

November, 2007



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The Instructor's Dispatch

Commission on Fire Prevention & Control

Rapid Intervention Isn't Rapid: Finally A Solution



The fifth installment of the 2007 Seminar Series was held on October 12, 2007, at the Connecticut Fire Academy. The presenter was Executive Assistant Chief Steve Kreis of the Phoenix Arizona Fire Department speaking on Rapid Intervention Isn't Rapid: Finally a Solution.

Over the past five years since the tragic event that took the life of firefighter Brett Tarver, the Phoenix Fire

Department has captured a tremendous amount of positive and negative facts about the concept of Rapid Intervention. This session analyzed a new deployment model for Rapid Intervention using an "On Deck" concept.

The presentation consist of PowerPoint slides, video and workshop exercises that examine the training, technical expertise, tools and protective equipment necessary to get

them out of trouble during a firefight in commercial buildings.

Both career and volunteer participants left the session with a complete "toolbox" for dealing with the dilemma of Rapid Intervention not being Rapid.



"Extinguishing the fire in most cases solves the majority of problems...the quicker the better".

By Alan V. Brunacini

Recognizing Members of our Staff

Jacklyn Kilby-Richards

In a recent briefing memo, Jacklyn Kilby-Richards reported on several recent deliveries of the ICS 300 Class in Bridgeport. Wayne Bindas was the lead instructor for these classes. Jackie reported that all comments and reports from each of the classes indicate they were delivered with utmost professionalism. The students acknowledged the quality and knowledge of the instructor. We extend sincere congratulations to Wayne for a job well done on behalf of the Connecticut Fire Academy!

Diane Dalo, State Department of Information and Technology

An e-mail was received from Diane Dalo, from the State Department of Information and Technology, recognizing Matt Stuart who taught a CPR/AED class for that agency. Diane wrote "Matt Stuart is a wonderful teacher. He was able to answer all our questions and made sure we were all comfortable with what we learned." Congratulations to Matt for a job well done!

Chief Michael Maglione, Waterbury Fire Department

Chief Michael Maglione, Waterbury Fire Department wrote recognizing the efforts of many of our employees for the delivery of Technical Rescue

(Pneumatic) Training held during the months of January, February, March and April 2007. He wrote "The professionalism and expertise displayed by Program Manager Jim Carroll, Instructors Al Bassett, Jim Trzaski, John King, Kevin Engle, Mike Donovan, Jim Plaster, Greg McGovern and Rich Alfes proved instrumental in providing our membership with an outstanding learning opportunity and for that I am grateful. The Waterbury Fire Department greatly appreciates the sincerity shown by you and all the staff of the Connecticut Fire Academy, as well as the genuine concern regarding our ability and safety." Congratulations to all for a job well done! We also wish to recognize the efforts of Waterbury Fire Department's Bureau of Instruction and Training who worked closely with our staff during the delivery of the training.

Mark Melnychuk

Mark Melnychuk who had applied to take the Candidate Physical Ability Test wrote bringing to our attention the outstanding assistance the staff provided to him. He wrote I would like to bring to your attention the outstanding assistance your staff provided me on November 2nd when I

was unavoidably delayed while enroute to the CPAT testing site from New York State. Due to police activity, the parkway I was on was completely shut down for 1 1/2 hours. I contacted your agency and spoke with Kim Taylor who made phone calls to the testing center and spoke with the proctors advising them I would be delayed. After some question as to how my situation should be handled, she contacted Mark Lewandowski who also made phone calls and allowed me to take the CPAT as scheduled. The extra effort your staff put into helping me was "Above and beyond" what I expected. Please extend my thanks to them for their help. I can't say enough about them. I passed the CPAT and saved a second trip to Connecticut and another lost day of work.

Thank you Mark and Kim and along with the proctors who assisted in making this such a success story!

Lt. Peter Anderson Sharon Fire Dept.

Lt. Peter Anderson from the Sharon FD wrote thanking Bill Auclair for his timely assistance in resolving a lost certificate issue.

Jeff Morrisette
State Fire Administrator

CFA Safety Stand-Down

On Wednesday October 31st, the CFA conducted a safety stand-down to examine our policies, procedures, and practices that involve live fire. The first step was to determine what activities are conducted by the CFA that involve live fire. The obvious ones included the propane burns on the training grounds, the flashover simulator, and the recruit burns at the Springfield FD training facility. Some of the more obscure activities included the fire behavior and haz-mat chemistry classes and the burning of the red shirts at the completion of the recruit class.

The consensus of opinion was that the Academy, its staff and instructors do a very good job whenever live fire is involved. We measured our activities against the NFPA 1403 standard and found that we basically comply with most of its provisions. We also agreed that being good may not be good enough. The philosophy that we want to create the safest possible policies and procedures for the protection of students and staff will drive an effort to identify areas we can improve.

The group recognized the efforts of the recruit lead instructors in developing in-depth written procedures for their Springfield burns and encouraged them to continue to identify areas that can be improved. The participants also discussed other burn related issues and reviewed a program developed by MFRI for the training of instructors involved in live fire activities.

At the completion of the stand-down, it was recognized that this project is far from completed. We determined that the CFA should have a Training program, for any instructor who will participate in a live fire activity, that will be in addition to the specific training received for certain live fire operation such as Symtron or Flashover. Instructor Ryan Dunn will shepherd this part of the project. It was also decided that the CFA will not conduct live fire training in acquired structures. Because much more needs to be accomplished, the group will examine some of the issues raised and will be invited to a follow up session at a date yet to be determined.

The participants in the 1403 stand-down were Brian Hurst, Mark Salafia, Mark Lewandowski, Jim Carroll, William DeFord, William Auclair, Neal Fisher, Dave Christoff, Jim Eastwood, Wayne Bindas, Ron Joanis, Ryan Dunn, Adam Piskura, and John Field. Their efforts in the giving of their time and expertise is indicative of their commitment to safe and effective fire training within the state of Connecticut and is much appreciated.

Jim Carroll

Program Manager



"There isn't any middle ground in firefighting...you're either fighting or you're not fighting".

By Alan V. Brunacini



Whole Family Plan for Safety Booklet



You have no control over what happens, but you have 100% control over how you choose to react to it.

The Connecticut Fire Academy's Public Fire and Life Safety Education Coordinator Alan Zygmunt announced the completion of the "Whole Family Plan for Fire Safety". This full color twenty page booklet has been mailed out free to all Fire Chiefs in the state of Connecticut to use in their Fire Safety programs. The booklet details twelve of the most common Fire Safety messages that Fire Departments stress throughout the year.

The booklet was the concept of CT Fire Safety Educator Lucy Crossman. She is also the Deputy Fire Marshal for the Town of Easton, CT.

The booklet will give Fire Departments with limited budgets a tool that they could use everyday. The booklet is provided in book form as well as individual handout sheets on each fire safety topic. Topics include: Everyday Fire Safety, Smoke Detectors, Heating, Cooking, Candle, Gas Grill Safety, and Household Hazardous Materials. Also included is a section on Carbon Monoxide.

This project represents over a year-and-a-half of dedication and tireless effort by Lucy. Zygmunt stated, "Without her efforts this would still be just a well intentioned plan."

The Connecticut Fire Academy hopes to continue to produce additional topical booklets in the future and is asking Fire Chiefs to submit concepts for additional subjects to be covered. Please forward your suggestions to Alan Zygmunt at alan.zygmunt@po.state.ct.us or call 860-627-6363 ext. 222.

Staff Addition

The Connecticut Fire Academy is pleased to announce effective November 9, 2007, William Trisler joined us as a Program Manager.

William Trisler received a B. S. degree in Workforce Education and Development from Southern Illinois University and a M.Ed. degree

in Educational Administration and Supervision from Lincoln Memorial University.

William has served in the Connecticut fire service for six years and has instructed for the Hartford County Regional Fire School and for the Connecticut Fire Academy.

In that time, he has taught courses in recruit training, HAZMAT Operations, and Fire Service Instructor. He is a member of the Ellington Volunteer Fire Department and the Capital Region HAZMAT Team. In addition to structural fire-fighting, William's background includes aircraft and maritime firefighting.



William Trisler

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Staff Addition

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William is an adjunct faculty member at Capital Community College in the Fire Technology and Administration, a member of the Connecticut Fire Department Instructors'

Association and serves as the Tolland County Major for the Connecticut Statewide Honor Guard.

Office of the Director of Training

Please join me in welcoming Bill Trisler into the Connecticut Fire Academy family of Program Managers. While he was only recently hired as an adjunct instructor, the initial appearance of a meteoric rise is not so unique. Bill's academic and military experiences have prepared him well for his position. Further, his currency as a volunteer firefighter and Connecticut Honor Guard member display his active involvement throughout the contemporary fire service community. For the first time in over a year and a half we are returning to authorized staffing levels within the Training Division.

Another long-awaited relief is coming in the form of a newly created position called Storekeeper. This position has been advertised with notice provided to all of you via e-mail distribution. Essentially, the incumbent

will be responsible for state inventory compliance, shipping and receiving, arranging equipment, apparatus repairs, warranty work, and providing limited courier services statewide. It is anticipated that it may take a year before the individual fully conforms to the state auditor's inventory requirements. Once that is established and maintained, a training grounds quartermaster function is envisioned.

Each year, throughout the United States, there are 3-5 fire training related firefighter deaths and over 7,000 injuries connected to training exercises. As a trusted state institution, the Connecticut Fire Academy has the best interest (read personal safety) of our students and instructors always paramount. To that end, we purchase significant quantities of safety related items; per-

sonal protective clothing and equipment to protect our instructors and students and demonstrate our commitment that no one goes home with any sort of diminished capacity.

The Connecticut Fire Academy has unfortunately experienced cases where student safety has been compromised by instructors. This includes changing or improvising Connecticut Fire Academy lesson plans and substituting what the instructor may deem appropriate. This type of action will not be tolerated under any conditions. We have a clear responsibility to our students to protect and care for them to the maximum extent possible, ensure their safety in all of our programs. Instructors who disregard policy or deviate from

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lesson plans or planned scenarios will no longer have the privilege of being an instructor. All instructors and students have a clear obligation to follow policy and procedures for the safety of students and for consistency of student outcomes.

If any instructor has suggestions for improving curricula or scenarios they should make their proposals known in writing to the program manager responsible for the topic area. If you do not know which program manager is responsible simply forward your idea to the Deputy Director or me.

Thanks to the overwhelming majority of Connecticut Fire Academy instructors who understand this and follow the proper procedures.

The Connecticut Fire Academy has experienced some rather dramatic changes in full and part-time personnel over the past several months. Thirty Three (33) new hires have increased our ranks while some adjuncts and full-time staff have retired or in some cases personnel have moved on

to new positions. When you have good people, they are presented new opportunities on a regular basis, as others recognize their talents. There are people in new positions and they will continue to provide the high quality service and professionalism for which the Connecticut Fire Academy is regarded.

Again the following individuals have recently joined our ranks:

Orientation 11-16-06

Debra Burch
 Peter Bruscato
 Joseph Coppola
 Stephen Coulon
 Michael Donovan
 Ryan Dunn
 Kevin Engle
 Donald Farquhar
 Charles Flynn
 Clinton Haverkamp
 Peter Morotto
 Stephen O'Sullivan
 James Plaster
 William Sampson
 Michael Shove
Orientation 5-3-07
 Michael Camperlengo
 Jason Decremer
 Glenn Dube

Michael Farrell
 Jay Kolakoski
 Mark Martin
 Gregory McGovern
 John O'Dea
 Christopher Parietti
 Robert Petrone
 Brian Proulx
 Craig Stevens
 John Sokolowski
 James Schwartz
 William Trisler – **Now Full-Time Program Manager (Trainer)**
 John Tuz
 Richard Waselik
 Daniel Wassmer

December 11, 2007, there will be another new hire adjunct orientation with the following individuals joining our team of instructors:

Patrick Eye
 John Pickert
 Mary-Ellen Harper
 Raymond Walker, Jr
 Patrick Harper
 Stephen Corbett
 Michael Lindy
 Paul DeBartolomeo
 Shawn McKay
 Rocco Fierranvanti
 Christopher Pepler
 John Sabito

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Please remember that evening and weekend notifications of significant course delivery anomalies, injuries and/or media inquiries should be directed to Adam D. Piskura at cell phone 860-622-1620 or Nextel speed dial 174*38335*1 or Jeff Morrissette at cell 860-416-4285, Pager 866-357-0300 or home 860-529-5389

Office of the Director of Training

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Through the efforts of many individuals we are revising live burn procedures and new qualifications for becoming a live burn instructor. This is to ensure the safety of all involved personnel while preserving the intent of a realistic experience.

There is a learning curve associated with any new endeavor such as this, so I ask that you bear with us until the course and polices have been developed and the transitional period is completed.

Thanks for your continued cooperation and understanding that student and staff safety

are the most important accomplishments of all our training programs.

Adam D. Piskura

Adam D. Piskura, Director
Connecticut Fire Academy



State of Connecticut

Commission on Fire Prevention & Control

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Windsor Locks, CT 06096
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Fax: 860-654-1889



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.