

# INSTRUCTOR'S DISPATCH

A Newsletter of the Commission on Fire Prevention & Control



Volume 12, Issue 2

February, 2011

## CONNECTICUT FIRE ACADEMY

### IT'S IN THE BASEMENT



Left to right: Chief Robert G. Moran and Lt John J. Lewis

The 2011 Seminar titled *It's in the Basement* was held on February 25th. A fire in the basement is different than any other fire to which you respond. Fire spread from basement areas through vertical and horizontal voids will cause severe structural instability and critical fire loads within a building. "It's in the basement" are four words that should make everyone on the fireground immediately rethink their strategies and tactics.

Topics covered included building construction, size up concerns, proper hand line placement, ventilation and search procedures.

*Continued on page 6*

#### Inside this issue:

It's In The Basement	1 & 6	Regional Fire School Bond Award Announced	8
Secretary, Training Division	2		
Recognizing Members of our Staff	2-3		
Fiscal Administrative Assistant	3		
Vehicles and Common Courtesy	4		
Everbridge Notification System	5		
Course Accreditation	6-7		

## Secretary, Training Division



*Ebony S. Jackson, Secretary*

**“The only thing  
that will  
impress the  
fire is well-  
placed force  
(force = water  
and tactical  
support”.**  
**By Alan V.  
Brunacini**

The Connecticut Fire Academy is pleased to announce that Ebony Jackson accepted the Secretary to the Training Division position effective January 28, 2011. Ebony is a resident of New Britain, Connecticut and has a little boy named Branden who is 3 years old and in pre-school.

She received an Associates Degree in Criminal Justice from Manchester Community College. She is currently attending Bay Path College located in Long Meadow Mass pursuing a B.A. in Criminal Justice.

Ebony started her career with the state two years ago at the State's Attorney's Office in Hartford, CT. as a Senior Clerk. Prior to that, she worked in the healthcare and health insurance fields. Please join us in welcoming Ebony Jackson.

## RECOGNIZING MEMBERS OF OUR STAFF

*Paul Nabors, Assistant Fire Chief, Thompson FD*

Paul Nabors, Assistant Fire Chief, Thompsonville FD wrote thanking the Certification Division staff for preparing and administering a recent promotional examination for that department. Promotional examinations are just one of the many value added services offered by agency staff to Connecticut fire departments. Thanks to all for their efforts!

*Continued on page 3*

## Fiscal Administrative Assistant



Mary Grennan  
Fiscal Administrative Assistant

The Connecticut Fire Academy is pleased to announce that Mary Grennan accepted the Fiscal Administrative Assistant (FAA) position effective January 28<sup>th</sup>. As an FAA, Mary will be responsible for a wide range of fiscal and administrative functions including payroll, accounts payable and receivable and procurement. This function is coordinated with staff at the DAS Small Agency Resource Team.

Mary started her career with the state working in the Contracts Administration Unit at the Department of Correction. Mary lives in Windsor, Connecticut with her husband, daughter, and Yellow Lab 'Duffy'. Please join us in welcoming Mary Grennan.

**"In fire  
command and  
tax preparation,  
don't ever let  
your inclination  
to gamble out  
perform your  
fear".**

**By Alan v.  
Brunacini**

## RECOGNIZING MEMBERS OF OUR STAFF

*Continued from page 2*

*Jessica Perez, Human Resource Associate, Dept of Banking*

Jessica Perez, Human Resource Associate from the Department of Banking wrote thanking Carlo Piacentini for his informative and detailed CPR and First Aid Training for that agency's employees. She wrote "[The training] has prepared our employee's to handle an emergency situation if one should arise. I can only hope you will be available in two years when our employees need to be recertified." Thanks Carlo for a job well done!

Jeffrey Morrissette, State Fire Administrator

**"First rule of exits: if you pay to get in, you pay to get out."**

**By Alan V. Brunacini**

## **VEHICLES AND COMMON COURTESY**

Our modest fleet of fire apparatus, service vehicles and pool cars serves us fairly well.

Storekeeper, Rob Myjak is responsible for ensuring that the shared transportation vehicles (Impala car and Expeditions) are regularly serviced and road ready. He works closely with the state's fleet maintenance division to accomplish scheduled and nonscheduled maintenance .

Program Manager, Mark Salafia is responsible for our fire apparatus and support vehicles (flat bed and box trucks). These repairs or routine maintenance are either under manufacturer's warranty or contracted to state authorized vendors.

All these self propelled vehicles require fuel. It is the responsibility of the driver/operator of any of these vehicles to refuel or top off after any use. More importantly, it is a common courtesy to leave a ready vehicle when you park it.

Please think of your fellow workers and fuel up whenever the tank is at or below 50%. Also, if repairs are needed, use the yellow tag notification system to inform us of required action. This system is also used to report collisions, dents and dings.

If we treat each other with the same regard as we expect, then everyone should be satisfied. Thanks for thinking about each other, and completing the entire job.

Adam D. Piskura  
Director of Training



## Everbridge Notification System

The Everbridge System is computer based communication system that can notify people in times of emergency, or using standard messaging software can make routine printed or audible notifications.

As you have probably seen on TV, Lt J. Paul Vance, Public Information Officer for the CT State Police has been requesting people to sign up for the emergency notification system in Connecticut. It is the Everbridge system. This system will allow for the critical notifications to reach you in a timely manner. The system can be either set up for a mass message or to a pre defined geographical location as determined by the nature of the emergency.

The Connecticut Fire Academy will be using this notification software system in a non emergency manner. This will allow the Academy personnel to quickly notify adjunct instructors of delivery changes. Jackie Kilby Richards has been tasked with completing the paperwork necessary to start using the system. You will be receiving a form by email attachment indicating your notification priorities. Please complete the paperwork and return it promptly. The system can use a variety of means to notify you, including text messages, voicemail or email. A key component in this system is your cell phone or pager provider information; the message must be delivered to the proper carrier for you to be notified.

The system will be set up to match your credentialing in the instructor solicitation software. We would like to start this process as soon as possible so please cooperate and submit your information promptly. The Everbridge system requires routine updates, so any changes in personal contact information must be submitted to the program manager.

**"If you panic,  
be certain to  
run in the  
correct  
direction".**

**By Alan V.  
Brunacini**

## IT'S IN THE BASEMENT



*Continued from page 1*

### Instructor Biography

John J. Lewis is currently serving as a Lieutenant with the City of Passaic, NJ Fire Department. John is an instructor at the Bergen County (NJ) Fire Academy and an Adjunct Instructor at Kean University in Union, NJ and Utah Valley University in Orem, UT.

Robert G. Moran joined the Englewood NJ Fire Department in 1985 and progressed through the ranks to Chief of Department. Chief Moran recently became the Fire Chief in Brewster Mass. Chief Moran holds a Bachelors Degree in Fire Science from New Jersey City University, and is an adjunct instructor for Kean University.

**"In both life and  
fire fighting,  
there are bold  
dogs and there  
are old  
dogs...there just  
are not many  
bold, old dogs."**

**By Alan V.  
Brunacini**

## COURSE ACCREDITATION

On January 28, 2011, I met with the Charter Oak State College who conducted a Connecticut Credit Assessment (CCAP) review of Connecticut Fire Academy (CFA) courses. The review team members were Maryanne LeGrow, Ph.D., Charter Oak State College Assessment Coordinator; Wayne Sanford, Fire Science Professor University of New Haven; Ignacy Kapalczyzinski, Fire and Life Specialist, Officer of the Connecticut State Fire Marshal; and James Turner, Fire Technology and Administration Instructor, Three Rivers Community College. The review team judged courses using several criteria including academic rigor and methods of assessment. All courses submitted received accreditation. Courses now accredited are:

- Chemistry for Emergency Response  
3 semester credit hours upper level
- Command and General Staff Function  
3 semester credit hours upper level for Incident Level Management Teams
- Fire Officer 1  
3 semester credit hours lower level
- Fire Officer 2  
3 semester credit hours lower level

*Continued on page 7*



## COURSE ACCREDITATION



*Continued from page 6*

- Fire Officer 3  
3 semester credit hours upper level
- Fire Officer 4  
6 semester credit hours upper level
- Fire Service Instructor I  
3 semester credit hours lower level
- Fire Service Instructor II  
3 semester credit hours lower level
- Fire Service Instructor III  
3 semester credit hours upper level
- Health and Safety Officer  
1 semester credit hour lower level
- Incident Safety Officer – Fire Suppression  
1 semester credit hour lower level
- Public Fire and Life Safety Educator I  
2 semester credit hours lower level
- Recruit Firefighter  
6 semester credit hours lower level

**“We’re naturally geared to go forward; we don’t retreat well...we must practice the tactical agility of making a u-turn when necessary.**

**By Alan V. Brunacini**

Compiling the information required for CCAP required many hours and a complete review of courses and programs to ensure that requirements were met. The following instructors are recognized for the hard work and assistance while preparing for and participating in the review: Mark Amatrudo, Jason Decremer, Brian Hurst, Jackie Kilby-Richards, Mark Lewandowski, Eric Munsell and Alan Zygmunt..

Instructions on how to claim credit for courses will be posted on the CFPC website at [www.ct.gov/cfpc](http://www.ct.gov/cfpc).

William Trisler  
Program Manager

## Regional Fire School Bond Award Announced

**"Vomiting  
firefighters are  
ugly  
firefighters...you  
will generally  
vomit to the  
absolute  
exclusion of any  
other human act.**

**By Alan V.  
Brunacini**



### *Ct Fire Academy - Hartford County Regional School Funding Announcement*

At a Special Meeting on February 24, 2011, the State Bond Commission approved two bond allocations and authorizations totaling \$4,937,100 to award a construction contract for the construction of a Maintenance and Burn Building for the Connecticut Fire Academy-Hartford County Fire School. This project consists of an approximately 7,600 square foot Maintenance Building and a 4,300 square foot concrete Class A Burn Building and will also include the construction of training props, related site work and utility improvements. This project will create or retain approximately 78 construction related jobs.

Representatives from the Connecticut State Firefighters Association Education Committee joined Governor Dannel P. Malloy and Rep. Betty Boukus (22<sup>nd</sup> District).



**CONNECTICUT FIRE ACADEMY**

34 Perimeter Road  
Windsor Locks, CT 06096  
Phone: 860-627-6363  
Fax: 860-654-1889

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



**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.