

INSTRUCTOR'S DISPATCH

A Newsletter of the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection
Commission on Fire Prevention & Control



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CONNECTICUT FIRE ACADEMY

**A Happy New Year
and thanks to all our
adjuncts for
contributing to our
success!**

RECRUIT FIREFIGHTER GRADUATION CLASS # 48



On December 22, 2011, the Connecticut Fire Academy graduated its 48th Recruit Class, at the Connecticut Police Academy, Meriden Connecticut. The class consisted of 46 firefighters representing twenty-four (24) Connecticut Fire Departments from across the state who completed the 14-week training program. The class was escorted into the ceremony by the Connecticut Firefighter Pipe and Drum Band accompanied by the Connecticut Statewide Firefighters Honor Guard.

Continued on page 4

Inside this issue:

Recruit Firefighter Graduation Class # 47	1 & 4	Availability and Instructing	6
We Had it and We Lost it	2	Friends of the Connecticut Fire Academy	7
The Newly Established Instructors' Award	3	College Fair at the Connecticut Fire Academy	8
The Michael C. Reilly Memorial Hard Charger Award	3	Veterans Affairs Site Visit	9
Recognizing Members of our Staff	4	Advanced Introduction to the Fire Service	10
Mark Lewandowski is Moving on from the Connecticut Fire Academy	5		



**“A little force
in the
beginning can
eliminate the
need for lots of
force at the
end.”**

**By Alan V.
Brunacini**

WE HAD IT AND WE LOST IT

A few months ago I was sitting in a restaurant having dinner with about a dozen hazmat trainers from around the country. As the evening progressed I listened in on conversations taking place and I realized that while all of the topics had to do with hazmat and training, most had to do with things several echelons above reality. It might help if I define some of my terms: reality, for me at least, is the level of personal safety of volunteer fire fighters and rural first responders. Everything above that level seems to be infused with politics, power, and bureaucracy, i.e., echelons above reality. While for most of those involved the conversations were both interesting and often heated, for my audience of rural responders, any talk of EPA, OSHA, NFPA, FEMA, DHS, and terrorism is deadly, replete with eyes glazing over and terminal snoring. So I leaned over to my chemist mentor and said, “That’s why I teach basic chemistry and physics, they don’t change all the time.”

We had it, and we lost it. There was a time not too long ago, but certainly not since 9/11, that we actually taught that all incidents are local, that all hazard and risk analysis started with local surveys, and that all resources, even state and federal, regional and national, became local resources when under the local IC. We taught good basic chemistry and physics. We had a few hazard classes. We had a good, basic, modified and modifiable ICS. And training was related to the local co-op, local truck traffic, local rail commodities, and realistic, locally optimal response. We had that, and we lost it.

It was stolen by terrorism, by national priorities, and by funding sources tied to beltway-born absurdities. How many times have you seen eighteen wheelers full of terrorism-based response stuff sitting idle, while over-whelmed responders were taking their umpteenth NIMS course, or in a class learning about nerve gas and smallpox. Yet, try to find county vehicles where the driver has recently had a decent hazmat awareness course and has a copy of the orange DOT Emergency Response Guide. That book is the most logical, user friendly training tool and response manual ever devised. Currently, we have our priorities upside down. Our priority needs to be at the local level. We had it, we lost it, and we need to get it back!



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THE NEWLY ESTABLISHED INSTRUCTORS' AWARD



**Platoon Leader
Joseph W. Fawley
Manchester F.D.**

This award is intended to recognize one Recruit in each class who is considered by the instructors and coordinators to be worthy of special recognition for their respective role, activities, or performance in the class. Because Recruit Joseph Fawley has exemplified the highest standards of behavior and leadership as the Platoon Leader of Class 48, we are pleased to recognize him as the first recipient of this award.

THE MICHAEL C. REILLY MEMORIAL HARD CHARGER AWARD

**Brandon P. McGuinn
Roxbury F.D.**



**"If you have
lots of work to
do, you need
lots of
companies...
big plans
require big
resources."**

**By Alan V.
Brunacini**

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 Brandon P. McGuinn, Roxbury F.D. of Recruit Firefighter Class # 48.

RECRUIT FIREFIGHTER GRADUATION CLASS # 48

Continued from page 1



The Keynote speaker was Chief Douglas Jackson, of the East Haven Fire Department, while Brian M. Kaley of the Norwalk Fire Department acted as the class spokesman.

The class roster consisted of firefighters representing fire departments in Allingtown, Cromwell, East Farmington, East Hartford, East Haven, East Putnam, Fairfield, Hamden, Killingworth, Lebanon, Litchfield, Manchester, Milford, North Haven, North Branford, Norwalk, Old Saybrook, Ridgefield, Roxbury, Stratford, Vernon, Westport, West Shore, Willimantic.

The recruits participated in intensive daily training at the Connecticut Fire Academy since September 12, 2011 focused on developing the knowledge, skills and abilities needed for entry level firefighters. Core program components are to establish a strong desire and will for self-discipline, teamwork, company morale, orderliness and precision. Training consisted of theory backed with extensive skill development. Additional course components include training in Hazardous Materials Mitigation, Weapon of Mass Destruction Preparedness, Confined Space Rescue, CPR Defibrillator and Technical Rescue.

The graduating recruits will be nationally certified to the level of Firefighter I and Firefighter II in addition to being awarded numerous certificates for specialized training.

**"You can fool
the spectators,
but you can't
fool the
players."**

**By Alan V.
Brunacini**

RECOGNIZING MEMBERS OF OUR STAFF

Lt. Adam Jakubowski from the East Putnam Fire Department wrote to express his gratitude for the service he receives from the CFA Bookstore. He wrote "I always receive my products nearly next-day and its always simple and painless." Thanks to both Pam and Karen for their efforts!

Jeffrey Morrissette, State Fire Administrator

MARK LEWANDOWSKI IS MOVING ON FROM THE CONNECTICUT FIRE ACADEMY



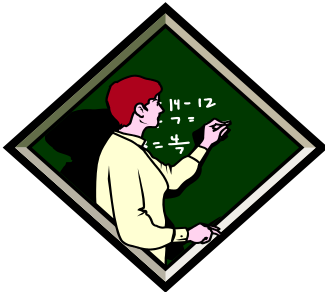
Mark Lewandowski, Deputy Director of
Training

**“Playing catch
up on the
fireground
causes lots of
problems and
pain.”**

**By Alan V.
Brunacini**

Mark Lewandowski's last day with the Connecticut Fire Academy was Thursday, May 19, 2011. Mark's service to the Connecticut Fire Service will continue as he has accepted a conditional offer from the Connecticut Department of Transportation, Bureau of Aviation and Ports as a Crash-Fire-Rescue Captain, overseeing the state's general aviation airports. Mark began his services with the Connecticut Fire School as a Fire Service Instructor in 1986.

In 1994 Mark realized a longtime career goal of being hired full time at the Connecticut Fire Academy. Mark stated in his goodbye to the staff "thanks for making the past 16 years some of the best in my life. I will miss being part of a great team". The Academy staff acknowledge his many contributions to the success of the Connecticut Fire Academy and trust he will thrive in his new job.



AVAILABILITY AND INSTRUCTING

Folks:

During our campaign to encourage adjuncts to become more active, many instructors wrote to me inquiring whether their *availability* for an assignment counted towards their required 80 hours/year. The short answer is no. The policy is very clear about 80 hours of *instruction for the Connecticut Fire Academy*.

Volunteering for an assignment and not being selected for the job does not satisfy our policy.

If you are consistently not being selected, perhaps there is a multitude of instructors available, or we chose the closest instructors to the delivery site (economics), maybe you are not fully qualified or you are not available for the long haul. Selected instructors are those who are available for the most consecutive teaching days.

Several years ago we used to receive many student complaints about inconsistency in our deliveries. That was solved by placing instructors in multiple day deliveries that are present for more than one (or a few days).

It is also important that instructors pass on information about the class progress and conditions to the next day's following instructor. This avoids embarrassing situations such as asking the students where the previous instructor left off.

Consequently, if you find yourself available but not being selected, you need to speak directly to the Program Managers. They are the ones making the assignments. Perhaps with a little tweaking and communication a mutually beneficial circumstance will result.

In any case, I appreciate your help. By investigating why you are not selected may reveal a quick painless remedy. Good luck – we need you.

“Something is wrong if you keep inheriting bad situations (you will continue to be such a recipient until you fix what’s wrong).”
By Alan V. Brunacini



Adam D. Piskura, Director
Connecticut Fire Academy

FRIENDS OF THE CONNECTICUT FIRE ACADEMY

by Adam D. Piskura



Extending our gratitude for their repeated generosity is:
State Fire Administrator, Jeff Morrissette, Alyce DeAngelo,
CPCU, CFP&C Chairman, Peter Carozza, Jr.,
and CFP&C Vice Chair, Kevin J. Kowalski

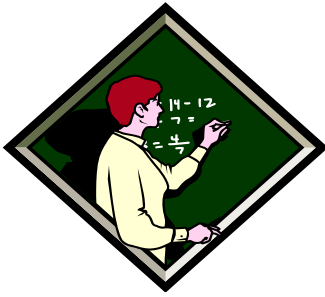
**“Gravity will
always
abruptly
culminate at
the bottom.”**

**By Alan V.
Brunacini**

Each year Alyce DeAngelo of the Connecticut Chapter of the Chartered Property Causality Underwriters influences the organization's Good Works Committee to donate \$1,000.00 to us. The donation is a labor of love and respect for the work that you do to educate and keep our firefighters safe.

Typically she requests a list of items, tools and equipment that comprise our “wish list”. This year they chose to fund a 32” LCD TV with integral DVD player to replace the current tube model that is lugged to trade shows, school fairs and meetings. They also included training foam to round up to the one thousand dollar amount.

These items were requisitioned immediately following the check presentation ceremony during the November Commission on Fire Prevention and Control (CFP&C) meeting. Last year Alyce and the Good Works Committee donated our portable command post table.



**"The fire won't
stay offensive
just because you
do"**

**By Alan V.
Brunacini**

COLLEGE FAIR AT THE CONNECTICUT FIRE ACADEMY

The first College Fair at the Connecticut Fire Academy was a big success. On October 8, the CFA opened its doors to the first CFA College Fair. Designed to bring colleges offering certificate and degree program in Fire Service and Emergency Medical Services fields together with interested students and parents, an estimated 350 visitors had the opportunity to discuss future plans with thirteen colleges and universities. A short list of some of the participants includes Oklahoma State University, Southern Maine Community College, University of New Haven, Charter Oak State College, Worcester Polytechnic Institute, and Capital Community College. The doors opened at 9 a.m. and closed at 4 p.m. Our first visitor was at 9:05 a.m. and the last at 4 p.m.

The CFA was a very busy place and presenters reported running out of materials. There was also a significant number of adult students who attended seeking information on post graduate programs. Holding the event on Saturday gave parents the advantage of attending and talking with schools that they would not normally have when a college fair is held at a high school during school hours.

Parents also expressed an appreciation for having so many schools in one location and presenters expressed appreciation that they had an opportunity to speak with a high number of quality contacts at one location. The next college fair at the CFA will be held on October 13, 2012.

William Trisler, Program Manager



VETERANS AFFAIRS SITE VISIT



On October 20, 2011, Mike Criscuolo from the State of Connecticut Office of Financial and Academic Affairs for Higher Education (CTOHE) met with the Director of Training Adam D. Piskura and Program Manager Trisler to conduct a site visit and Compliance Survey. CTOHE is the State Approving Agency for the Veterans Administration. A thorough review of archived student records to ensure compliance included our application process, program curriculum, attendance records, detailed records of tuition and fees, and academic records of selected students was conducted. The Connecticut Fire academy once again passed all areas of the Survey without discrepancy Effective August 1, 2011, Compliance Surveys are required of all schools offering VA approved education and training replacing the former required Supervisory Visits.

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

**By Alan V.
Brunacini**

The Recruit Firefighter program is a VA approved training program and is accredited through Charter Oak State College for 6 undergraduate credits. The CFA has thirteen programs accredited through Charter Oak State College for undergraduate credit. Veterans meeting eligibility requirements under the Post-9/11 GI Bill are eligible for up to \$6700 tuition and fees, \$1000 for books and supplies and a monthly housing allowance.

William Trisler, Program Manger

ADVANCED INTRODUCTION TO THE FIRE SERVICE PROGRAM



Junior Counselors From the June Class



Advanced Concepts and Skills Class Picture
August 2011

The Connecticut Fire Academy's Advanced Introduction to the Fire Service Program and Junior Counselors

This year, the CFA introduced Advanced Introduction to the Fire Service Advanced Skills and Concepts (ASAC) week for Cadets aged 16 to 17. Graduates from the previous Introduction to the Fire Service classes were invited to attend. Twenty-seven Cadets returned to broaden skills and prepare to join the fire service when they are 18. The advanced class expanded on skills previously learned, while adding instruction in vehicle extrication, leadership, technical rescue, incident rehabilitation and basic instructional methodology where Cadets developed and delivered a training exercise to their peers. In addition to broadening a skill base, ASAC is designed to build fire service leaders of tomorrow and provided an opportunity to hone leadership skills through the implementation of the Incident Command System.

Introduction to the Fire Service also introduced Junior Counselors to the program. Graduates of the program were invited to apply for one of four positions. Requirements for application were a 3.0 GPA, resume, letters of reference, and appearance before an oral review board. Once selected, the Junior Counselors became an integral component of the leadership team, assisting Instructors in the planning, setup and delivery of the program.

CONNECTICUT FIRE ACADEMY

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We're on the web
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.