

Instructor's Dispatch

A Newsletter of the Commission on Fire Prevention & Control

TECHNICAL RESCUE INCIDENTS

Chief Fred LaFemina.FDNY



The *Technical Rescue Incidents* Seminar was held Friday, April 9, 2010 and was presented by Chief Fred LaFemina of the FDNY. Sixty nine students attended this seminar.

Chief LaFemina discussed technical rescue incidents such as Structural Collapse, Confined Space Rescue and Rescuing Trapped Firefighters. The presentation incorporated actual incidents in NYC that involved technical rescue. The firefighter rescue portion involved all levels of firefighting from the Command level to the actual members performing the rescue. Chief LaFemina has written various articles on fire operations and technical rescue, and lectures throughout the country on many of these topics.

The next Seminar Series is *Company Officer Academy* to be held during June School on June 11th, 2010.

RECOGNIZING MEMBERS OF OUR STAFF

Paul Gibb, Public Safety Task Force Program Coordinator for the Litchfield Hills Council of Elected Officials and the Northwestern CT Council of Governments thanking agency staff for their responsive and helpful response to his request for information. He wrote "I got three responses within 2 hours and have the information and direction I need."

Jeffrey Morrissette, State Fire Administrator

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Heads On! Hands Off?



"When things are going okay, procedures will carry the day. When things go wrong, only strong leadership will correct the problem...all the procedures in the world will not straighten out a screwed up situation."

By Alan V. Brunacini

Many of our responders are not professional students, by that is meant they have not developed the special skill of actually enjoying sitting in class for hours, days on end. Though great learners, they are not professional students. Responders are field people, action people, hands on people, taking mostly mandatory training so they can get back to work, so they can do what they want to do, what they like to do. Add to that the reality that you get outside of city limits and it's volunteer country. Volunteers are people who are working hard, but not getting paid. To come to class they give up time at work, time with their family, time doing things they might want and enjoy to do. They too, as a class, are not professional students. Yet, for all of that, it is a necessary fact that many of our classes are strictly "heads on, hands off." What to do?

It's quite simple, be the best trainer you can be by meeting students needs. Or, if you are a program manager, be the best manager you can be by meeting client needs. How is that to be done? What are the simple steps that you can take to achieve the goals set for us by the US Army's slogan writer, by being all you can be as a trainer or manager, a training and managing army of one? Simple. Show class participants that it is in their own best interest to, as their kindergarten teacher said, "put their learning hats on." Prove to them that they will be happier, safer, and much better responders if they come to understand that in class and in response it's not either/or, heads on versus hands on, or heads on and hands off, but it has to be: Heads on, then hands on! What we need to do is make sure that at the beginning of any response (or project, or grant process, or day), our responders take their deep breathes, gather data, do an analysis or size up, and develop a reasonable, defensible work plan, i.e., heads on. Then what? Well, that would be: hands on.

How do we invigorate, turn them on to learning? Easy. Make it real. Make it emotional. Make it personal. Don't walk into class or into a meeting and either expect that the attendees care about what you have to sell or that you are there to make them care about what you have to sell. That's self defeating. No! Find out what they care about, what gets their blood boiling, what "pumps them up." Kids, spouses, environment, sports, etc., and then tie your training to that. Put your ornament on their Christmas tree and quit trying to sell them your tree. Hazardous materials awareness, personal safety, environmental protection, disaster preparedness and all of our other OSHA, EPA, FEMA, DOT, DHS mandates are good things, good products. We just have to be better sales people, better marketers, better teachers, trainers and managers. Our classes are boring, because we are boring. We have to change ourselves if we want to change the world!

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Executive Skills Series: Leading Diverse Communities Beyond Conflict

The next Executive Skills Series is *Leading Diverse Communities Beyond Conflict* is scheduled for May 15th and 16th, 2010. This 2-day program will provide senior executives in fire and emergency service organizations with information, perspectives, and tools for taking action to harmonize the diversities within their work and stakeholder communities. The course will be a springboard for forming and launching plans of action. It will break new ground in addressing fire service culture and challenges, and position fire service leadership in a complex and sometimes difficult society. Finally, the course will help participants mobilize support and identify resources for making a difference. The course is intended to be a "launch pad" for action projects that will be undertaken when participants return to work. Certificates of successful completion will be awarded only upon submission of completed action plan to the National Fire Academy.



"Because firefighters have access to every private, confidential and personal part of Mrs. Smith's bad day, they must honor her trust: when you leave there, what you saw there, and what you heard there, should stay there....simply, respect privacy".

By Alan V. Brunacini

Program Coordinator for Introduction to the Fire Service



Ian Tenney

I am pleased to announce the selection of Ian Tenney as the Program Coordinator for Introduction to the Fire Service. He has been an instructor with the CFA since 2002 and recently served as a Recruit Program Lead from 2006 to 2010. His dedication and professional involvement in the youth program will be an asset as the program expands its curriculum. Ian is a firefighter in Hartford and holds an A.S. in Fire Science.

William Trisler
Program Manager



"Be certain you know what stage the fire is in—it can be very painful to believe you are in the beginning of the beginning, and it's actually the middle of the middle, which is quickly becoming the beginning of the end."

By Alan V. Brunacini



RECOGNIZING MEMBERS OF OUR STAFF

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John W. Butts, Executive Director of the Associated General Contractor (AGC) of Connecticut wrote thanking Jim Carroll for presenting the program, "Fire Prevention and Rescue in Construction," for the Safety Roundtable on April 13, 2010 at the Connecticut Construction Industries Association.

John stated "Your presentation was excellent. It was concise, to the point, and visually enhanced by the PowerPoint. While I'm sure most of our members feel they are prepared for an event, there are always new things to learn and hearing it from a professional like you makes it more convincing. On behalf of the Safety committee, we appreciate the time you took out of your day to speak to our members about a very important topic".

Recruit Firefighter Graduation Class # 45



On May 19, 2010, The Connecticut Fire Academy graduated its 45th Recruit Class, at the Wellspring in Kensington. The class consisted of 27 firefighters representing 16 Connecticut Fire Departments.

The class was escorted into the ceremony by the Connecticut Firefighter Pipe and Drum Band accompanied by the Connecticut Statewide Firefighters Honor Guard. Congratulatory Remarks were offered by the Honorable M. Jodi Rell, Governor. Fire Chief John Mancini of the UConn Fire Department delivered the keynote remarks to the class, while Brian J. Thies, Norwalk Fire Dept. acted as the class spokesman.

The Michael C. Reilly Memorial Hard Charger Award



*Michael D. Mordecai
West Shore F.D.*

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 seventh Michael C. Reilly Memorial Hard Charger Award was presented to Michael D. Mordecai of Recruit Firefighter Class # 45.

Company Officer Academy



“Every fire situation contains a discreet number of decisions that will be made at a certain time and place—they can be made either by the IC and the command team, or by the fire.

By Alan V. Brunacini

The next Program scheduled in the Seminar Series is titled Company Officer Academy and will be held June 11, 2010. The seminar is presented by Battalion Chief Michael Barakey .

Chief Barakey will discuss how departments prepare new company officers for their duties and what may be done to improve that training.

Instructor Biography

Michael Barakey is a Battalion Chief for the Virginia Beach (VA) Fire Department. He is currently assigned to Operations, as part of Special Operations Marine Division. Chief Barakey is the department's Accreditation Manager and is a graduate of the National Fire Academy's Executive Fire Officer Program. He was the Chief of Training prior to moving to Operations. He is a Hazardous Materials Specialist and Instructor III.



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State of Connecticut



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.

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