

# THE INSTRUCTOR'S DISPATCH

JULY, 2005

## VEHICLES FOR EXTRICATION TRAINING

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All the cars that we use in our extrication training are donated to us by Mark's Auto Parts, who also donates his equipment and staff to deliver and pick up these vehicles.

They have been extremely generous with both their time and equipment and have met our varied needs, ranging from two-three cars for an extrication class to over 100 cars for the Northeast Regional Extrication Competition. Mark has personally brought down his heavy equipment when we needed things lifted and moved.

They have also made their facility available to us, not only to hold training there, but to host various activities associated with our programs.

In return for all this help and donations of materials, they have only made one request of us. They ask that at the completion of training, please place all parts that have been removed from the vehicles back into the vehicle in a secure position.

The reason for this request is so their tow guy can flatbed the vehicles back to their facility. It is unreasonable for us to expect him to take the extra time to throw all the removed doors, roofs, etc, back into the car before he loads up his truck.

The reason we need the items in the vehicle securely is that they fall off the truck as the vehicle is moved back to Mark's. A recent walk down Perimeter Road indicates that this is becoming a problem. Complaints from Airport Management or Troop W will not come to us but will be directed to Mark's. We **can not** let this happen to someone who is stepping up big time to help us out.

Based on the above, it is imperative that all instructors who teach or test an extrication station must ensure that the vehicles are prepared for removal from the training grounds at the end of the session.

You need to ensure that all parts removed from the vehicles are

placed within the vehicle and positioned so they will not fall out. Remember that he flatbeds these vehicles out of here so they will be subject to jostling and tilting. All vehicles used in extrication training must be returned to the wheels down position and not left on the roof or side. It is **not enough** to tell the students to cleanup; you must supervise this activity to make sure it is done completely as **REQUIRED**. We can not afford to lose this resource.

I appreciate those of you who have been diligent in this requirement. I respectfully ask all other instructors to please make the extra effort needed to prevent this problem from occurring in the future.

Jim Carroll  
Program Manager

**TRAINING DIVISION UPDATE**

**Ladder Damage Hazard**

It has been brought to our attention that some of our portable ladders have been damaged due to a construction feature of the burn building.

The walls of the burn building do not run flush down to the ground, but instead have an indentation.

Depending on the grade of the cement, this space can be large enough to allow the butt end of the ladder to fit into this indentation.

If the student or instructor doesn't realize this has happened and the student forces the ladder up, the ladder butt sustains damage. This typically occurs during a one person ladder raise.

Several fixes have been identified to eliminate this condition;

but until this situation can be corrected, please be aware of the possibility of this occurring and take steps to prevent any of our ladders from being damaged in this manner.

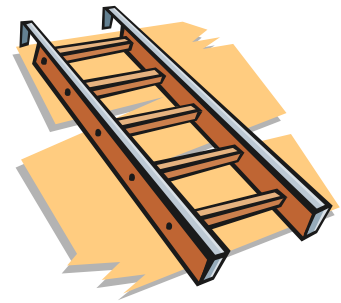
**Rescue Truck Wins Trophy**

Over the last couple of summers the Introduction to the Fire Service cadets have participated in the annual fire apparatus parade that is held in Springfield Massachusetts, in conjunction with the New England Fire Chiefs' Fire/Rescue trade show. They always return with plenty of fond memories and even more assorted gift items from the various vendor booths. This year they returned to the academy with something a bit more special.

During the parade the new CFA rescue truck was deemed to be the "Best Appearing Rescue" and received a trophy to mark the accomplishment. For the cadets this represents an added bit of excitement to their summer experience. For the staff of the fire academy this is positive feedback that our efforts to supply the best possible training equipment for our students to learn with is meeting with some success.

Our thanks and appreciation goes to the people who worked so hard to design and procure this vehicle as well as to the cadets who expended a lot of elbow grease to get the rig into tip top parade condition.

Jim Carroll  
Program Manager



**"Nothing will ever be attempted, if all possible objections must first be overcome."  
-Samuel Johnson**



**FIREFIGHTER OF THE YEAR**

Congratulations are in order for Mike Preston who was named "Firefighter of the Year" by the Stratford Exchange Club.

The reception for

the Police and Fire Dept. was held April 27th at the Augustyns Blue Goose in Stratford.

We are very proud of him and wish him continued success!



**TRAINING GROUND PUMP STATION**

One of our training ground resources that undergoes major use is the pump station. The two fire pumps in the station pressurize the underground water main that feeds our training hydrants (painted red). The fire pumps receive their water supply from the ground tank attached to the pump station. Water that is flowed from these hydrants is captured by the storm drains located throughout the training grounds and returned to the sedimentation pit under the pump house. Water from this pit is then pumped back into the ground tank by two submersible pumps.

Due to the amount of use these items have undergone, some parts no longer work as originally planned. The LED pressure readouts on both fire pump controllers no longer work. The readings on them should be ignored for now, and plans are in the works to eliminate their readouts. On the side of the ground tank is a device to take a reading of the water level within the tank. This gauge also does not work.

There are two pressure gauges located at each fire pump. You can use the pressure reading on the intake side of the pump to determine the level of water in the tank.

The discharge pressure gauge will tell you if sufficient pressure is being generated by the pump.

Part of the annual maintenance of the water system is to clean out the drains and strainers that are part of the water recycling system. This has been accomplished by our facilities maintenance staff. You and your students can help with this by picking up trash and small items that would otherwise be carried by the water flow into the drains.

When you need to utilize the fire pumps to supply water for the program you are presenting, please remember to follow these procedures:

- ☑ Always turn the power on to the pump controllers at least five minutes prior to starting the pumps to allow the controllers to warm up.
- ☑ Make sure the submersible pumps are powered up (they run as needed).
- ☑ Turn the pumps to hand operation (the auto function has been disabled).
- ☑ Place the appropriate yellow label on the pump controller to indicate which activity is utilizing the pumps (Ex: flashover, burn bldg, etc.)

- ☑ Do not have the class direct fire streams onto the grass or over the fence into the swamp. This water will be lost and not recycled into the tank.

- ☑ Please check to make sure the water you flow is entering a training ground storm drain. If the water is not entering the storm drain, and especially if it is overflowing the curbing into the swamp, please attempt to clear the drain's surface clog with a stick or hose stream.

- ☑ Remember to turn the pumps off after all users are finished with them.

Please remember that the yellow hydrants are for back-up water supply only and at no time should large streams be routinely flowed from them. Thank you for helping us keep this vital system running.

Jim Carroll  
Program Manager



**No matter how much you like to fight fire, someday you will get a fire you really wish you didn't have.**  
-Alan Brunancini



RECRUIT FIREFIGHTER CLASS # 32 GRADUATION



On May 18, 2005, Recruit Class # 32 graduated from the Connecticut Fire Academy.

The Class showed that they could meet all of the requirements that were presented to them, in order to launch their careers on a positive note.

We would like to take this time to thank all of the instructors who were assigned to this program for a job well done!

Don't think you're putting something over on Mother Nature...she always balances the books... sooner or later, she will get even.

JIM SCAVETTA LEAVES

Following ten years of service to the agency Jim Scavetta resigned from the agency on June 30th as a Qualified Craft Worker – Electrical. While an electrician by trade, Jim was a jack of all trades and had many talents that aided the agency during

his tenure. We wish Jim and his family well in the years ahead.

Jim's former position was reclassified to General Trades Worker and we are in the final stages of filling that position.

There are seven applicants who will be interviewed on August 2, 2005. We hope to have the successful candidate on-site working by late August.



Jim Scavetta pictured with the new custom-made display case he built and installed.



## VALUE OF VOLUNTEER TIME

Washington, DC - On March 24, 2005, Independent Sector announced that the 2004 estimate for the value of a volunteer hour has reached \$17.55 per hour. This is a tool that can be used to help organizations quantify the enormous value volunteers provide.

This year's estimate increased from \$17.19 per hour in 2003. Nationally Independent Sector estimates in 2004 the total value of hours volunteered was equivalent to approximately \$272 billion of contributed services, assuming the total number of volunteer hours held constant from previous years.

"No number can adequately capture the true value volunteers bring to so many causes and communities across this country," said Diana Aviv, president and CEO of Independent Sector. "Nevertheless, this yearly estimate helps us all focus on the enormous contribution of our nation's volunteer corps."

The hourly value of volunteer time is based on the average hourly wage for all non-management, nonagricultural workers as determined by the Bureau of Labor Statistics, with a 12 percent increase to estimate for fringe benefits.

To learn more about the value of volunteer time, go to: [http://www.independentsector.org/programs/research/volunteer\\_time.html](http://www.independentsector.org/programs/research/volunteer_time.html)

Independent Sector is a nonprofit, nonpartisan coalition of approximately 500 national organizations, foundations, and corporate philanthropy programs, collectively representing tens of thousands of charitable groups in every state across the nation. Its mission is to advance the common good by leading, strengthening, and mobilizing the independent sector.



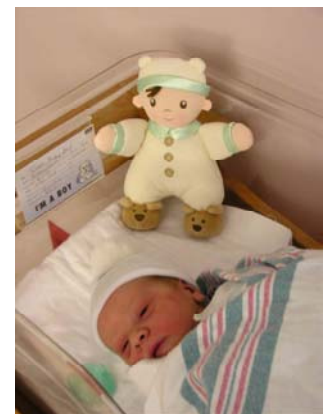
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## BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENT

Congratulations are in order for instructor James Turner and his Lynn who became proud parents of a baby boy name Ryan George Turner.

Ryan arrived on May 11, 2005 at 9:20 a.m. He weighed in at 7 lbs and 7 oz.

We wish James and Lynn along with their other children Colin and Hannah endless happiness with their new addition to their family!



Ryan George Turner

**NIMS INFORMATIONAL SESSIONS**

The National Incident Management System (NIMS) provides a consistent nationwide template to enable all government, private sector and non-governmental organizations to work together during domestic incidents.

In addition to the adoption of a national Incident Command System, NIMS identifies six(6) focus areas to improve the nation's response.

The six (6) components of NIMS include:

- Command and Management

- Preparedness
- Resource Management/ Mutual Aid
- Communications and Information Management
- Supporting Technologies
- Ongoing NIMS Management and Maintenance

In order to assist the Connecticut Emergency Response community to better understand implementing NIMS, the Commission on Fire Prevention and Control's Connecticut Fire Academy is offering

informational sessions to aid you in self-assessing your compliance with NIMS.

To request a no cost informational session for your community's department heads, elected, elected and appointed officials, and first responders, download the form on our website at [www.ct.gov/cfpc](http://www.ct.gov/cfpc)

Fill out the form and fax it to 860-654-1889 or return to:

CT Fire Academy  
Attn: Elaine Mancino  
34 Perimeter Road  
Windsor Locks, CT  
06096



**Bumper Sticker**

**Of course I don't  
look busy; I did it  
right the first  
time!**

**BOOKSTORE NEWS**

**New Edition IFSTA  
Hazardous Materials**

The bookstore expected the new IFSTA Hazardous Materials: Managing the Incident 3rd edition to be in stock by April, 2005.

**Master of Disaster Fire  
Safety Program**

The Connecticut Fire Academy Bookstore is pleased to announce that the Master of Disaster Fire Safety program will be stocked for the purpose of resale to customers.

This program, developed by the American Red Cross, with funding from the fire act grant, is a three-level nine-lesson program dealing only with fire knowledge, fire prevention, and escape. The grade levels are K-2, 3-5, and 6-8.

The bookstore has these lesson plans currently in stock. The cost of the lesson plans are \$5.00. Please call Pam Cooney at 860-627-6363 ext. 271 if additional information is needed.

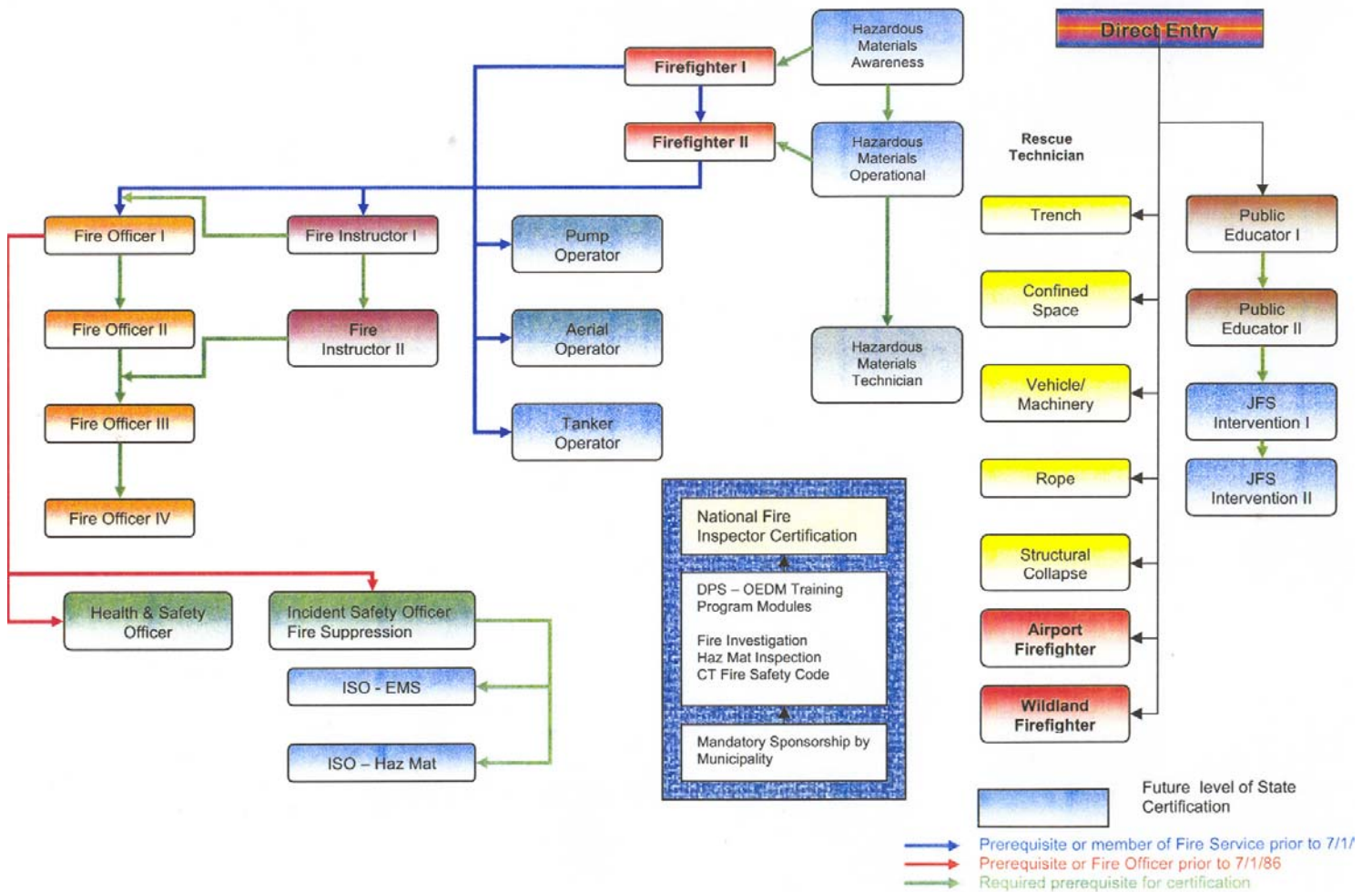


NEW CERTIFICATION FLOW CHART



State of Connecticut  
Commission on Fire Prevention and Control

CERTIFICATION FLOW CHART



As of 4/2005

TIME SHEETS

Many time sheets are being submitted with critical information missing (program, location, dates...).

Please check to see that all information is complete and legible prior to submission.



**RECOGNIZING MEMBERS OF OUR STAFF**

A letter was received from John Reek, Jr. of Bristol recognizing Denice Fortin for her quick response to a recent request for assistance. Initiative and intuition were both used to satisfy this customer, thank you Denice!

In an E-Mail, DFM James Vincent from the Town of Orange recognized both Denice Fortin and Ed O'Hurley for their assistance with the coordination of testing for a recent Fire-

fighter II class.

He specifically recognized both individuals for their professionalism.

Several emails were recently received recognizing Kim Taylor for her CPAT Scheduling efforts during a very busy period. The most recent was from Capt. David Brown, Branford F.D. who recognized Kim for her efforts on behalf of one of their volunteer members home from the Marine Corps for a very short period of time.

He stated that “..it is greatly appreciated that Kim worked diligently to make this happen.”

Thanks Kim and thank you to ALL those involved with CPAT; without a doubt you have been weathering an extremely busy period and doing it well. Congratulations.

**Fight fighting reality:  
bad beginnings  
produce bad endings  
(always try to eliminate  
bad starts).**



**AGENCY VEHICLE LOGS**

As a reminder, when operating one of the agency's fleet vehicles regardless of how short the trip is, please be sure to complete in full, all information on the vehicle usage logs including signature, date, time, odometer reading and mileage.

These forms are submitted to DAS Fleet Operations and numerous discrepancies have been noted.

It would also be helpful to note on the form when you are using one of Ford Expedition's or Chevrolet Suburban to tow one of our trailers. Please note "Tow" or "(T)" next to your entry.

We appreciate your assistance.





**AWARD ANNOUNCEMENTS**



Fire departments having questions regarding the Fire Prevention and Safety program can reach the Department of Homeland Security/Office for Domestic Preparedness AFG Program staff at 1-866-274-0960, or via email at fire-grants@dhs.gov.

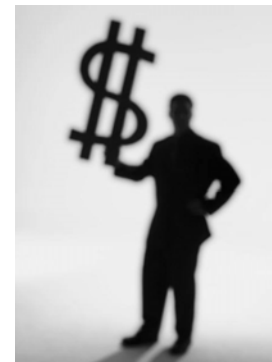
For the most current information regarding these grant awards and any of the many other projects, visit <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/odp> or enroll in the DHS/ODP [email distribution listserver](#) for the most current news.



**2004 FPS PROGRAM AWARDS**

<u>Department</u>	<u>City</u>	<u>State</u>	<u>Federal Share</u>	<u>Award Date</u>
Bridgeport Fire Department	Bridgeport	CT	\$95,452.00	3/11/05
Columbia Volunteer Fire Department	Columbia	CT	\$17,991.00	2/25/05
International Association of Hispanic Firefighters	Clinton	CT	\$497,000.00	2/18/05
Town of Somers Vol. Fire Department	Somers	CT	\$12,098.00	2/18/05
Ansonia Fire Department	Ansonia	CT	\$1,350.00	2/18/05
Pomfret Fire District	Pomfret	CT	\$7,583.00	2/18/05

**Education is the ability to listen to almost anything without losing your temper or self-confidence.**  
**\*\*\*Robert Frost\*\*\***



**IRREGULARS ASSOCIATION UPDATE**

Election results from the April meeting of the Irregulars Association are noted below. The membership voted to keep this a viable fire service organization to lead the state's firefighters.

The Irregulars will continue to support the Connecticut State Firefighters Association and will support the slate of Officers that run the CSFA as they have done since the late 1940's.

The Irregulars elected the following slate of Officers for the coming year:

- President – Jim O'Neil from the Thomaston Fire Department
- Vice President – Charles M. Stankye, III from the Derby Fire Department
- Secretary – Larry Brandolini from the Wolcott Fire Department and Waterbury Fire Department (ret).
- Treasurer – Bill Coffey from the Danbury Fire Department

The Irregulars are seeking new members

to join the organization.

All firefighters are encouraged to apply.

Membership into the Irregulars is open to any active or retired firefighter in the State of Connecticut. The Irregulars meet four times a year, with the annual meeting held at the Connecticut State Firefighter's convention each year.

Anyone interested in joining can contact Secretary Larry Brandolini at 203-879-9285 or by email at **E7wal-**



**If you let the fire live, it may not return the favor...**

**ADJUNCT INSTRUCTOR RESOURCES**

The Commission has established a category on the CFPC Web Site dedicated to supporting adjunct instructors. Among other things, this restricted page contains timely information that is of immediate importance, various forms and documents needed by the adjunct in the field (i.e. payroll timesheets, injury forms, rosters, program applications), and well as Startup Package materials and an electronic copy of this Newsletter.

It is very important that each adjunct instructor access the page frequently.

Adjunct Instructors must register on the CFPC Web Site to gain access to the Adjunct Instructor Resource Page. If you haven't done so already, click on login at the bottom left of the CFPC Web Site Home Page ([www.ct.gov/cfpc](http://www.ct.gov/cfpc)) and follow the directions.

After you have registered (or if you have any questions), please email [fred.piechota@po.state.ct.us](mailto:fred.piechota@po.state.ct.us) and ask to be given access to the Adjunct Instructor Resource Page."

Frederick W. Piechota, Jr.,  
Director of Certification



## BACKUP PROCEDURE FOR APPARATUS

*The Connecticut Fire Academy Safety Committee has researched and refined a backup procedure for Commission on Fire Prevention and Control vehicles. An operational policy has been written and accepted by the Safety Committee and approved by the Director of Training. Please familiarize yourself with the requirements of the policy as it appears below, and comply with its intent to keep our driver/operators safe as well as those in the vicinity and keep our valuable apparatus accident free.*

This Policy contains requirements for any individual operating apparatus belonging to the Connecticut Fire Academy and is in a situation which requires backing up the apparatus.

The intent of this policy is to provide the driver/operator with the safest method to back the fire apparatus in a manner which will provide both safety to the apparatus, crew and also to the Public.

### **BACKING UP IS ALWAYS DANGEROUS;**

Whenever possible, the driver/operator should avoid backing up the fire apparatus.

It is normally safer and sometimes quicker to drive around the block. However, there are instances when backing up apparatus is necessary and cannot be avoided. When backing up, follow the safety rules below:

- a. Look At Your Path of Travel
- b. Back up Slowly
- c. Back up and Turn Toward the Driver's Side When Possible
- d. Use Warning Lights
- e. Use a Helper (Spotter)

The "Spotter" is for safety purposes behind the vehicle when backing up is not to be used for "Traffic Control" purposes.

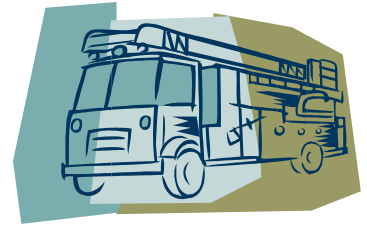
Whenever backing up, at least one fire-fighter/crew member shall be assigned to clear the way and to warn the driver/operator of any obstacles obscured by blind spots.

The spotter should be to the rear and clearly visible to the driver on the driver's side of the unit.

Crossed hands over the head of the spotter indicates **STOP**.

During nighttime situations, **DO NOT** shine any lights in the mirrors of the vehicle which could hinder the driver's operation and safety.

Reference: See Connecticut CDL Manual, I.F.S.T.A. Safety Manual and the CIRMA Training Program for Operation of Emergency Vehicles for more detailed information.



## OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF TRAINING

We have had a busy spring and summer leading up to the June Fire School and Introduction to the Fire Service "Cadet Camp". We enjoyed an increase in June Fire School attendance from 435 in 2004 to 759 this year. While we attribute the increase to several different things, including our revised format, more changes are planned for the future.

The first Cadet Camp had 40 junior or Explorer firefighters experiencing the Connecticut Fire Academy. We thank our dedicated group of instructors that continually support this program and serve as role models to these teens.

Perhaps the most noticeable change in the training grounds is our breathing air arrangement. It is a cascade system, not a compressor refill station. The Bauer technician installing it said that it is the largest one he has ever installed. It contains four (4) fill stations capable of filling twelve (12) breathing air cylinders simultaneously. The entire cascade system will fill 64 - 4500 PSI cylinders before the compressor is needed.

The former arrangement yielded only twelve (12) bottles filled.

This purchase was made to replace an 11+ year old ailing system with one that will reduce refill time to enable quick student turnaround. Instructors are requested to conduct the refilling of cylinders to ensure the correct pressure is cascaded into the fill station cylinders: 2216 vs. 4500PSI. ***It is imperative that each cylinder is examined for its correct rated capacity before placing into the rack for filling.***

Another critical item is that ***ALL system valves are to be moved using two fingers only.*** No valve requires cranking down on it to fully shut or open. The new compressor is very quiet rated at only 79db. In case anyone is interested, the former compressor is going to Connecticut Valley Hospital for a second life there.

We also purchased rolling cylinder racks to properly store 56 cylinders each, available for use or refilling. One unit will be placed in the bays while the other two will be in the space vacated by the old

compressor. It is our plan to rearrange the classroom as equipment storage and the former compressor room as SCBA storage and maintenance.

If anyone wants personal assistance in first time use of the new cascade system, please contact any program manager for instructions. Each one has benefited from a training program conducted by the Bauer Technician.

Complete turnout gear for 40 instructors has arrived. Shortly adjuncts will receive a letter from the Deputy Director with specific directions about Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) assignment. Each adjunct will be required to sign for their issue acknowledging receipt of the PPE policy and personal responsibility for maintenance, care and control.

The remaining instructors that require PPE in the performance of their duties for the Connecticut Fire Academy will be contacted about their fitting sometime before the end of this calendar year.

Another item that may have escaped your attention, but is important to safety none-the-less is the replacement of the overhead door reverse strips on each fire station door. Speaking of the Fire Station, there is a persistent rumor about Bradley Airport Fire Department relocating their Station 2 to another part of the airport. If so, the Connecticut Fire Academy, or Hartford County Regional Fire School might be able to explore the future purchase of this asset.

Unfortunately (to some), the talk is exactly that, talk. Certain discussions about effective station location do involve station relocations as well as the possible addition of new stations. None of these plans have reached a formal stage as of yet. If and when an offer is made to the Commission on Fire Prevention and Control to acquire existing Bradley Airport Fire Department assets, it will receive due consideration.

(Cont'd on page 13)



## OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF TRAINING (CONT'D)

However the reality of current market pricing of land and improvements surrounding the airport make it unlikely that the state will fund Connecticut Fire Academy expansion at this location. The exception is of course the planned addition of a class A Burn Building and associated storage building for Hartford County Regional Fire School.

A conversation with Bradley Airport Fire Chief Duffy included an offer to the Connecticut Fire Academy to use their classroom in Station One when we exceed our capacity here. The offer/reminder is much appreciated.

The training grounds will have the pavement cracks sealed and stripping reapplied.

A conveyor section has been acquired to augment the Vehicle and Machinery Rescue class. The practice of dismantling an unfamiliar piece of equipment to release entrapped victims is a requirement for certification according to NFPA 1670.

Another concern of ours is the interim adjunct assignment system. We understand that it is less than perfect and apologize for the confusion. The new computerized system should be ready soon for beta testing. Once fully implemented, any program manager will be able to call up your assignments and inform you of your status regardless of the topic. Like you, we eagerly anticipate this change.

Russ Emons has agreed to represent the Commission on Fire Prevention and Control on the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) 1041 Standard for Fire Service Instructor Professional Qualifications. The saga will continue to turn a nonlinear standard into a useable guide for end-users to become certified fire service teachers. Anyone who has spoken with Russ during the last year knows that he is attempting to improve the support text to our current certified fire service instructor program.

Working through the IFSTA validation process has only increased Russ's resolve to: do it right. Several critical issues in the rewrite are not going, the "Connecticut way". It is hoped that by rearranging the standard, future support texts will become more logical to the reader, and students attempting to achieve certification.

Comfortable swivel chairs have been purchased and provided in the recruit classroom and room 109 -110. These chairs were in excess of \$350.00 each. Please help us preserve them by asking students to remove cell phones and sharp objects from pockets and belts before sitting. It is a good time to remind them of our cell phone and pager policy during classes.

The Connecticut Fire Academy Bookstore is a unique asset to the fire service. However many misunderstand our purpose. We primarily exist as a support mechanism for our Program Managers.

As they plan and deliver classes, the Bookstore supplies wholesale (discounted) materials in support of curricula. The creation of a physical store has expanded our ability to supply retail products to the general fire service. Revenues from these sales are plowed back into store operations (acquisitions) and the delivery of additional classes.

As a state agency, profit is not our goal, nor ever has been. But expanding the number of course deliveries that benefit the fire service community is.

To Your Success,  
*Adam D. Piskura*  
Adam D. Piskura,  
Director  
Connecticut Fire  
Academy

**We're on the Web!**

See us at: [www.ct.gov/cfpc](http://www.ct.gov/cfpc)

**C O N N E C T I C U T F I R E  
A C A D E M Y**

**COMMISSION ON FIRE  
PREVENTION AND CONTROL**

CT Fire Academy  
34 Perimeter Road  
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