



# Instructor's Dispatch

Newsletter of the Commission on Fire Prevention & Control

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## INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

The Michael C. Reilly Memorial Hard Charger Award	2
Class 5 Oxidizers	
2008 Seminar Series: Killer in the Attic	3
Recruit Firefighter Graduation Class # 42 (Cont'd)	
Ten Puzzles for HazMat Trainers	4-5
Wisconsin Firefighter Dies in the Line of Duty at Training	6
Fire Service Instructor I	6-7
Matt Stuart Sworn in as New Battalion Chief West Hartford F.D.	7
CFA and DDS Team Up For Fire Safety	8
Rescue Training	9-10
Office of the Director of Training	10-11

## Recruit Firefighter Graduation Class # 42

On December 18, 2008, The Connecticut Fire Academy graduated it's 42nd Recruit Class, at the Theater of the Performing Arts in Hartford.

The class consisted of 40 firefighters representing 16 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 James Trainor of the Meriden Fire Department delivered the keynote remarks to the class, while Kevin Plank of the Wilton Fire Department acted as the class spokesman.



### Members of Class # 42

#### Easton F.D.

Mark J. Mirowski

#### East Hartford F.D.

Shane M. Anderson  
Tamarah A. Collins

#### Mansfield F.D.

Brian M. Gagnon  
Matthew F. Lyons  
Justin L. Risley

#### Meriden F.D.

Jamin Torres

#### Middletown F.D.

Shane P. Ferwerda  
James P. Lowe

#### Milford F.D.

Craig E. Kasper  
Luke W. Kyer  
Marc E. LaBrecque  
Patrick H. McGee  
Herbert O. Staiger, IV

#### Naugatuck F.D.

Walter P. Seaman

#### New London F.D.

Phillip J. Burgess  
Steven M. Joly  
Peter M. Lynch  
Andrew T. Rozek

#### Jordan D. Stelle

#### Norwalk F.D.

Bryan L. Fogle  
William D. Ireland  
Adam M. Sussman

#### Old Saybrook F.D.

Cody C. Soule

Continued on page 3

## The Michael C. Reilly Memorial Hard



**James P. Lowe**  
Picture by  
Program Manager Jim Carroll

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 fifth Michael C. Reilly Memorial Hard Charger Award was presented to James P. Lowe, Middletown Fire Department of Recruit Firefighter Class # 42.

“Forget the baloney about “holding the fire” you either put it out, or it burns past you.

By Alan V. Brunacini

## Class 5 Oxidizers



**John Mike Becker**  
Picture by  
Program Manager Jim Carroll

The 2008 Seminar Series: Class 5 Oxidizers was held, at the Connecticut Fire Academy, on December 10, 2008. The presenter was John Mike Becker. This seminar covered the following topics:

- Exploring oxidation
- Oxidizers & Organic Peroxides
- Inorganic oxidizers
- Inorganic Peroxides
- Organic Peroxides

### Instructor Biography

Mike Becker have served the fire services for the last 27 years. He is a New Jersey native where he served the volunteer fire service for 11 years. He has been a Hazmat Technician and team member since 1996. He recently designed, implemented and instructed an 80 hour technician course for a consortium of fire departments in northern Colorado.

## 2008 Seminar Series: Killer In The Attic



**John Sachen**  
**Picture by**  
**Program Manager**  
**Mark Salafia**

The 2008 Seminar Series: Killer in the Attic was held, at the Connecticut Fire Academy, on December 5, 2008.

The presenter was John Sachen, University of Missouri Fire Rescue Training.

The program discussed how many firefighter injuries and deaths have occurred in structures with half-story top floors (attics with hip walls, interconnected concealed spaces, limited window area, and offset wall lines).

### Instructor Biography

John Sachen is an industrial training coordinator for the University of Missouri Fire Rescue Training Institute and a HazMat Officer and Fire Instructor for the Delta, Missouri Fire Protection District. John has developed courses and procedures for the University of Missouri.

## Recruit Firefighter Graduation Class # 42

*Continued from page 1*

### **Ridgefield F.D.**

David A. Dachinger  
 Brett M. Rinehart  
 Timothy P. Wysoczanski  
**South Fire District F.D.**

Bryan T. Finch  
 Timothy P. Heiden  
 Alan B. Rudolewicz

### **Torrington F.D.**

Walter J. Dixon, IV  
 Daniel W. Matthews

### **Westport F.D.**

Scott M. Del Vecchio  
 Michael A. Grasso  
 Daniel P. Mascolo  
 James P. Workman

### **West Shore F.D.**

Paul B. Clini, Jr.  
 Wesley L. Nelson, III  
 William H. Seward, IV.

### **Wilton F.D.**

Kevin S. Plank



## Ten Puzzles For Hazmat Trainers

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Groucho used to have “a secret word” that was “something that you hear everyday.” The following may not be everyday words, but they are common and they are useful in training, since in this case, familiarity breeds attempt. The idea behind this newsletter article is to get responders to go into the remarkable web of science and see how things connect and intersect and overlap. Enjoy!

**One: *L. casei immunitas* and *Bifidus regularis***—While these whatchamacal-lits are heard regularly (far too regularly?) on television, most folks are totally clueless about them. How could you use them to explain some good biological stuff to class participants? Maybe ask: What was the official, original ruling on the Bhagwan’s incident? Have they captured the anthrax mailer yet? Can you use the local EMT’s, nurses and doctors in class to teach the other locals?

**Two: Free Radicals and Antioxidants**—Again, these words are all over the television ads, yet most folks wouldn’t know an oxidant or antioxidant or free or unfree radicals. How can you use these concepts to help students learn some cool chemistry?

**Three: Greenhouse effect**—Here is a phrase that presents the perfect opportunity to teach about energy, radiant waves/particles/wavicles, and electromagnetic theory. How would you do it so the folks could readily get it?

**Four: Sheen on the water**—Like “rainbow sheen,” often heard in conjunction with the Oil Pollution Act and oil spills. How can you use it to explain clean up possibilities, thin layer optics, rainbows, visible light, etc? How can you relate it to Number Three, Greenhouse effect?

**Five: What are your “turnouts” for?**—I have asked this question to thousands of firefighters, paid and volunteer, and few can explain it well. I also ask “How many of you have read the brochure which comes with your turnouts?” I have had three positive responses out of thousands and thousands of responses. How would you use these to make our responders safer and how would you truthfully answer these questions?

**Six: Is an “irradiated” meat product or vegetable radioactive? Why or why not?**—You will be surprised at the answers you will get. Along with the words like nuclear, radioactivity, alpha, beta, gamma, and quantum, irradiation (the word, not the process) often can confound, confuse and cause concern. How would you use these rather simple concepts to make your responders safer?

*Continued on page 5*



“Avoid situations  
that are so  
exciting you don’t  
survive”.

By Alan V.  
Brunacini

**NEWS  
FLASH!**

## Ten Puzzles For Hazmat Trainers

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*Continued from page 4*

**Seven: How is a dust explosion different from the Oklahoma City explosion and how are they different from a C4 or TNT explosion?**—Or put another way, have class attendees give brief “bullet statements” (pun intended) describing each type of kaboom maker. How, as a trainer, would you tie this into hostage takings, school bomb threats, and/or unexploded military ordinance? How about that sugar factory explosion, where does it fit in? Can the clay dust in my wife’s ceramic studio cause a dust explosion? Where does picric acid fit in the mix? How about Alfred Nobel and the Nobel Prizes? C’mon, these questions can generate a lot of exothermic energy!

**Eight: When is water not “water”?**—Many firefighters (and almost all other responders and citizens) see “water” as water, i.e., stuff you drink, swim in, and put out fires with. That is a cultural and linguistic phenomenon which inhibits good chemical thinking at the conceptual level. So, ask the class when is water not water, and if it is not water *per se*, then how should they as hazmat responders think of it? You can do an hour on this question alone, easy!

**Nine: Can Lysol® products really “kill” viruses as their commercials declare? Yes or No? Why or Why not?**—What does this have to do with Number One? What good is the USDOT ERG in these cases? Ask the class these questions: Do you have ongoing, interactive relations with knowledgeable bio-people in your jurisdiction that can fit into your ICS? Can your PIO explain this problem area and handle precise questions? Who can you trust to help you with this? This can get really fun, especially when you get into differing reproduction styles and rates, contagion, infection, antibiotics, etc.

**Ten: In your jurisdiction, are you afraid of Ebola, Al Qaeda, nuclear waste, bio-warfare or any other “exotic” hazard? Why? Why not?**—Sometimes the only thing we do actually have to fear, is fear itself. Have the class do realistic, locally-generated, hometown hazard-risk analyses. And if they are rural, I can almost guarantee you their real killer hazards, the ones that have historical significance and the ones which can hold their interest during training and exercises, will be closer to flammable liquids, corrosives and traffic than to nerve gas, anthrax or someone from the Middle East.

**Try these concepts in class and let me know if they work as well for you as they do for me. Peace, Fred**



## Wisconsin Firefighter Dies In The Line Of Duty At Training



*“If looking at the fire makes you crazy, simply don’t look at it...turn your back”.*

*By Alan v. Brunacini*

*The Secret List*  
[www.FirefighterCloseCalls.com](http://www.FirefighterCloseCalls.com)

We regret to advise you of the Line-of Duty-Death of Lt. Rick Borkin of the Thiensville (WI FD). The students had just completed live fire training (exterior natural gas props) and were in the process of picking up hose and heading back inside. Lt. Borkin apparently started to not feel well and walked over to a department vehicle to sit down and take his gear off.

When other FF’s came around the corner of the tower, they found him crumpled on the ground pulseless and not breathing. CPR was started immediately, an ALS unit was only minutes away and they worked him for an extended amount of time...but sadly he passed away in the Line of Duty at the training grounds. Lt. Borkin was 16 year member of the Thiensville Fire Department

(WI), a volunteer department, and he was attending a State Certified Firefighter 2 Class at Milwaukee Area Technical College South Campus.

This is the 107th LODD for 2008. As always, our most sincere condolences to the members of the TFD but especially the family and friends of Lt. Borkin.

### Fire Service Instructor I

During calendar year 2008, we delivered sixteen Fire Service Instructor I classes providing instruction to 233 students with 13048 contact hours and three Fire Service Instructor II classes ( including the pilot class) providing in-

struction to 38 students with 1824 contact hours, a dramatic increase in student participation over past years. Our instructors were frequently called upon to meet the needs of fire departments all over the state, sometimes with very short

notice. The pool of instructors was spread thin at times, but met the challenge delivering quality instruction in every situation. As 2009 begins, we have eleven Instructor I classes and five Instructor II classes

*Continued on page 7*



## Fire Service Instructor I

*Continued from page 6*  
already on the schedule with several others in a holding pattern waiting for confirmations.

During 2009, the Fire Service Instructor II program will expand with four new Lesson Plans and the addition of a section on test construction.

Fire Service Instructor III is in development and will be in pilot by mid-year. I am confident that the Instructor program will continue to be an excellent program.

William Trisler  
Program Manager



***“There isn’t any middle ground in firefighting you’re either fighting or you’re not fighting***

***By Alan V. Brunacini***

## Matt Stuart Sworn In As New Battalion Chief West Hartford Fire Department



**Matt Stuart**

Matt Stuart was Promoted to Battalion Chief, at the West Hartford Fire Department, on October 23, 2008. He is the Battalion Chief on Group 2.

Previously to that he was the Captain of Quint 4, Station # 4. Matt have 23 years on the job and he has been an Adjunct Instructor with the Connecticut Fire Academy since 1991. A "Badge pinning" ceremony was held at the Town Hall in West Hartford on December 30th.

The Connecticut Fire Academy staff wishes Matt Stuart great success in his new job.





*"Fires are meant  
to burn a certain  
(standard) length  
of time..."*

**By Alan V.  
Brunacini**



## CFA And DDS Team Up For Fire Safety

The Connecticut Department of Developmental Services has teamed up with the Connecticut Fire Academy to present "Fire safety training" for its staff. DDS (formerly DMR) received a FEMA grant for \$ 90,000 to write and present a Fire Safety Training program for its 15,000 staff members. The program will standardize all fire and emergency training for the staff that runs over 5000 facilities state-wide.

Chief Timothy Baldwin of the Southbury Training School Fire Department as well as Daniel Micari, Director of Quality Management have met before, during and after the grant was awarded with Adam Piskura, Director of Training, and Alan Zygmunt, Public Fire & Life Safety Coordinator to direct the creation of a curriculum that will ensure that all DDS staff members will learn the required behaviors. The Training program will be a "Webinar" based program, or it will be created and accessed by DDS staff members from the internet. The individual can then proceed through the required lessons at their own pace with on-going evaluations of their learning. Once the student finishes the entire program, their final results will be tallied and maintained by an existing DDS database. By utilizing the Webinar format, DDS saves time and money by allowing the staff to train whenever it is convenient, as opposed to replacing personnel to send them to a classroom type setting.

The University of Connecticut Health center is assisting in the creation of the Webinar by offering the use of its studio and production facilities at reduced rates. Currently, the program is getting finalized and taping is scheduled to start in March 2009. As a condition of the grant award, the entire program must be ready for implementation by May 2009.

If any adjunct instructors would like to preview the objectives, lesson plan or PPT, contact Alan Zygmunt at [alan.zygmunt@po.state.ct.us](mailto:alan.zygmunt@po.state.ct.us). Although, most of the outline is defined by DDS any comments or suggestions would be appreciated.



## Rescue Training

It is hard to believe that 2009 has arrived. I wish you all a safe and happy new year.

The fall of 2008 was extremely busy in the area of rescue training with 24 deliveries over the last six months resulting in 8,288 student contact hours. Conducting this amount of training required a huge commitment from our instructors, and many of you stepped up to allow us to meet customer demand. While we did experience a few glitches along the way, most of the feedback we received from students and customer departments has been positive. I want to thank all the instructors who put in considerable effort toward this achievement.

It should be noted that with rescue training only a small amount of those hours were in a classroom setting. These hours involved hands-on training, sometimes under less than desirable conditions. There is always the concern of having enough instructors on site while conducting “hazardous” training. We were able to accomplish this with a good safety record.

One big factor in delivering rescue training is the logistics and coordination involved in not only getting the required people to the training site, but the rescue equipment as well. I have been extremely lucky in having Al Bassett as my program coordinator. He has worked diligently in covering the last minute “holes” in the schedule and finding ways to help me get equipment from one training site to the next. When you show up to teach a Rescue program and all the rope and hardware, or cold water equipment, or trench panels are on the site, they didn’t just magically appear. This required planning on both class scheduling and the logistics of physically moving the items required. Many folks have assisted in the movement of this equipment (some of this stuff isn’t exactly light!) and their efforts are much appreciated.

As nice as it is to look back and be happy with what we accomplished during the last half of 2008, the New Year is here and many challenges await us. The biggest of the challenges is the fact that the NFPA has rewritten the 1006 standard. They have eliminated the term of *rescue technician* and developed two levels of training for the “*technical rescuer*” We have begun the process of reviewing our current training programs to see how they stack up to these new levels within the 1006 standard. During November we had an open invite meeting of rescue instructors to bring them up to speed on the changes to the standard. During the meeting several attendees volunteered to look at chapters of the up-dated standard and to submit proposals for adjusting or adding to our programs in an effort to have programs that meet the new standard. I would like to ask anyone who would like to lend a hand or offer ideas to please contact Albe or myself. This project can easily result in a new look and content



*“Be careful of anyone who thinks they came from the factory with fire resistant skin or a brick-proof head.”*

*By Alan V. Brunacini*

*Continued on page 10*



*“The things that  
lead up to  
accident generally  
happens very  
fast”.*

*By Alan V.  
Brunacini*

## Rescue Training

*Continued from page 9*

for almost all of our rescue training programs. In the past few years we have utilized programs from other state fire training organizations to help meet the standard, but now we have the chance to produce training programs in-house that meet the needs of Connecticut responders. The project is big as we need to develop new lesson plans, audio/visual support, participant manuals, and practical applications. I'm very excited that we have this opportunity and hope I can get most of the rescue instructors excited about this as well.

Along with the prospect of up-grading our training programs, our calendar of training programs is filling up rapidly. The economy may be slowing down, but so far the requests for rescue training continue to come in at a fast pace. Please remember to check the website often for available teaching assignments and respond to those for which you can teach. If you do not see postings for rescue programs that you wish to teach in, please drop me a line and I will make sure you are on the list of credentialed instructors for that program or will work with Albe to get you the training needed to teach in that program.

Once again, thank you to all who have contributed to the success of our rescue training programs, and I look forward to working with you in 2009.

Jim Carroll  
Program Manager

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**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.