

THE INSTRUCTOR'S DISPATCH



Commission on Fire Prevention and Control
Connecticut Fire Academy



Ellington Chief Helps Develop Device To Link Emergency Workers During Disaster

By Jennifer Misthal
Journal Inquirer

Can you hear me now? That question is eliciting positive responses across the state these days, thanks to a new device that will allow firefighters, police and emergency medical workers from different towns to communicate with each other during a disaster.

The device, which is a combination of a receiver and a radio, is called the "On-Scene Tactical Operations Channel or **STOC**, which many believe to be the first of its kind.

A group from the statewide communications interoperability committee over-saw the creation of the device after receiving approval from the state Department of Emergency Management and Homeland Security, Ellington Volunteer Fire Chief

Michael D. Varney said recently. Varney was a member of that committee.

One of the major problems for first responders at the scene of a disaster has been communicating with agencies operating on different radio frequencies, according to Varney. "It's an interoperable radio system that was put together for use at emergency scenes or event scenes," he said.

Adding channels to existing radio equipment is at the crux of **STOC**, Varney said, a task made possible last January when the federal government made more frequencies available. "The goal was to leverage all of the existing equipment that was already in the field that people already felt comfortable using,"



Ellington Volunteer Fire Chief
Michael D. Varney

Varney said, adding that channels do need to be added to the radios.

Opening up these frequencies is a direct result of the Sept 11, 2001, terrorist attacks, Wayne Sandford, Deputy Commissioner of the state Department of Emergency Management and Homeland Security, said.

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Ellington Chief Helps Develop Device To Link Emergency Workers During Disaster Cont'd

“The police officers and the firefighters were working together at the scene, but could not talk to one another,” he said, providing a tangible example of the need for **STOC**.

The device is designed for emergency responders at “the operational level,” with low-wattage portable radios, Sandford said, explaining there is an existing system in place for commanders.

While the project is still in its nascent stage, Sandford hopes to distribute the cross-banding device required to make **STOC** a reality for emergency management.

“We’d like to see one in every community. We’re not sure we have the funding to do that,” he said of introducing the device across the state.

The project is being funded by federal homeland security money that Sandford said was “funneled down through the state.”

The device is not the product of a technological breakthrough makes it hard to believe that no one else thought of the idea, Sandford said.

STOC will be put to the test in Ellington, along with 30 different emergency response organizations around Hartford, Varney said.

“Be careful of what you wish for... you may get it”.

By Alan V. Brunacini

2006 Connecticut Fire Officer's Weekend

Applications are now available for the 2006 Connecticut Fire Officer's Weekend at the National Fire Academy in Emmitsburg Maryland May 5, 6, and 7.

The Fire Officer's Weekend is a chance for numerous Connecticut fire service personnel to experience the superior level of fire related education available at the National Fire Academy.

Applicants have their choice of one of six classes taught by NFA adjunct instructors.

Applications must be completely filled out and returned to the Connecticut Fire Academy

by March 10, 2006. Please **review and download the brochure and application** which is now on the website at: www.ct.gov/cfpc as well as information pertaining to your arrival at the National Fire Academy.

The Connecticut Fire Officer's Weekend agenda includes a Memorial Service at the National Fallen Firefighters Memorial, orientation Friday evening, followed by a social gathering in the Student Center.

Saturday is a full day of classes with a barbecue in the evening at the Log Cabin on the grounds of

the NFA. Classes run through mid-afternoon on Sunday prior to dismissal.

The Connecticut Fire Officer's Weekend is not only a tremendous learning opportunity but, also a great way to network with fire personnel and instructors.



National Fire Academy

Department Seeking Information/Equipment

Seymour Fire Department

The Seymour Fire Department is in the process of donating a reserve Hahn engine to the Four Pike Volunteer Fire Department in Lake Catherine Louisiana.

This department which is south of New Orleans lost its station and all of its apparatus during hurricane Katrina.

The Seymour Fire Department would like to provide as much equipment as possible when the apparatus is shipped.

We are asking any departments that have surplus equipment that they would like to donate to please contact the Seymour Fire Department Chiefs office at 203-888-1909 or email John Cronin at ffr154@msn.com .

Arrangements will be made to pick up the equipment if necessary. Items needed include hose, turnout gear, tools, SCBA's, but any fire equipment in good condition will be welcomed. "

Thanks,

John Cronin
ffr154@msn.com
(203) 410-1671

New Milford Fire Marshal's Office

The Town of New Milford Fire Marshal's office is looking for some data on Fire Department / Fire Marshals vehicles or used jointly.

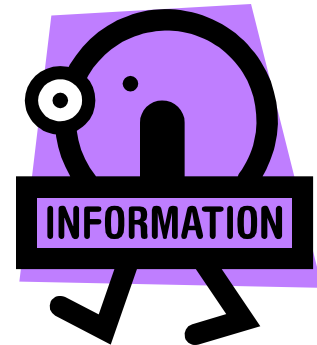
The Fire Marshal's office services three Volunteer Fire Departments for all fire investigations.

The office is currently staffed with three fulltime employees- Secretary, Fire Marshal and Deputy. The office is independently funded and not part of the town's fire departments budget. Currently, our vehicle is used as a inspection vehicle and an investigation equipment vehicle and lacks the space for all of the needs.

1. Does your department have this type of vehicle "Ford Expedition" or Similar vehicle in size?
2. Is your department looking to buying this type of a new vehicle?
3. Does your department have any specifications for this type of vehicle?

If you can help please respond to Firemarshal@newmilford.org

Bill May Fire Marshal
New Milford Fire Marshal's Office
10 Main St.
New Milford Ct. 06776
Phone 860-355-6099
Fax 860-355-4609



"Don't buy anything they won't let you see before the sale".

By Alan V. Brunacini

USFA Fire and The Older Adult Report

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Adults age 65 and older are 2.5 times more likely to die in fires than the overall population, and as Americans age, their fire risk increases, according to a new report issued today by the Department of Homeland Security’s U.S. Fire Administration (USFA).

“Fires occurring in the home and in various health care settings for older adults are often preventable,” said Charlie Dickinson, Deputy United States Fire Administrator. “Because the older adult population accounts for a substantial portion of the nation’s fire deaths and injuries, it’s important that we take steps to reduce this fire problem.”

The report, *Fire and the Older Adult*, was developed by the National Fire Data Center, part of the

U.S. Fire Administration, and is based on research from a variety of public and private organizations and data from the National Fire Incident Reporting System (NFIRS), National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS), U.S. Census Bureau, the Federal Interagency Forum on Aging-Related Statistics, and the Department of Health and Human Services’ Administration on Aging.

The report analyzes the fire risk to persons age 65 and older as a complement to the USFA’s Fire Safety Campaign for People 50-Plus. The report provides an extensive review of the fire situation for older adults in the



United States and evaluates fire risk factors and risks of fire injury and fatality among that population group. According to 2002 NFIRS data, 34 percent of the people who died in residential structure fires and 14 percent of the people who were injured were

age 65 and older. A copy of the full report can be downloaded from: usfa.fema.gov/downloads/pdf/publications/fa-300.pdf.

“Just because something is legal doesn’t make it right”.

By Alan V. Brunacini

Recognizing a Member of our Staff

Sue Reniewicz, Administrative Assistant for the Newington F.D. wrote recognizing Kim Taylor for her continued assistance with the overall registration process.

Ms. Reniewicz wrote “She’s not only knowledgeable but she makes the whole experience registering and scheduling so much easier for those of us who only do it on a limited basis.”

Thank you for ensuring customer satisfaction.



Jeffrey Morrisette
State Fire Administrator

Fire Ground Academy Seminar

The first installment of the Connecticut Fire Academy 2006 Seminar Series feature John Mittendorf, retired Los Angeles, California Battalion Chief who delivered a presentation entitled "Fire Ground Academy".

The seminar was held at the Connecticut Fire Academy on February 10, 2006 with 83 students attending.

The one-day interactive workshop included:

- An in-depth look at how to read a building.
- The ability to read smoke and extension avenues.

- Analyze the fireground clock.

The six major fireground priorities was overviewed in concert with basic apparatus placement and size-up techniques.

Students were then able to practice lessons learned from digital video examples. Additionally, lessons learned was applied to the five major types of buildings using a digital simulator in concert with video and "screen overwrite capability" (John Madden pencil).

At the end of the workshop, Chief Mittendorf discuss promotional interview techniques.



"If they are paying you to be a lifeguard, you better be able to swim".

By Alan V. Brunacini

2006 Legislative Session Proposals for Emergency Services Personnel

The 2006 Regular Legislative Session of the Connecticut General Assembly opened February 8, 2006. The Commission on Fire Prevention & Control will post legislative proposals impacting the fire and emergency services as they become available. You are also encouraged to visit the General Assembly's Home Page at: www.cga.ct.gov. The following proposals are posted:

- S.B. No. 27 (raised) labor and public employees. 'An act concerning workers' compensation

benefits for hypertension and heart disease for firefighters', to create a presumption that injuries occurring from hypertension or heart disease while an on-duty municipal firefighter, who began employment on or after July 1, 1996, is responding to an emergency occurred in the line of duty and within the scope of the firefighter's employment.

Ref: Labor and Public Employees

- H.B. No. 5037 (Raised) Labor And Public Employees. 'An

Act Concerning Workers' Compensation Coverage For Certain Occupational Diseases For Emergency Services Personnel', to establish a rebuttable presumption that emergency rescue or public safety personnel who contract hepatitis, meningococcal meningitis or tuberculosis from their employment are eligible for workers' compensation benefits as long as they meet certain requirements.

Ref: Labor and Public Employees

Decontamination of Chemical Protective Clothing and Equipment

Decontaminating chemical protective clothing and equipment subject of new document from AIHA.

Pengfei Gao, of the **NIOSH** National Personal Protective Technology Laboratory, is the lead author of Guidelines for the Decontamination of Chemical Protective Clothing and Equipment, recently published by the American Industrial Hygiene Association (**AIHA**).

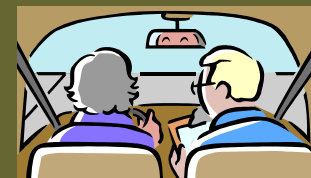
Dr. Gao is a member of **AIHA's** Protective Clothing and Equipment Committee. The guidelines offer methodologies for decontaminating Chemical Protective Clothing (**CPC**) and equipment.

Also, the most current practices for regulatory compliance, decontamination work plans, waste management, hazard and risk assessments, **CPC** reuse, quality assurance, and training. Dr. Gao's participation provided a means for **NIOSH's** research and expertise on protective clothing and equipment to be incorporated into the guidelines.

The views and policies expressed in the guidelines do not necessarily reflect the views or policies of **NIOSH**. Ordering information can be found on the **AIHA** Web site, <http://www.aiha.org>.



Effective January 31, 2006 the GSA is reducing the mileage reimbursement rate from 48.5 cents to 44.5 cents per mile for use of privately owned automobiles when authorized for official state business.



Improving Presentation & Training Skills

Speaker: Kim Alyn, Professional Trainer

Reminder Save the Date:

On March 11, 2006, the CFA will present "Improving Presentation & Training Skills" with Speaker Kim Alyn, author, professional speaker and trainer. She specializes in the fire service.

This highly rated workshop will provide you with the tools and techniques you need to become an outstanding presenter, trainer, or speaker.

The instructor brings over 20-years of speaking and presenting experience to this session and promises to deliver exactly what she preaches!

People will give up an entire day to learn something valuable from a presenter who knows how to deliver the information.



Command and Control Townhouse Simulation Now Available

WASHINGTON, D.C. - Deputy United States Fire Administrator Charlie Dickinson is pleased to announce a new command and control, online simulation for emergency responders involving a townhouse fire.

The Q325 Townhouse simulation presents the user with a set of complex fire and rescue problems commonly found in a townhouse, row house, garden apartment, or condominium response.

Upon successful completion of this online simulation course, the user will be able to recognize the fire and rescue issues related to this type of occupancy.

"This simulation is designed to help command officials better understand the problems they may

encounter when responding to these kinds of occupancies," said Dickinson.

"This course will better prepare the firefighters and command officers facing the challenges present when dealing with these types of fires."

Course objectives include safe removal of all occupants and containment and control of fire in the building of origin. National Fire Academy/United States Fire Administration certification will be granted upon successful completion of the course evaluations.



The course can be found on USFA's Virtual Campus at www.training.fema.gov. The USFA has many other training programs, both online and classroom-based, that are designed to assist emergency responders in becoming better prepared for all types of emergencies. Information on these training programs and other USFA initiatives and publications can be found at www.usfa.fema.gov.

"Perceptions are not negotiable/everything gets interpreted".

By Alan V. Brunacini

Traffic Control For First Responders Train-The-Trainer

Traffic Control for First Responders is being offered at the South Killingly Station # 65 on Wednesday March 8th and the Connecticut Fire Academy on Wednesday March 15th.

The program covers the roles of the emergency responder in traffic control, state statutes that apply for the Fire Police Officer,

required training, procedures for dealing with the public and the press, communication guidelines, personal protective and traffic control equipment, determining traffic control zones and practical exercises.

For more information go to our website at www.ct.gov/cfpc.



Health and Safety Officer Certification Challenge Process

This is sent as a reminder to all currently certified State of Connecticut Safety Officers that use of that level of certification for the purpose of challenging the Health and Safety Officer Certification Examination shall expire in April 29, 2006.

Clarification:

The revised examination procedure does not require an individual to retest to maintain their current certification as Fire Department Safety Officer. That certification does not expire. Because the Standard has changed, the level of Fire Department Safety Officer will no longer be offered but is still valid.

The procedure outlined applies only to those persons who desire to become certified to the NEW levels of Health and Safety Officer and/or Incident Safety Officer – Fire Suppression which are the two new levels that have taken the place of the former Fire Department Safety Officer.

The revised examination procedure also allows those persons who are currently certified as Fire Department Safety Officer to challenge the examination for the levels of Health and Safety Officer and/or Incident Safety Officer – Fire Suppression until April 29, 2006 without taking any additional training.

See <http://www.ct.gov/cfpc/cwp/view.asp?a=826&Q=309824&PM=1> for complete details.

For more information contact Director of Certification Fred Piechota at 860-627-6363 or In-State Toll Free 877-528-3473, extension 225. If you wish, you can e-mail Fred at:

fred.piechota@po.state.ct.us

“A bigger rock creates a bigger splash.”

By Alan V. Brunacini

Managing Major Fires

Presented by: John “Skip” Coleman
Deputy Chief, Toledo Ohio Fire Department

Reminder Save the Date:

On April 7, 2006 Managing Major Fires to be held at the Connecticut Fire Academy with Speaker John “Skip” Coleman, Deputy at the Toledo Ohio Fire Department. This presentation will cover strategies and tactics used to handle Major Fires in your community. Along with Strategy and Tactics, Command Responsibilities, Communications, and Building Construction will be among

the topics covered.

Skip Coleman is a Deputy Chief with the Toledo Fire Department. He has 20 years experience and has managed every major bureau in the department. He has written “Incident Management for the Street Smart Fire Officer” (Fire Engineering 1997) and “Managing Major Fires (Fire Engineering 2001) and is moderator of Fire Engineering’s “Round Table” monthly article.

He serves on the Executive Educational Advisory Committee for FDIC conferences and is the Technical Editor for Fire Engineering Magazine.



Office Of The Director of Training

Training Division Mission Statement

As part of the Commission on Fire Prevention and Control, the Training Division is responsible for the operation of the Connecticut Fire Academy to provide training, education, technical support and related information and services. Customers benefit from instructors using contemporary methods in a safe environment.



You may have noticed from our instructor's meetings that the Training Division has developed a mission statement. It reflects many hours of input, evaluation and deliberations by our Program Managers. Careful attention was directed that safety (controlled environment and actions) was included.

Also important to note is that we do more than train firefighters. Program Managers daily answer inquiries about diverse subjects ranging from:

- How does NIMS relate former education to current requirements?
- What are the effects of burning pressure treated wood in a camp fire?

- Where do I find a bulletin board to post Department of Labor required information?

Services include:

- A full featured retail Bookstore
- Qualitative facepiece fit-testing
- Candidate Physical Ability Testing, both specific and general information to our public.

As remarked in an earlier newsletter, customers, patrons and the public all shift in role from time-to-time. It depends upon what they want and which hat they are currently wearing.

It is important that you know that legislators, many other state agencies, business and industry folks are also regarded as our customers. The various forms of news media and publishers seek out facts and/or opinions on a myriad of timely fire related topics. Most recently, the print media had a fascination with oxygen masks for pets.

Through it all, we try to maintain focus on what our customers want. With input from our adjuncts (internal customers), we anticipate what is needed and react. Curriculum, equipment and instructor support are the focal point of our daily ministrations.

We ask that you share our values and follow the lesson plans,

provide for complete class hours, and notify your Program Manager of any changes in delivery, hours, location or method.

The people of the Training Division share the following values:

- Being Prepared
- Continuous Improvement
- Honesty
- Use of State-of-Art Methods and Equipment
- Respect
- Creativity
- Appearance
- Team Building
- Feedback.

Together we strive to exceed our customer's expectations for a positive and personally rewarding class delivery.

ADAM D. PISKURA

Adam D Piskura, Director
Connecticut Fire Academy

“They generally don't tell you the whole story during the first round.”

By Alan V. Brunacini

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We're on the
Website at:

www.ct.gov/cfpc

