise and your time to proctor the written test stage of the recruitment for the Career Firefighter for the Town of Farmington. Your efforts have helped greatly in what I believe has been a very successful phase of the recruitment process. I hope that you can work with us again in the future”.



**“If you can’t  
explain  
firefighting  
damage after the  
fire—don’t do it  
during the fire”.**  
**By Alan V.  
Brunacini**



*“Poorly managed  
HAZMAT entry suits:  
body bags with a  
window”*

*By Alan V. Brunacini*

## **Fire Service Instructor Program Coordinator**

Congratulations are in order for Jason Decremer with his assignment as the Program Coordinator for the Fire Service Instructor Program.

Jason has been very active in the Fire Service Instructor and Fire Officer programs since joining the CFA adjunct staff and his new assignment will keep him busy as we roll out the revised Instructor program and add Fire Service Instructor III to our offerings.

Jason was a Captain with Greenwich Fire Department before moving to Southbury and joining the fire department where he serves as a Lieutenant. Jason has earned a B.A., an M.Ed. in Curriculum and Instruction and a PhD in Emergency Management and Terrorism. He is an adjunct professor with Naugatuck Community College in the Fire Science Program, University of Phoenix, and Maryland University’s Terrorism Program. Jason is married with one child.

## **Five Truisms or Basic Things to Think About in 2010!**

- 1) “Buy low, sell high!” This one is first, because fear drives us off our checklists and long term strategies and ruins our life in the long term. If we learn to live this one true, and we don’t panic in fear and sell stocks or properties or assets when things tank and prices are low, then we just might be able to remember to keep to our checklists and training when disaster and terrorism strike. Terrorism is defined as a tactic which will throw others into panic and off basic strategies.
- 2) “It’s all about cash flow!” Not about credit or debt, profit or loss, sales or stock. Those are important, of course, but not critical, not the main focus. To understand the criticality, use energy (which really means ability to do work) for cash flow. If your enterprise has no emotional energy, no lights on, no people to show up to work, then you will

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## Five Truisms or Basic Things to Think About in 2010!

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fail. And remember, Ponzi schemes, irrational and illegal, work at the beginning simply because they are about cash flow! Proof? Regardless of credit, sales, profit, and leadership awards, stop the cash flow and don't pay the staff, the power bill, or the bank. Manage all types of your energy, cash and other, and you will be far, far better off.

- 3) "Pareto was eighty percent right!" The eighty-twenty principle, the Pareto Principle, is extremely important because it forces us to bring the daily economies of our life into our consciousness (Pareto was an economist). Twenty percent of our work brings eighty percent of our success. Eighty percent of complaints come from twenty percent of our customers. Anyone right eighty percent of the time is batting .800, twice that of Ted Williams. If Pareto was only eighty percent right on his 80% Principle, then he was still batting .640!
- 4) "Step back, way, way back!" This one too is critical. It's quite simple. Perspective is not possible up close. If you are too close, literally you can't see the big picture, you are in someone else's space, your brain is overwhelmed with minutiae and trivia, you are emotionally stressed, and anything you do will be helped by stepping back, but not just back, but way, way back. And don't turn around, turn your back on the problem, and run away. No! Just back up, way back! See, the other person is happier, the data is analyzable, and life is better.
- 5) "You are in a box, actually, several of them!" Professional historians (and yes even scientists) know that there is no such thing as objectivity, although certain processes are more objective than others. You have a specific religion, or not! You have education and training, or not! You have a job, or not! You have a home, a car, a ATV, an RV, a snowmobile, a motorcycle, a country home, a 401K, la la la, or not! Your boxes more or less dictate how you think, and when you leave your boxes you are called a traitor, a quitter, a non-believer. For the most part we are comfortable where we are, we really don't want to change, we love our boxes. Don't believe it? Leave your boxes! Scary thought, eh? An even scarier thought is that you can't grow inside your boxes. **"We're all in this together!"**

**"Be very careful of poorly managed fires that go out—they tend to make you dumb".**

**By Alan V. Brunacini**

Frederick J. (Fred) Cowie, Ph.D.  
 PO Box 6214  
 Helena, MT 50604  
 24 hr cell: 406-431-3531  
 Website: fredcowie.com





## Holiday Message to State Employees

Dear State Employee:

I want to wish you and your family the very best this holiday season.

This past year has been difficult for all of us and there are so many challenges that lie ahead in 2010. However, the services provided by you and other valued state employees over the past year has greatly helped the citizens and businesses of Connecticut in these difficult times.

Our state employees are always willing to help when we need it most and this was especially true in 2009 thanks to the selfless personal and professional sacrifices you made on behalf of the great State of Connecticut. This is why I am so proud and honored to be your Governor.

This time of year is a joyous opportunity to spend with family and friends. It is also a special time to reflect on our achievements of the past year. Sometimes during our hectic days we forget to say thank you. Today, I want to remind you that your hard work and the unwavering dedication you bring to state service is always appreciated and never goes unrecognized.

So from my family to yours, I wish you a joyous, safe and happy holiday season.

Best wishes,

M. Jodi Rell  
Governor



**State of Connecticut  
Commission on Fire Prevention &  
Control  
Connecticut Fire Academy  
34 Perimeter Road  
Windsor Locks, CT 06096**

**Phone: 860-627-6363  
Fax: 860-654-1889  
In-State Toll Free 877-528-3473**



**We're on the web at: [www.ct.gov/cfpc](http://www.ct.gov/cfpc)**

### **Agency Mission**

To prevent or mitigate the effects of fire and disasters, either natural or manmade, on the citizens of the State of Connecticut. This objective shall be 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.