



# Instructor's Dispatch

Newsletter of the Commission on Fire Prevention & Control

VOLUME 10 ISSUE 3

MARCH, 2009

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## 2009 Introduction To The Fire Service



This exciting program will focus on introducing youths ages 14-17 to the Fire Service. This year's Introduction to the Fire Service will see some changes from previous years. Class size will be limited to 36 cadets and the age groups are separated into two distinct weeks. June 24th through June 28th will be cadets aged 16-17 and July 6th through July 10th will be reserved for cadets aged 14 to 15. On graduation day, the cadets will compete for bragging rights in a fire muster type demonstration for the visitors.

William Trisler  
Program Manager



*“It’s lots better for you to save yourself (early), than for someone else to try to save you later (maybe too late).*

*By Alan V. Brunacini*

## **Review of Post Incident Assessment Charleston South Carolina Sofa Superstore**

**Presented by: Chief J. Gordon Routley ■ Fire Protection Engineer**



**The June 18, 2007 South Carolina Sofa Superstore Fire**

The 2009 Seminar Series: *Review of Post Incident Assessment Charleston South Carolina Sofa Superstore* was held on Friday, March 13, 2009. The June 18, 2007 Sofa Superstore fire, which resulted in the deaths of nine Charleston firefighters, is destined to become a landmark

event in the American fire service. This session will present a comprehensive analysis of the Sofa Superstore Incident and the role of the Post Incident Analysis and Review Team in conducting a detailed review of the Charleston Fire Department, as well as a comprehensive analysis of the incident. The presentation will also discuss the development of a strategic plan to implement the recommendations produced by the organizational review and the Incident analysis.

**J. Gordon Routley** is a Fire Protection Engineer providing consulting services to fire departments and related organizations in the United States and Canada. He previously served as Fire Chief in Shreveport, Louisiana; Assistant to the Fire Chief in Phoenix, Arizona; and Fire Department Safety Officer in Prince George’s County, Maryland. He was the project leader for the City of Charleston Fire Assessment and Review Team and has conducted more than 30 firefighter fatality investigations. In addition, he works with the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation on the Firefighter Life Safety Initiatives Project and is a member of the Board of Directors of the Safety, Health and Survival Section of the International Association of Fire Chiefs.

## Be Prepared!

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**Question: What's the difference between the Boy Scouts and a federal agency?**

**Answer: The Boy Scouts have adult leadership and their motto is Be Prepared!**

Local communities need adult leadership and need to *Be Prepared!* We have to be those adult leaders and we must have key principles to guide our strategy of preparedness.

Here are ten strategies that, when implemented by adult leaders, can lead to responsible and appropriate, efficient and effective, local hazmat preparedness. Let's be prepared!

1) Local response to hazmat incidents by fire fighters, EMTs, law enforcement, public health and public works personnel, private industry and volunteer organizations, and public schools, *inter alia*, should be driven by OSHA's 29 CFR 1910.120 as well as EPA regulations. OSHA and EPA mandate response levels, medical monitoring, PPE, etc. These are for our protection, so we can make our communities safer. We will make sure our responders abide by them.

2) Hazmat teams are very, very expensive. Just figure a gazillion dollars a year, given the number of highly trained personnel required by federal regulations and the prodigious amount of equipment and supplies necessary. Then figure in annual training, maintenance, equipment and supplies replacement, etc., and you will realize that few rural communities have the tax base, the response community, and the recurring need to have their own, in place, standing hazmat team. Local hazard/risk and response capability assessments should convince community leaders that need is just not there.

3) Emergency responders, fire departments, hazmat teams, and local responders do not do incident site cleanup and disposal. The "responsible party" is. Federally-regulated contractors and haulers and disposal sites do cleanup, storage, and disposal, responders don't. Responders' jobs are in incident public safety. Local regulators are there to insure proper cleanup, and community and environmental protection. Plans should be in place to ensure that response and remediation efforts are coordinated by local agencies.

4) There are two basic types of hazmat incidents, facility site and transportation. Transportation includes air, rail, truck, barge and pipeline. For response purposes, a facility might be truck stop, manufacturing company, auto repair and painting business, hardware, home improvement or "we got everything" store, etc. USDOT regulates materials, products, when they are in container and in route. EPA and OSHA (and maybe other federal, tribal, state and local agencies) are involved if it comes out of its containers. Local fire and building codes come in when things are stored locally. Local responders and regulators should know their respective regulations and coordinate with one another, via local planning and training.



**"Basic rule of defensive positioning is to stay out of range (maintain a respectful distance)".**

**By Alan V. Brunacini**



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**“Sometimes what looks like genuine courage is actually foolish aggressiveness”.**

**By Alan V. Brunacini**



## Be Prepared!

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5) Local jurisdictions need to do, at least, these local assessments:

- a) Hazard/Risk analysis
- b) Response capabilities
  - i) Personnel
  - ii) Equipment and supplies
  - iii) Training
- c) Plans:
  - i) Jurisdictional interagency, inter-jurisdictional and all hazard plans
  - ii) Second and third tier response plans (regional and state/federal)
  - iii) Recovery and disposal plans

6) Due to increased incidence of highly complex and violent incidents, local communities must have contracts or memoranda of understanding/agreement in place to ensure the timely arrival of, at least, the following highly specialized teams:

- a) Hostage rescue
- b) S.W.A.T.
- c) Biological incident
- d) Clandestine drug lab
- e) Bomb and IED
- f) Radiological incident
- g) Hazardous materials incident
- h) Major fire

7) Local agencies, organizations, businesses need to be players in planning and training for local incidents. The following generic list of players is not all inclusive:

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## Be Prepared!

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- a) Law: Tribal, PDs, SOs, State Patrol, Fish and Game, Corrections, etc.
  - b) Fire: Tribal, VFDs, Rural/wildland, State Lands, BLM, USFS, etc.
  - c) EMS: Tribal, VFDs, private, etc.
  - d) Health:
    - i) Medical, home health, etc.
    - ii) Environmental, sanitarians, etc.
  - e) Public Works
    - i) Water/Sewer, power, etc.
    - ii) Tribal, County Roads, City Streets, State Highways, DOT, etc.
  - f) Schools, all
  - g) Care facilities: children, adult, DD, health/hospital/clinics, etc.
  - h) Hazmat facilities
    - i) Volunteer organizations
    - j) Churches
    - k) Business
    - l) Other important local entities
- 8) Jurisdiction (who can do what where and when) must be worked out, far in advance of any incident, between federal, state, tribe, city, county, school districts, private industries, railroads, etc. We all must regularly schedule “who’s on first” meetings. Unfortunately, these meetings may involve lawyers. Sorry about that!
- 9) Local training must start with “awareness” based on the USDOT ERG and must be taught using hazard classes, for all hazards, whether terrorist, domestic, commercial, or industrial. Local analogs to national priorities are the way to deal with hazards, for far too much local, volunteer time and energy is wasted on high-hazard/no or low risk federally-mandated terrorist threats. If responders don’t care, because training is not appropriate, our communities needlessly become less prepared. Some training is just simply counterproductive in rural areas.
- 10) All incidents must be managed. Regulations require ICS to manage incidents. Wildland fires are all run using ICS and DHS had mandated the NIMS version of ICS in order for response agencies to receive their grant support. So no matter how you look at it, ICS is a must. No options here. But please don’t let your responders suffer “death by PowerPoint ®” or “death by NIMS.”



As a reminder, Connecticut Fire Academy Staff, Adjuncts and Students are automatically eligible to join 360 Federal Credit Union, a full service financial institution. Stop by any of their branches to open an account today. They are located at:

191 Ella Grasso Turnpike (Route 75), Windsor Locks (Next to McDonalds)  
385 Enfield Street, Enfield

Or contact the Member Services Center by phone at (860) 627-4200 or email: [mssc@360fcu.org](mailto:mssc@360fcu.org)





*“Be careful where  
you put the water,  
and who you give  
it to”.*

*By Alan V.  
Brunacini*

## Recognizing Members of Our Staff

*Letter from John C. Littell, Chief of Tolland Fire Department*

John C. Littell, Chief of Tolland Fire Department wrote thanking instructor Steve Coulon for an outstanding presentation. Steve conducted an advance EVOC class in Tolland on January 25th and February 9th.

He wrote “This class was anything but that. As a matter of fact, this was one of the better classes that my department has taken. Steve’s personality and natural ability to adapt his presentation to the pace of the students was refreshing. Steve is a gifted instructor to be able to apply his own experiences.

Adam D. Piskura  
Director of Training

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## Adjunct Michael Klarman Resignation

*Letter of resignation from Adjunct Instructor Michael S. Klarman*

Michael S. Klarman has resigned as an Adjunct Instructor for the Connecticut Fire Academy after nearly twenty-years of service.

Michael stated “ I wish the tremendously talented staff of the Connecticut Fire Academy, as well as my brother and sister adjunct instructors the very best! May God bless and keep all of our firefighters, police officers and emergency medical service personnel safe”!

The Connecticut Fire Academy staff will miss Michael and wish him great success!

Adam D. Piskura  
Director of Training

## Rescue Training

*Note: this article was originally written for the January newsletter....*

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 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.

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

**By Alan V. Brunacini**

## Rescue Training

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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

## Recognizing Members of Our Staff



**Left to right: Jeffrey Morrissette, State Fire Administrator; Yvonne Lewis, Executive Secretary; Peter Carozza, Chairman**  
Picture taken by Jim Carroll, Program Manager

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At their February meeting, the Commission on Fire Prevention and Control formally recognized Yvonne Lewis for attaining five years of service with the agency and ten years in total of state service. Previous to her appointment as Executive Secretary to the Commission in January, 2004, Yvonne had been employed as a Senior Legislative Secretary by the Connecticut General Assembly’s Office of Legislative Management. Congratulations Yvonne!





## Entry-Level Training Reimbursement Impacted by General Assembly Action

Action taken by the General Assembly as part of their recent Deficit Mitigation Plan for the current fiscal year has reduced the Entry-Level Training Reimbursement Account by \$200,000. Regrettably, this action has forced us to immediately suspend any further reimbursement to firefighters who recently completed training and became certified in addition to those currently enrolled in training.

Through the Entry-Level Training Reimbursement program the Commission was able to reimburse municipalities, municipal fire departments and state agency fire departments for one-half the cost of Firefighter I or Recruit Training of volunteer or career personnel who achieved certification. The current reimbursement rate cap was established by the Commission at \$300 for Firefighter I and \$2,887.50 for the 14-week Recruit Firefighter Training program.

Unfortunately, with the economy continuing to erode and the state deficit for the current fiscal year growing a remedy to this situation is not expected. Questions regarding this program may be directed to State Fire Administrator Jeff Morrissette at (860) 627-6363 Ext. 230.

*“Sometimes on the fireground, the first thing you get is the last thing you need (or want).*

*By Alan V. Brunacini*

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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.