

Instructor's Dispatch

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Recruit Class # 50 Graduation



On December 17, 2012, the Connecticut Fire Academy graduated its 50th Recruit Class at the Klein Memorial Auditorium in Bridgeport, Connecticut. Recruit Class 50 consisted of 66 firefighters from twenty-five (25) Connecticut Fire Departments.

This noteworthy achievement and ceremony began with an escort into the auditorium by the Connecticut Firefighter Pipe and Drum Band, and the Connecticut Statewide Firefighters Honor Guard. After a moving A Capella rendition of our

National Anthem sung by Kelly-Ann Clark of Wethersfield, the most Reverend Dr. Simon Castillo provided the invocation. Introductions and greetings were made by Mr. Jeffrey Morrissette, the State Fire Administrator, the honorable Bill Finch, Mayor of the City of Bridgeport, and the honorable Stephen Dargan, State Representative of the 115th District. The keynote address and inspiring remarks were given by Fire Chief Brian Rooney of the Bridgeport Fire Department.

From the conclusion of the opening remarks, two class awards were given. Mark Ruggiero, the class Platoon Leader, was presented with the Mike Reilly "Hard Charger" award by Mike Tiberia from Recruit Class 26, Michael Reilly, Sr., other members of the Stratford Fire Department, and the most recent recipient of the award, Nick Mayo of the Middletown Fire Department. The second award, an Instructors' Award, was presented to Michael Jedd

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Recruit Class # 50 Graduation

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Greenwich Fire Department by the Recruit Program Coordinators, and by retired Chief and retiring master instructor Mike Ciccarelli of the Hartford Fire Department.

The awards were followed by the presentation of certificates by the respective fire department chiefs, Fire Academy representatives, and special guests of the graduating recruits. The program concluded with remarks by the class spokesperson, Firefighter Derek Currao of the Bridgeport Fire Department, a class video presentation, and the benediction offered by Reverend Castillo.

This graduation and

tremendous accomplishment was the culmination of a rigorous 15 week training program that required all of the recruits to develop the knowledge, skills, and abilities needed for entry level firefighters. As a part of a balance of firefighting theory and extensive skill development, these firefighters received training in Hazardous Materials Mitigation, Weapons of Mass Destruction Preparedness, Confined Space Rescue, CPR/Defibrillation, and Technical Rescue. They were also mentored through the essential core components of the firefighting profession, specifically those which establish a strong desire and will for self-discipline, teamwork, company

morale, orderliness and precision. In addition to the numerous certificates that they received for the specialized training components of the program, all of the graduated recruits were nationally certified to the level of Firefighter I and Firefighter II.

*“A confused
fireground
situation cannot
be corrected by a
confused IC.
By Alan V.
Brunacini*



Michael Jedd, Greenwich F.D.



Marc D. Ruggiero, Milford F.D.

Program Manager Training Division

The Connecticut Fire Academy is pleased to announce that Jason Decremer accepted the position of Program Manager for the Training Division on October 19, 2012.

Jason Decremer is thrilled to have the opportunity to work as a Program Manager at the Connecticut Fire Academy and looks forward to working with all the great instructors' and staff he has gotten to know so well over the past five years. He was hired as an Adjunct Instructor for the CFA in 2007. Jason came out to the East Coast in 1997 working as

an Environmental Health & Safety Officer.

He joined the fire service as a volunteer firefighter in 2000 with the Greenwich Fire Department. Currently, he is a Lieutenant in the Southbury Volunteer Fire Department, which he has been a member of since 2005. He also teaches courses for the University of Phoenix, revises curriculum for the University of Maryland in the Fire Science program, and teaches in the Fire Technology program at Naugatuck Community College. Jason is married with two young children, Carson and Vivian.



Jason Decremer

RIT Strategic & Tactical Roles for Officer

On November 26th, the CFA delivered a pilot class for officers of the New London Fire Department titled "RIT – Strategic and Tactical Roles for Officers". The course was designed for officers that will be in a position to take strategic

and tactical command of RIT activations on the fire ground. New London was able to host this class utilizing federal grant funds they had received. One of the officers from New London stated of the class, "Instructors presented

the program with extreme knowledge and passion."

Many thanks to Pete Morotto, Chip Chapman, and Ian Tenney for the course development and delivery.

Jason Decremer
Program Manager

"Mixing wind and fire is a very bad thing".

By Alan V. Brunacini

Secretary State Fire Administrator

The Connecticut Fire Academy is pleased to announce that Stephanie Bryant accepted the position of Secretary to State Fire Administrator Jeffrey Morrisette effective December 14, 2012. Stephanie is originally from the Washington DC metro area, she relocated to Connecticut in 2003. She has 8 ½ years of experience with the State of

Connecticut working for various agencies such as the Dept. of Banking, Dept. of Corrections and for DESPP in the Payroll Unit as a Processing Technician. Stephanie has stated that she looks forward to working here at the CT Fire Academy for a very long time!

Please join us in welcoming Stephanie Bryant.



Stephanie Bryant

“Be careful of fire fights that are easy to get into and hard to get out of”.

By Alan V. Brunacini

A Deadly Play on Words

Words are wonderfully long lived and adaptive. One meaning becomes obsolete, but the word lives on with a new connotation. Original roots are forgotten in the foliage of new languages, new usages. As one more at home with words than chemicals, yet in love with both the history of chemistry and chemical safety training, I find certain chemical words and concepts absolutely intriguing and thought provoking. If I can provoke thought, I can promote safety! So here goes another meander on one of the oft traveled back roads of my mind. (Meander itself is a wonderful word, with roots in the slow flowing, snaking, wandering, winding Menderes River, from *Maeander* in Latin, *meandrous* in Greek.)

The concept of the day is blue, but more particularly cyan, aka: Prussian blue. I often ask the EMTs, paramedics, nurses and doctors in my classes for a word used in their business pertaining to the color blue. The responses are quick and accurate—cyanotic and cyanosis. Then I ask them for another blue word, one dealing

with poison. Again they are on point with cyanide. “Aha.” I say tilting my head in a questioning manner, “but we seem to have a medical dilemma.” So I write on the board, side by side, cyanosis and cyanide, underlining cyan on both words.

Next I quickly ask two questions, not allowing the first to be answered before I deliver the second. “What color is cyanotic blood?” “How about cyanide poisoned blood?” As I do this I point to the two words on the board, cyanosis and cyanide, purposefully tapping the roots, cyan. Given the education and training of my class participants, the correct answers are given, chocolaty red-brown and bright red.

“What do these answers have to do with the word, the root word blue, cyan?” I ask. Quickly comes the answer for cyanosis, that the blood in the veins through the skin and lips looks cool, bluish, though the actual blood is chocolaty due to its being deficient in oxygen. “And for cyanide?” I query. Unlike in this article, in class I have not introduced the concept of Prussian blue and the word cyan yet, so I

do it here. They soon see that while the medical concept of cyanosis has something to do with the color blue, cyanide the word comes from the blue color—Prussian blue—produce by iron cyanide. Luckily for those of us who need mnemonic devices to remember obscure things, the cyanide ion is a triple bonded unit of C and N, which are the key consonants in cyan. On the other hand, the blood of cyanide poisoning victims is bright red due to its high load of oxygen. Cyanide, you see, messes with metabolism and cytochrome oxidase and hemoglobin can’t unload its oxygen cargo. Blue and red, red and blue, a cyanide paradox. Hmm.

Because these blue words are in common usage among responders, it is critical that there is no confusion, just because words are often non-technical, nebulous things, especially in this land of the red, white, and blue.

Frederick J. Cowie, Ph.D.

Staff Visit to CREC Public Safety Academy

Staff from the Connecticut Fire Academy recently gathered a small group of local firefighters to assist in classroom activities at the CREC Public Safety Academy in Enfield. Captain Brian Ellis and Firefighters Matt Mucci and Steve Ellis from the Enfield Fire Department, Trey Duggan from the North Thompsonville Fire Department, and Cezary Milewicz from the Manchester Fire Rescue and EMS Department participated in two similar classroom activities during the

morning of Tuesday, December 18th. Their role in the activities was to be interviewed by groups of 6th grade Language Arts students, who will use the interview information to develop and film a newscast using what they gathered. The student projects will culminate in role-playing the interviewees on film at a later date. All of the firefighter participants were impressed by the overall interest of the students in the public safety professions, and the

depth of the questions that they posed.

“Sometimes, it’s impossible to recover from doing the wrong thing first”.

By Alan V. Brunacini



Chief Mike Ciccarelli with Recruit Class # 50



Left to Right: Chief Mike Ciccarelli and Adjunct Instructor Dave Christoff

Chief Mike Ciccarelli Retires

Congratulations Chief Ciccarelli on a job well done! Although retired Chief Mike Ciccarelli of the Hartford Fire Department has served the fire academy in many ways over the past 25 years, his role in the most recent and his final Recruit Class may be the most noteworthy: Chief Ciccarelli began with Bridgeport recruits in Class #1 in 1987, and concluded with Bridgeport recruits

in Class # 50 in 2012. Although most know that those 25 years were a period of tremendous change in the fire service, the Chief is one of very few instructors who can speak to the continuity of the need for progressive firefighter training regardless of the era or department. For those who worked with him, including in the many other places and classes he has taught besides Recruit, it will always be known that he was highly re-

garded by the academy, the instructors, and the departments and students he served. With his strong command presence, yet agreeable temperament and calm demeanor, he leaves knowing that he was a true mentor who inspired the supreme confidence of his peers.”

Class A Burn Building



The class "A" burn building located at the Connecticut Fire Academy has been placed in service. During the burns several items of concern have been identified. These items have been turned over to Construction Services for action. Some items have been addressed with modifications to the building.

Procedures are still being adjusted as we learn about the building. In an effort to control the fires that are built in the building we have purchased two new burn racks. These will be tested during the next several burns to see how they perform.

If they meet our needs, others may be purchased.

Jim Carroll
Program Manager

"The more you practice, the better you get...we play the way we practice".

By Alan V. Brunacini

Rescue Week

The Connecticut Fire Academy held the 3rd Annual Rescue Week during the first week of October. There were 13 offerings of 11 different programs. Along with the always popular Heavy Vehicle Rescue and Advanced Vehicle Extrication several new programs were delivered. These new programs included

Austere Environment Response for the Pre-Hospital Provider, Technical Extrication and the Golden hour, Machinery Rescue, and Urban Lead Climber. During the week 222 students attended and participated in the selection of half day, one day and two day programs. Organizations that provided
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Flashover Life and Death Decisions on the Fireground

The final 2012 Seminar Series presentation was held on Friday, December 14, 2012. The subject was “Flashover Life and Death Decisions on the Fireground” presented by Bryan Winzer FDNY. The Seminar Series was held at the Connecticut Fire Academy.

The seminar viewed two case studies of incidents where flashover caused serious burn injuries and the death of a firefighter.

Instructor Biography

Bryan Winzer is an 18 year veteran of the fire service. Bryan is a 9 year member of the FDNY where he is currently assigned to Engine Company 231 in the Brownsville section of Brooklyn. He is also currently a firefighter with the Huntington Manor Volunteer Fire Department where he has previously served as Captain and Lieutenant of the Hook and Ladder Company. Bryan has been an FDIC H.O.T instructor as well as a lecturer at FDIC.



Bryan J. Winzer

Rescue Week

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or assisted with training included: The Crosby Group, Hartford Hospital, and the Connecticut USAR Team and Bradley Airport. Support from the vendors of rescue tools and equipment allowed us to deliver the number and level of these rescue programs which have large logistical requirements.

The Rescue Week could not happen without all this support. We also need to acknowledge all the hard work of our in-

structors who consistently provide top notch training to the emergency responders of Connecticut. The 4th Annual Rescue Week is scheduled for the first week of October 2013. Hope to see you there.

James Carroll
Program Manager



**DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY SERVICES AND PUBLIC PROTECTION
COMMISSION ON FIRE PREVENTION & CONTROL**

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Mission 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.