

May, 2007



The Instructor's Dispatch

Commission on Fire Prevention & Control

Recruit Firefighter Graduation Class # 38 May 16, 2007



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On May 16, 2007, the Connecticut Fire Academy graduated it's thirty-eight Recruit Class. The class consisted of 54 career firefighters representing seventeen Connecticut fire departments. The Connecticut Firefighters Pipe and Drum Band, accompanied by the Connecticut State-wide Firefighters Honor Guard ushered the Recruits to the Air Museum.

Fire Chief Heather Burford of the Ridgefield F.D. delivered the keynote remarks to the class, while Recruit Daniel C. Goodkofsky of the New Britain F.D. acted as the class spokesman.

Members of Class # 38

Danbury Fire Dept.
Nate R. Chapin
Jonathan T. DeJoseph
Patrick M. Heron
Kenneth E. Stilson

Douglas R. Zaniewski
Greenwich Fire Dept.
Nathaniel J. Schulde
Manchester Fire Dept.
Benjamin D. Dayton
Daniel M. Heald
Raymond J. Marconi
Middletown Fire Dept.
Joseph A. Bajorski
Milford Fire Dept.
Brian P. Connelly
Frank J. Murphy
Brian S. Trenchard

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New Britain Fire Dept.

Tracey B. Bacchus
Christopher M. Bisi
Anthony Cinque
Marco F. Costa
Matthew J. DePrey
Matthew T. Dizney
Carl E. Foster
Daniel C. Goodkofsky
Daylon L. Hudson
Matthew S. Johnson
Edgar C. Montalvo
Debra A. Morell
Wilfredo Pabon, Jr.
Frank Salemi
Richard C. E. Searle

Norwalk Fire Department

Brandon M. Adams
George D. Baez, Jr.
Mark W. Monroe

Norwich Fire Dept.

Joseph F. Crowley
Christopher R. Zaugg
Ridgefield Fire Dept.
Michael J. Gesmondi
Michael A. Trenck
South District Fire Dept.
Michael A. Cortezzo, Jr.
Stamford Fire Dept.
Brian M. Teitelbaum
Stratford Fire Dept.
Brian W. Johnson
Nicholas A. Marano
Tricia L. Regan
Brian C. Sigovitch
Jeremy E. Smith
Daniel S. Spyros
Jeffrey S. Ucci
Matthew S. Whelan
Torrington Fire Dept.
Daniel J. McCue
Aaron J. Picz
UConn Fire Dept.
John W. Ailes

Westport Fire Dept.

Joseph C. Arnson
Matthew P. Zaremski
Willimantic Fire Dept.
Jon-Paul L. Oldham
James R. Phillips
Michael S. Walker
Wilton Fire Dept.
James P. Blanchfield

"It is better to get
out five minutes too
soon than five
seconds too late."

By Alan V. Brunacini

The Michael C. Reilly Memorial Hard Charger Award



*George D. Baez, Jr.
Norwalk F.D*

In honor of Michael C. Reilly fellow members of his Connecticut Fire Academy Recruit Firefighter Class, 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 second Michael C. Reilly Memorial Hard Charger Award was presented to George Baez, Jr. member of Recruit Firefighter Class # 38 on May 16, 2007.

Orientation Held for 15 Newly Hired Adjunct Instructors

On May 3rd, orientation was held for the 15 people who have recently been hired as adjunct instructors for the Connecticut Fire Academy. The session started off with the agency Human Resources representative who guided them through the required state paperwork.

The rest of the day was spent becoming familiar with the CFA policies, equipment, forms, and the Instructor Solicitation program. They were also taken on a brief tour to acquaint them with both the administration building and the training grounds.

Ed Bycenski of our business office took the time to explain the payroll process and how to complete time and mileage sheets.

These instructors have been added to our list of active instructors and will begin to receive teaching assignments. When they are assigned to teach with you, please welcome them and help them become comfortable teaching in our programs.

The following Instructors were hired:

Michael Camperlengo
Jason Decremer
Glenn Dube
Michael Farrell
Jay Kolakoski
Mark L. Marin
John O' Dea
Christopher Parietti
Robert Petrone
Brian Proulx
James Schwartz
John F. Sokolowski
Craig R. Stevens
John G. Tuz
Richard Waselik



Program Manager, Bill Auclair reviews information given to the newly hired Adjunct Instructors.

**"Safe firefighters
are smart
firefighters".**

By Alan V. Brunacini

Recognizing Members of Our Staff

Letter from Fairfield Country Day School

A letter was received from Elizabeth Solazzo of the Fairfield Country Day School extending her appreciation to Alan Zygmunt and Jackie Kilby-Richards for their work with the Fire Safety House.

Ms. Solazzo wrote "The impact of the Safety House and the hands-on experience it provided our students learning how to address issues involved in navigating a fire hazard were invaluable."

The entire student body K-9th grade was able to experience and benefit from Alan and Jackie's efforts.

Letters from Westport Fire Dept.

Letters were received from Westport Fire Department Assistant Chief (Training Officer) Andrew Kingsbury recognizing six adjunct instructors involved in the delivery of a Confined Space Rescue Technician program to members of that department. Specifically, recognized were John King, Joe Nadeau, Ryan Dunn, Al Bassett,

Clint Haverkamp and Rich Alfes.

Chief Kingsbury wrote, "Your wealth of knowledge and willingness to be flexible made the program a success. The members were very complimentary about your instruction...."

Congratulations and thank you to all for your efforts and professionalism.



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“Safety prevents paperwork and meetings”.

By Alan V. Brunacini

Ten Emergency Management Ideas

The following ideas regarding emergency management are worth thinking about, I think.

1. There are three groups of citizens!—By this I mean there are business and industry citizens, responder citizens and citizen citizens. I like to think about it this way:

Business and industry citizens are what I call “local friendly hazard providers.” They bring things in bulk and send it out in consumer sized packages. Stuff like propane, gasoline, diesel, anhydrous ammonia, etc. or they make the stuff or sell the prepackaged stuff. They want to keep things safe, just like we do. They want to prevent accidents. They have safety officers. When bad things happen they are right there with the responders trying to make things right again.

Responder citizens are those in government or the private sector who come and help: fire, law enforcement, EMS, public health, public works, volunteer/religious organizations and private contractors. The government folks’ job is basically public safety and volunteer organizations often provide family assistance.

It is often the private contractors, who work for the business and industry citizens, who are hired to fix things and bring things back to pre-incident standards. Rarely is it the job of local responders to fix anything, though they too often feel responsible for things.

Citizen may be neighbors, rubberneckers or spontaneous volunteers. Regardless of their provenance, unless they are already in the emergency management system as volunteers, they need to be managed. Often they are victims or present security or crowd control concerns.

2. There are three types of responders!— By this I mean there are first, second and third tier or level responders. I like to think of things this way:

First tier or level are the local fire, law enforcement, EMS, public health, public works, volunteer/religious organizations and private contractors, plus mutual aid groups. They show up to keep the public safe. In rural areas, the second level or tier are such groups as hazmat teams, Civil Support Teams from the National Guard,

SWAT teams, hostage rescue teams, bio-teams, radiological teams, bomb squads, and even regional railroad and refinery response teams. I see feds as part of this second level. This level basically stabilizes large incidents.

The third level are the contractors brought in primarily by the business or industry (but also may be called by State/Feds) to bring things back to normal, business as usual. Often they are ready for the first and second level folks to go home long before these people are ready to leave.

You will notice some overlap with the citizen concepts above, but we are only talking ideas here.

3. Sometimes we are just overwhelmed by events!—

I learned this from the best boss I ever had, he called it OBE. The concept is simple and it goes like this:

Tornado wipes out the town. Hurricane wipes out the state. Flood ruins everything. Attack levels buildings. Infrastructures are gone. Normal, typical, planned responses are inadequate, impossible.

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Ten Emergency Management Ideas

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We try to save people's lives. We try to maintain our good health. Nothing will ever be the same again. For emergency managers and responders, it helps when one realizes one is in the middle of an overwhelming event.

4. Find the real players! —

This is often learned the hard way. Think of it this way:

Don't waste your time on people who don't produce. It doesn't make any difference if the person, who is a player, is out of the area of expertise you need, good people get stuff done and know who the other players are. Watch out for people who force you to get everything they say in writing because they lie and fake bad memories. Find mentors who will review your work, not do your work. Find someone who will fight with you. Sometimes your best emergency manager is in the health or water department and your best leader or manager is the old hand who wouldn't take a promotion because of the bull. Find the problem solvers. Often they're the special projects people or the ones who took on lost causes.

One thing they are not ever called is bureaucrats. Often they don't play well with others, because the others aren't good players.

5. Do stress management

daily!—Hey, if you don't do it daily, you won't be able to do it during emergencies. If you really thought it was important, you'd do it, right? Think of it like this:

What emotions come up when you were stressed? Anger, fear, frustration, sadness, feelings of incompetence, ineptitude, impotence. How do our bodies react? High blood pressure, fast or erratic heart beat, erratic breathing, headaches, muscle aches, spontaneous orifice ejections, clammy hands, etc. What are the effects on our mental functions? Unable to gather data, process data, remember things, keep perspective, evaluate properly. Then your immune systems get off kilter and over or under reacts. Think back on stressful events. During a stressful event, nothing happening to you as a human person helps in the management of a complex emergency, because it's all adrenaline and sympathetic nervous system—freeze, fight, flight!

Breathe deeply, exercise those muscles, envision relaxing environments, hum relaxing songs, for the other options are not good.

6. Have a decent problem

solving sequence!—If you don't

have one, you can't solve problems. It's simple, look: This is directly related to the previous idea. A problem is something you don't have an answer for.

Problems are innately stressful.

Problem solving systems give you answers; they turn problems into work to do. No problem! Step one, relax. Step two, gather good data. Usually most problems become solvable if you just do steps one and two. Stressed people cannot gather data well, cannot analyze it, cannot evaluate it properly, for their prefrontal cortices are blood starved by their bodies' reactions to stress. Most problem solving systems were invented by process engineers and start with some silly left brain step such as "define the problem." In response events people are often hurt and chaos reigns. Without a good relaxation, stress management and data gathering process in the beginning, you can't define the

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**"Safe fire fighters
are smart
firefighters".**

By Alan V. Brunacini





“Fire fighting is the very smartest form of manual labor... respect the task”.

By Alan V. Brunacini



Ten Emergency Management Ideas

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problem and failure often looms. If you are relaxed and have good data, any good generic problem solving system will usually work. Get one.

7. Learn standard management, accounting and legal principles! — We are a nation of laws, not opinions. Really, it's like this: No one cares what you think—if it is not what up to snuff! Turn left in front of a car with the right of way and it is the law that wins, even if you thought the other driver was wrong. If you are going to stay in government, it is imperative that you know how the game is played. Learn the sick leave policies, the correct way to fill in reimbursement forms, what can be searched in your office without a search warrant (basically everything but your personal briefcase, purse, wallet, etc.). If you handle money, even virtual money, take courses, get mentored. You live in a bureaucratic world, so learn the ropes, and know your enemy. You have to be as smart as they are dumb! It's not that hard, after all, look who already knows this stuff, bureaucrats. Know the system you work in and you can make it

work for you and your customers—fight it and you will waste energy and lose. For in the end, even in emergencies, it's document, document, document!

8. Learn how to write grants and manage money!— It's the bottom line, see: If you have control of line items, if you have money in accounts that are not general fund, if you have your own travel funds, project funds or spending authorities, you win. In effect, it's your money. If you hate this stuff, then take courses: grant writing courses, accounting program courses, basic accounting courses, etc. Most of the hate stems from fear and most of the fear comes ignorance. Smarten up, it's the bottom line that counts, really! At incidents and in emergencies, somebody has to pay for overtime, somebody has to sign off on purchases. Down the line, if you do want that promotion, you will have to know this stuff. (No matter how much you hate it now, trust me, you will thank me in five years.)

9. Be a mentor, a coach, a friend!—Here's why: In the beginning, a few people at the federal level, a few more at the state level and even a fire chief and a state trooper held my

hand, told me how things work, commiserated with me and didn't let me quit. They said “this too will pass,” they let me cry, yell and break down. They said I was right, it wasn't fair, it didn't make sense, it was just the way government was. To them I say thanks and I pass it on. I ask that you find one good person to mentor. No tests, no grades, no preaching, just a helping hand, a gentle tug. Someone out there really needs to hear from you today!

10. Find out what the little guy feels and thinks!—Many people, you see, think differently from you and often they are right: So many times over the years, the best insights have come from the person on the margin, the thinker who finds it hard to speak out, the couple whispering, wondering why they don't do this or that. The old timers know what's what and wonder what the hell you are doing. Yet, in our bureaucratic wisdom, in our incident management system, we isolate ourselves from everyone who doesn't think like us, hasn't taken the courses and doesn't have the proper identification. As if that weren't bad enough,

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Ten Emergency Management Ideas

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we fail to address the communication needs of non-responders. We use technical language, acronyms and project a sense of not wanting to be bothered. For the most part technicians only know how to talk to other technicians. Unfortunately, they really think they

are communicating when they go over the heads of everyone whose eyes are glazing over. I entered this business from the outside and wondered for years what everyone was talking about. I have spent decades learning the business and trying to translate emergency management and response

concepts into English so real human beings could get it. I could use some help here!

Note: *Fred Cowie was a keynote speaker at the 2006 SERC Conference coordinated by the Commission on Fire Prevention and Control.*

LPG Vaporizer

One of the two propane vaporizers located in the training ground tank farm failed and is un-repairable. The required paperwork has been submitted and replacement of the unit will be going out to bid. The current vaporizer has been serviced and is of sufficient capacity to allow us to continue with our normal level of live fire training.

Reported problems with the current vaporizer were traced to the propane supply line valve being partially closed. This most likely happened when the old vaporizer failed. Due to the release of propane and antifreeze into a cloud within the tank farm, the valve was closed to allow the burn operators to safely secure the old

vaporizer and it appears it was not fully opened when the situation was stabilized. Under normal circumstances, this propane feed line, which is the 2" red pipe running from the middle of the propane supply tank should always be left in the fully open position.

James Carroll

Program Manager

"We should pretty much always have more people fighting the fire than commanding the fire."

By Alan V. Brunacini

Recognizing Members of Our Staff

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Letter from Deputy Chief Robert Walsh, Hartford F.D.

Deputy Chief Robert Walsh of the Hartford Fire Department wrote recognizing Bob Andrew and Steve Coulon for their efforts delivering the NIMS 300 and 400 Training programs to

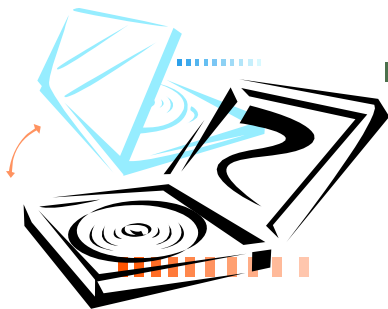
officers of the Hartford Fire Department. Understanding the curriculum is a bit dry, he felt these instructors did an excellent job presenting the material, keeping it lively, maintained the audience on task and on time. He wrote, "...they both deserve a job well done."

My sincere appreciation to Bob and Steve and congratulations to the Hartford Fire Department for achieving this level of NIMS compliance.

Note: Deputy Chief Walsh also serves on the Commission on

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CSB Safety Videos Now Available on YouTube, iTunes, Podcasts and RSS

The following message is from the U.S. Chemical Safety Board, Washington DC

Washington, DC, April 24, 2007 - The U.S. Chemical Safety and Hazard Investigation Board (CSB) announced today that CSB Safety Videos are now available on YouTube and as iTunes podcasts. The CSB also announced that the videos, agency news releases and other information are now available through RSS.

Viewers may go directly to YouTube.com and search for CSB videos or they can access the YouTube videos in the Video Room of the CSB website, csb.gov. To put the videos on an iPod, viewers may simply click on the iTunes link in the CSB Video Room, download the video they wish to view as a podcast into iTunes, and from there copy it onto an iPod.

Currently, the CSB is offering 13 safety videos on www.csb.gov. The BP Texas City refinery accident computer simulation is available in Spanish, German, French, and Korean as well as English.

These videos are aimed at improving safety and hazard awareness in the processing industries. There is a video request form on the site for placing requests for these safety videos, free of charge. In addition to the new distribution for CSB videos, the CSB has added RSS (Real Simple Syndication) capabilities to the website, enabling viewers to set up automatic feeds of CSB news releases and other information through their individualized RSS 'readers.' To access this service, users must first set up an RSS reader from any common internet search engine. For example, a reader may establish a user account with Google Reader (www.google.com/reader). The user would then go to CSB.gov, click on the RSS icon, copy the URL, and paste it back onto the Google Reader under 'add subscription.' Each time the viewer goes to the website Google.com/reader, the latest CSB news releases will appear. CSB RSS feeds also include videos. CSB Chairman Carolyn W. Merritt said, 'The CSB is committed to using the latest technologies for distributing critical safety information.

We believe that making CSB Safety Videos available as Podcasts and on YouTube will make the videos even more accessible and convenient to watch for key stakeholders throughout the world.' The CSB is an independent federal agency charged with investigating industrial chemical accidents. The agency's board members are appointed by the president and confirmed by the Senate. CSB investigations look into all aspects of chemical accidents, including physical causes such as equipment failure as well as inadequacies in regulations, industry standards, and safety management systems.

The Board does not issue citations or fines but does make safety recommendations to plants, industry organizations, labor groups, and regulatory agencies such as OSHA and EPA. Visit our website, www.csb.gov.

For more information, contact: Public Affairs Specialist Kate Baumann 202-261-7612 or cell 202-725-2204.

**"Don't spend all
your chips at once...
always have a
tactical reserve."**

By Alan V. Brunacini



STATE OF CONNECTICUT ELECTRONIC MONITORING NOTICE

Pursuant to the requirements of Public Act 98-142, **An Act Requiring Notice to Employees of Electronic Monitoring by Employers**, state employees should recognize that their work activities and communications may be subject to electronic monitoring.

“Electronic monitoring” is defined by the Act as “the collection of information on an employer’s premises concerning employees’ activities or communications by any means other than direct observation, including the use of a computer, telephone, wire, radio, camera, electromagnetic, photoelectronic or photo-optical systems, but not including the collection of information for security purposes in common areas of the employer’s premises which are held out for use by the public, or which is prohibited under state or federal law.”

Employees may be subject to electronic monitoring or recording (including sound, voice or video devices) while in State facilities and other locations where State business is conducted, except that employees will not be subject to any such monitoring or recording in areas designed for the health or personal comfort of the employees or for safeguarding of their possessions, such as rest rooms, locker rooms or lounges.

Employees should understand that their activities involving State computer equipment and computer and/or electronic documents, data and communications, including e-mail and internet usage, are subject to being monitored, recorded and reviewed. Employees should be aware that the fact that a document, data or communication has been “deleted” by the employee does not mean that the item cannot be monitored or retrieved and reviewed.

Employees will not be subject to electronic monitoring or recording of the content of their direct telephone conversations, except as may be permitted under state and federal law.

**THIS NOTICE SHALL BE POSTED IN A CONSPICUOUS PLACE
WHICH IS READILY AVAILABLE FOR VIEWING BY EMPLOYEES**

(10/98)

Time Program Reporting Policy # 29

Due to the severe weather on May 16th, we had a program cancel when the Instructor's arrived at the training site.

In effort to clarify to our adjunct Instructor's and new hires if this situation arises regarding a cancellation of a course please refer to this policy. Instructors will be paid as follows:

- Full day programs, a maximum of 8 hours. Programs will normally start at 8:30 AM and will last until 4:30 PM.

- Evening programs are generally 3 hours. Programs will normally start at 7:00 PM and last until 10:00 PM.

Programs that are cancelled upon arrival at the training site will be compensated as follows:

- Full day programs – 4 hours
- Evening programs – 1 ½ hours.

Instructors who are notified of course cancellations prior to the start of the program will not be compensated.

If, for any reason, a program is not completed during its scheduled time, or is completed sooner than planned, the instructor will only be paid for the actual hours worked, not the maximum allowed.

Any instructor, who must leave early, for any reason, will only be paid for the actual hours worked.

Any variation of the above or special work assignments must receive PRIOR approval of the appropriate Program Manager.

Bill Auclair
Program Manager



“Respect defensive conditions...the buildings God doesn't want to burn are sprinklered”.

By Alan V. Brunacini

Safety Committee Meeting

The next quarterly Meeting of the Safety Committee will be held at the Connecticut Fire Academy, on Tuesday June 5, 2007 at 4:30 p.m., in the Commission Conference Room.

It was decided at the December Meeting that two of our quarterly Meetings would be held in the evening, so that it would be more convenient, for any of our Instructors who wish

to attend and cannot make a daytime Meeting.

Our September Meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 4, 2007, at 9:00 a.m., in the Commission Conference Room.

Our December Meeting will be held on Tuesday, December 4, 2007 and will be an evening meeting (time to be announced).

Reminders of future Safety Committee Meetings will be e-mailed and posted in the Instructor's Newsletter.

Any questions concerning the Safety Committee Meeting, please contact Elaine Mancino at 860-627-6363 ext. 226 or email Elaine at: elaine.mancino@po.state.ct.us.



Health and Fitness

Although, we have had a relatively mild spring, inevitably we all knew that summer would come around soon enough. With summer, at our latitude at least, also comes the need to understand how the body adapts to changes in temperature, particularly heat, and the concepts related to temperature regulation. Unscientifically, it is at least a conversation related to water, hydration, and hyponatremia. Yes, I know, any of these areas could be the focus of a doctoral study and dissertation, but the breadth of potential material doesn't eliminate our need to know the basics just the same.

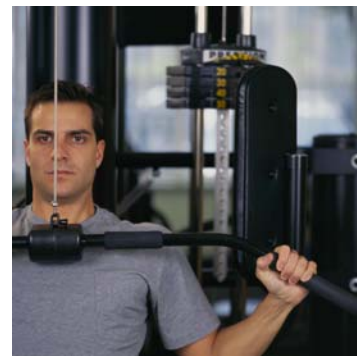
Let's start with the essentials of adaptation to heat, or what is called acclimatization. In the sports world, which we in the fire service should consider ourselves a part of, acclimatization is an area of study directed toward minimizing the impact of heat on performance. A lot of attention is given to understanding and then helping the body to adjust to performing in hot environments. Generally it is understood that it takes 7-14 days for the body to acclimatize to working in hot environments, first through lower intensity workouts, and then through regular or normal

workouts. No more than a few days should go by without training for acclimatization. This acclimatization also applies to the firehouse and fire ground, where we have to acclimatize to working in PPE in hotter weather. I have always made it a habit to train in full PPE often, and pay special attention at this time of the year to be deliberate with my adjustments. A good way of looking at how the body adapts, is to consider what it feels like on a 50-degree day in the springtime; most of us walk around with shorts and a t-shirt feeling plenty comfortable. While a 50 degree day in October, on the other hand, causes us to put a sweatshirt over the t-shirt and complain about how cold it is getting. Our bodies get accustomed to what environment we are in through a period of adjusting that lasts 7-14 days.

To go along with the acclimatization to the warmer weather is the need to understand the body's ability to dissipate heat. Here is where hydration comes into play. Water is a nutrient that serves in all vital functions, and quite importantly in the maintenance of body temperature. For our purposes here, we need to apply an understanding of hydra-

tion fluid replacement practices that start with drinking before, during and after exercise in sufficient quantities to replace what we lose through sweat, keep us healthy and safe, and overall performing at our optimum. As far as how much to drink, there is plenty of debate. Any Google search will give you recommended ranges, like 8-12 ounces or more before, 8 ounces every 10-15 minutes during, and 8-12 after the work. Most importantly in your research though, is that you should learn that thirst is *NOT* the gauge to use, as it is a poor indicator of current hydration status. Plenty of scientific information confirms that when we feel thirsty, we may already be dehydrated.

In addition to the quantity of fluid replacement, there are also considerations for what type of fluid. Again, there is plenty of science behind the recommendations, but to simplify it you generally only need to know that water works fine up to about a 60-minute workout. After that, the recommendations clearly point to an electrolyte solution, like a sports drink, or a combination of the two. I find that I tend to drink plenty of water *and* a diluted sports drink for the hottest,



most intense days and workouts. The flavored water now being sold is fine, but its most important benefit seems to be that it is more palatable to drink than plain water. (Oh, and there are others coming on the market as we speak.)

On the opposite side of the spectrum is over-hydration. I only cover it briefly here because it is a legitimate concern, and drinking too much water, or too much water too soon, can be very dangerous. The term that is used in this circumstance is hyponatremia. It sounds odd because "hypo" means "low" in layman's language, and we are talking about water. Water isn't the "low" part though, but rather salt and other electrolytes are. (Sodium is Latin for sodium, so hyponatremia is "low sodium" in the body.) This is a rare circumstance, but still important enough to understand and be aware of. In the end, remember to adjust to the warmer season, drink plenty of the right fluids, train often, train hard, and be safe – but also call me if you have any questions at 627-6363, ext. 343.

Bill DeFord

PT Instructor



After Hours Reminder

After posted business hours, communications requiring immediate action must go to State Fire Training Director, Adam Piskura at cell 860-622-1621 or direct connect 174*38335*1.

The State Fire Administrator, Jeff Morrissette is also available nights and weekends at pager #866-357-0300 or cell 860-416-4285.

As always items of general concern not requiring immediate attention may be left on the appropriate person's voice mail. Thanks for your cooperation.

"Don't stand too close to the guys who are always bandaged up".

By Alan V. Brunacini



Legislative Update

Volunteer Job Protection Bill Passes House of Representatives

On May 9, the U.S. House of Representatives passed the Volunteer Firefighter and EMS Personnel Job Protection Act as part of H.R. 1684, the Department of Homeland Security Authorization Act. This Act provides job protection for volunteer emergency services personnel responding to a Presidential-declared disaster for up to 14 days per calendar year. "Volunteer first responders shouldn't be put in the position of having to choose between their jobs and responding to a major disaster," said National Volunteer Fire Council (NVFC)

Executive Director Heather Schafer. "Passage of this bill eliminates the threat of termination or demotion."

The legislation also reduces pressure on emergency managers who rely heavily on the availability and performance of the more than 800,000 volunteer first responders around the country. Pre-emergency planners must know what assets they have available to them so the deployment process can move as smoothly and quickly as possible.

The Volunteer Firefighter and EMS Personnel Job Protection Act was introduced as H.R. 1643 on March 22 by Congressman Rob Andrews (D-NJ) along

with original co-sponsors Michael Castle (R-DE), Randy Kuhl (R-NY), and Bill Pascrell (D-NJ).

The bill language was then offered as an amendment to H.R. 1684 by Congressmen Andrews and Pascrell, along with Congresswoman Carol Shea-Porter (D-NH). "I'd like to thank all of our supporters in the House of Representatives for working with us to get this legislation passed," said Schafer. "This bill means peace of mind for volunteer first responders and improves our nation's emergency response capacity."

The legislation only applies to emergency responders acting in an official capacity.

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Legislative Update

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"Self-responders" would not be eligible for job protection under this bill, and employers have the right to ask for documentation from the official supervising the response to verify that the employee was involved in an official capacity.

H.R. 1684 now goes to the Senate. The NVFC will continue to work to with our allies on the Hill and with other fire service organizations to ensure passage of the Volunteer Firefighter and EMS Job Protection Act in the Senate so that it can be sent to the President and signed into law.

Volunteer Service by Paid Emergency or Paid Firefighter

H.B. 6927 (An Act Concerning Volunteer Service by Paid Emergency Personnel or Paid Firefighters) was returned to the House by Labor and Public Employees with no new file. It's now tabled for the calendar in the House again.



"Playing catch up on the fireground causes lots of problems and pain".

By Alan V. Brunacini

Recognizing Members of Our Staff

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Fire Prevention and Control as one of two Commissioners representing the Uniformed Professional Firefighters Association of Connecticut.

Jeff Morrissette

State Fire Administrator

Promotions

Congratulations to Carol Stiles for achieving the rank of Deputy Fire Chief in the Hartford Fire Department.

Carol has been instrumental recently during our instructor development sessions researching and sharing how to set up, use and maintain our 3M Digital Display Boards. Thanks for empowering our adjuncts Carol and congratulations again for your promotion.

Also, congratulations to Kevin Tappe who has been hired as the new Deputy Fire Chief for Ridgefield Fire Dept.

The Connecticut Fire Academy staff wishes both Carol and Kevin great success in their new job.



Office of the Director of Training

Several exciting new things are going on at the Connecticut Fire Academy. Perhaps the most noteworthy is the employment of another 15 adjuncts. Please welcome these individuals into our fold; they represent the future of fire service training.

We have received notice that \$75,000.00 in security funding from the Department of Public Works (DPW) will be used to assist with security efforts on campus. While we don't actually receive the funds, DPW is coordinating the installation of cameras and other security enhancements throughout the administrative/classroom building and training grounds.

Many purposes are covered by the installation of cameras. First, all transactions counters will have emergency "panic" switches automatically notifying Troop W to respond. Cameras will record all doorways to document who is coming and going and when. This aids with errant recruit students trying to outfox our curfew and potential theft. After business hours and weekend activity in the building is significant.

With so many individuals and entities having building access, when things are not returned or left in disarray, we can identify the culprit.

Some staff members have voiced concerns about privacy. This is state property with a posted warning to all transients and employees of possible surveillance according to Public Act 98-142. It is not our intent to monitor daily activities; rather than have the ability to use digital recordings as may be needed to investigate a theft or other illegal activity.

Parking around the flag circle in front the building continues to be problematic. New no parking fire zone markings will be paced around the inner curb and pavement to stop parking outside of the two designated loading and unloading spots. Traffic barriers will be placed around these two spots requiring an individual to remove and replace the barriers whenever using the area. As stated in the previous newsletter, citations for parking in a fire zone will be hung by Troop W police as this is state property.

We all consider ourselves members of the Connecticut Fire Service. As such, we embrace efforts to honor firefighters who have passed, fallen upon hard times or are battling medical conditions for themselves or family members. At least once weekly we receive notice of poker runs, golf outings, dinners etc. Often we discover notices of these events taped to the training unit's doorway from the foyer.

We respectfully request that all such notices be posted on the bulletin board located in the cafeteria near the soda machines. This is the designated and approved location for all types of postings. Thanks for your cooperation as we maintain the appearance of our entryway and visibility of our staff's mission.

Our recent Instructor's meeting and staff development sessions received favorable comments from many participants. Some unsatisfied with the event were those who did not show and were consequently suspended until January 1, 2008. The decision to suspend non participants was

"Fire fighting is always potentially painful because it generally gives the test just ahead of the lesson... a lesson is repeated until it is learned".

By Alan V. Brunacini

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based upon peer discussions from our first firefighter safety stand-down meeting in June of 2005. Fellow adjuncts asked for sufficient lead notice of such meetings, and recommended that they be mandatory with consequences for missing the meeting.

There were sixteen individuals that did not attend either of our sessions. Currently, we now employ 167 per diem adjuncts.

The circumstances for the inability to attend did not affect in any way the suspension action. I personally know of several individuals who went significantly out of their way to make arrangements to be present. It would be insulting to them to have us "hear pleas" and make judgments about the validity of excuses.

Further, several of the suspended folks asked for opportunities to "make up the sessions". This was particularly disturbing. The entire training unit staff contributed to make this event a rewarding one for our part-time staff.

The two days represented a workload similar to a mini June Fire School without the printing costs.

We invested in two deliveries of the Pennsylvania Fire Academy program: The Day the Impossible Happened. At \$4,000.00 for the two deliveries, you can not possibly expect us to make it up for the minority that could not attend for whatever reason. We invested over \$21,000.00 in instructor salaries to insure attendance and active participation. If you start adding it all up, approximately \$27,000.00 was invested into our adjuncts to assist with personal and professional development.

This was no small endeavor.

I appreciate those that came and engaged our workshop presenters and left with some new found process, technique or knowledge. We did it for you.

Regarding adjuncts that were suspended, the suspensions were enacted without prejudice.

Their loss of availability certainly impacts our staff as it does the individual. We encourage their future participation and look forward to their return to service.

We are still working upon the other recommendations of the stand-down committee, like creating a system of continuing education credits for adjuncts. We hope to have a system in place during 2008. If it is not already clear, we listen to you and take action. It may not be swift; but slow and steady wins the race.

Thanks for all you do for us.

Adam D. Piskura

Adam D. Piskura, Director
Connecticut Fire Academy

"It is better to get out five minutes too soon than five seconds too late".

By Alan V. Brunacini

State of Connecticut

Commission on Fire Prevention & Control

Connecticut Fire Academy
34 Perimeter Road
Windsor Locks, CT 06096-
Phone: 860-627-6363
Fax: 860-654-1889
In-State-Toll Free
877-528-3473



We're on the Web!
at: 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.