

# THE INSTRUCTOR'S DISPATCH

SEPTEMBER, 2005

## RECRUIT FIREFIGHTER CLASS # 33 GRADUATION

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On September 21, 2005, Recruit Class # 33 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!

### BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENT

Congratulations are in order for instructor Mary-Ellen Harper and her husband Tom who became proud parents of a baby boy name Thomas John Harper III. Thomas arrived at 5:04 am on July 13, 2005.

He weighed in at 6 pound and 6-oz 19 inches long.

We wish Mary Ellen and her husband endless happiness with their new addition to their family.

### Lodging Reservation Information

For one reason or another, individuals are calling "Around the Clock 's" main number 529-6881 to reserve a room.

This happens quite frequently lately. The number to call for lodging reservations is still 1-860-258-4025.



Thomas John Harper II

**2005 ASSISTANCE TO FIREFIGHTERS GRANTS**

Congratulations to the following Connecticut fire departments that are among the first recipients of the 2005 Assistance to Firefighters Grants.

☑ **Goshen Fire Department Waterford CT** Operations and Safety \$83,667.00 Personal Protective Equipment (\$88,070) 08/19/2005

☑ **Town of Somers Volunteer Fire Department Somers CT** Operations and Safety \$100,985.00 Equipment (\$11,300) Personal Protective Equipment (\$95,000) 08/19/2005

☑ **Pomfret Fire District Pomfret CT** Operations and Safety \$105,261.00 Personal Protective Equipment (\$110,801) 08/19/2005

☑ **Stratford Fire Department Stratford CT** Operations and Safety \$60,840.00 Wellness and Fitness Programs (\$67,600) 08/19/2005

☑ **Deep River Ambulance Association Deep River CT** Vehicle Acquisition \$118,750.00 Vehicle Acquisition (\$125,000) 08/19/2005

☑ **Winchester Volunteer Fire Department Winchester Center CT** Operations and Safety \$33,820.00 Personal Protective Equipment (\$35,600) 08/19/2005

☑ **East Haven Fire Department East Haven CT** Operations and Safety \$124,776.00 Personal Protective Equipment (\$138,640) 08/19/2005

☑ **Community Fire Company of N. Grosvonordale CT N. Grosvonordale CT** Operations and Safety \$57,428.00 Equipment (\$40,000) Personal Protective Equipment (\$20,450) 08/19/2005

☑ **Killingworth Volunteer Fire Company, Inc Killingworth CT** Operations and Safety \$114,926.00 Equipment (\$120,975) 08/19/2005

☑ **Northville Vol. Fire Dept. New Milford CT** Operations and Safety \$82,552.00 Modify Facilities (\$86,896) 08/19/2005

☑ **New Fairfield Volunteer Fire Department New Fairfield CT** Operations and Safety \$135,375.00 Personal Protective Equipment (\$142,500) 08/19/2005

☑ **Oakdale Volunteer Fire Company Inc. Oakdale CT** Operations and Safety \$62,890.00 Equipment (\$32,200) Personal Protective Equipment (\$34,000) 08/19/2005

☑ **Bozrah Volunteer Fire Company Bozrah CT** Vehicle Acquisition \$237,500.00 Vehicle Acquisition (\$250,000) 08/19/2005

☑ **Guilford Fire Department Guilford Ct** Operations and Safety \$241,701.00 Personal Protective Equipment (\$268,557) 08/19/2005

☑ **Gales Ferry Vol. Fire Company Gales Ferry CT** Operations and Safety \$15,295.00 Equipment (\$16,100) 08/19/2005

☑ **Woodstock Volunteer Fire Association Woodstock CT** Operations and Safety \$37,744.00 Equipment (\$39,730) 08/19/2005

☑ **Danielson Fire Department Danielson CT** Operations and Safety \$46,455.00 Equipment (\$3,000) Personal Protective Equipment (\$45,900) 08/19/2005

☑ **Torrington Volunteer Fire Department Torrington CT** Operations and Safety \$42,750.00 Equipment (\$45,000) 08/19/2005

☑ **Bolton Volunteer Fire Department Bolton CT** Operations and Safety \$51,015.00 Modify Facilities (\$53,700) 08/19/2005

☑ **Thompson Fire Engine Company Inc. Thompson CT** Operations and Safety \$66,365.00 Equipment (\$3,500) Personal Protective Equipment (\$66,358) 08/19/2005

☑ **East Great Plain Fire Department Norwich CT** Operations and Safety \$113,274.00 Equipment (\$39,875) Personal Protective Equipment (\$79,360) 08/19/2005

☑ **Bungay Fire Brigade, Inc. West Woodstock CT** Operations and Safety \$48,026.00 Equipment (\$50,553) 08/19/2005



**SIXTH ROUND OF THE FIRE GRANTS**

Washington, DC) September 23, 2005 - Department of Homeland Security today announced the sixth round of the Fiscal Year 2005 Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program (AFGP) awarding 283 grants to fire departments throughout the United States.

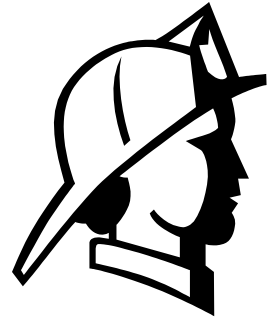
AFGP will issue approximately 5,500 awards worth nearly \$600 million in direct assistance to firefighters and first responders throughout the country, demonstrating Homeland Security's commitment to ensuring that America's firefighters have the resources they need to protect their communities.

This sixth round of fire grants provides \$30,591,795 to help local fire departments and emergency medical services programs to purchase or receive training, first responder health and safety programs, equipment and response vehicles.

The Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program is administered by the Department's Office for State and Local Government Coordination & Preparedness (SLGCP) in cooperation with the United States Fire Administration.

SLGCP is the principal federal agency responsible for the preparedness of the United States for acts of

terrorism, including coordinating preparedness efforts at the federal level, and working with all state, local, tribal, parish, and private sector emergency response providers on all matters pertaining to combating terrorism, including training, exercises and equipment support. To support this mission, SLGCP administers a number of programs that provide a wide array of support to our nation's emergency preparedness and response community. For more information on SLGCP, please visit the Website at: [www.oip.gov/odp](http://www.oip.gov/odp).



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.

**SIX ROUND GRANT AWARDS—CONNECTICUT RECIPIENT**

**City of Norwalk Fire Department—**  
Operations and Safety \$59,844.00 Equipment (\$45,204) Training (\$29,600) 09/23/2005

**Deep River Volunteer Fire Department -**  
Operations and Safety \$139,460.00 Personal Protective Equipment (\$146,800.00) 09/23/2005

**Middlefield Volunteer Fire Department—**  
Operations and Safety \$124,634.00 Equipment (\$7,335) Personal Protective Equipment (\$123,859) 09/23/2005

**Watertown Fire Department—**  
Operations and Safety (\$38,621.00) Equipment (42,912) 09/23/2005

**Wethersfield Volunteer Fire Department—**  
Operations and Safety \$231,525.00 Personal Protective Equipment (\$257,250.00) 09/23/2005



**SEVENTH ROUND GRANT AWARDS—CONNECTICUT RECIPIENT**

The **Seventh Round** of the Assistance to Firefighters Grants is awarding \$44.3 million to America's fire departments

Washington, D.C.)- September 30, 2005 - Department of Homeland Security today announced the seventh round of the Fiscal Year 2005 Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program (AFGP) awarding

**☑ Town of Tolland F.D**

Operations and Safety \$232,921.00 Equipment (\$245,179.00) **09/30/2005**

**☑ Wauregan Fire District/Atwood Hose Fire Company**

Operations and Safety \$45,505.00 Modify Facilities (\$47,900.00) **09/30/2005**

**☑ Wolcott Vol. F.D.**

487 grants to fire departments throughout the United States.

Operations and Safety \$196,080.00 Personal Protective Equipment (\$206,400.00)

**09/30/2005**

**☑ City of Groton F.D**

Operations and Safety \$137,807.00 Equipment (\$77,560.00) Personal Protective Equipment (\$53,500.00) Training (\$14,000.00)

**09/30/2005**

**☑ Fairfield Department**

Operations and Safety \$36,480.00 Personal Protective Equipment (\$45,600.00)

**09/30/2005**

**☑ Middletown FD**

Operations and Safety \$204,645.00 Equipment (\$63,400.00) Personal Protective Equipment (\$152,015.00)

**09/30/05**

**☑ Redding Volunteer**

Operations and Safety \$31,920.00

Equipment (\$33,600.00)

**09/30/2005**



He can compress the most words into the smallest idea of any man I ever met. - Abraham Lincoln (1809-1865)

**MILEAGE REIMBURSEMENT RATE**

Effective September 30, 2005 the mileage reimbursement rate for employees using personally owned vehicles for official State business will increase from 40.5 cents per mile to 48.5 cents per mile.

Please be sure you have on file, within the business office, an up-to-date copy of your proof of insurance.

Jeffrey J. Morrissette, State Fire Administrator



Distances, mileage, miles...

**RECOGNIZING OUR STAFF**

**Letter from C.M. Stankye**

A letter was received from C.M. Stankye, III Assistant Scout Master for Troop 3 in Derby and the Housatonic Council of Boy Scouts of America thanking the agency for its donation of Connecticut Fire Academy lanyards. The lanyards were used to maintain I.D. credentials for a contingent of Boy Scouts from the lower Naugatuck Valley who attended the 2005 National Scout Jamboree at Fort AP Hill, VA. As a side note, this was the event that several Scout Masters from Alaska were electrocuted while raising a large tent.

**Email from John Field, Chief of Torrington Fire Department**

An Email was received from John Field, Chief Torrington Fire Department and CFA Adjunct who wrote to relay his and his wife’s appreciation to the many instructors that taught in the “Introduction to the Fire Service training program” that their daughter had participated in.

He wrote “This was a life changing experience for my daughter”.

While each and every instructor contributed to the success of the program, of specific note were Carlo Piacentini, Wayne

Bindas, Brenda Murphy-Tenney and Ian Tenney.

Jeffrey J. Morrissette, State Fire Administrator



It’s not a bad idea to get in the habit of writing down one’s thoughts. It saves one having to bother anyone else with them.  
-Isabel Colegate

**TUTORIAL FOR 2005 PREVENTION & SAFETY GRANTS**

The Department of Homeland Security today posted at the website for “the Assistance to Firefighters Grant “(AFG) an online tutorial to assist applicants in preparing for this year’s Fire Prevention and Safety grants.

The application period is presently scheduled to begin on September 6, 2005 at 8:00 a.m. Eastern

Daylight Time.

The Office of State and Local Government Coordination and Preparedness in the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) will continue to accept applications for these grants until the end of the application period, October 7, 2005 at 5:00 p.m. Eastern Daylight Time.

The applicant tutorial is available through the [www.firegrantsupport.com](http://www.firegrantsupport.com) website.

The tutorial is designed to instruct users on the preparation and submittal of competitive applications as well as an overview of the funding priorities and evaluation criteria. Applicants who have questions regarding the fire prevention

and safety grant opportunity should contact the help desk at 866-274-0960 or go into the website at [firegrants@dhs.gov](mailto:firegrants@dhs.gov).

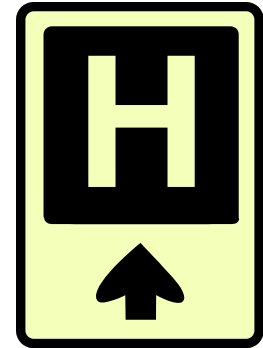
During the application period, the help desk will operate Monday to Friday, from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm (EDT), but is prepared to revise hours of operation based on volume and demand.

**NORWALK FIRE DEPT FIREFIGHTER**

A four year veteran of the Norwalk Fire Department Firefighter Philip Brigante suffered third degree burns on both hands as a result of an early morning house fire on Sunday, August 29th.

Firefighter Philip Brigante is currently at the Bridgeport Hospital Burn Unit recovering. Best wishes and get-well cards are appreciated. Cards can be sent to the following address:

C/O Norwalk FD  
121 Connecticut Ave.  
Norwalk, CT 06854  
Attn: Philip Brigante



**FIRE/LE/EMS ASSISTANCE**

On Wednesday, September 7, 2005 a follow-up inquiry was held on the need for EMS, law enforcement and fire services in the Louisiana area. Steve Jelly of the State EOC who is the coordinating point for fire resources in the area. He was appreciative of the call, but was overwhelmed with resource requests. A problem they are dealing with right now is that people have "self deployed". For example, the following fire resources showed up:

- ☑ 600 firefighters from Illinois (they did not know they were coming)
- ☑ 350 firefighters from NYC (they knew they were coming)
- ☑ 150 firefighters from Maryland (they did not know they were coming).

People are coming "self-sustained", but they do not have food for past 3-days, shower facilities for themselves, and waste/sanitary issues for themselves. This problem is a large logistics issue. The states now have a small "logistics disaster" on top of their initial disaster.

Based on this recent information, the EMAC Coordination Center is asking all parties that have been contacted for possible law enforcement, fire, and EMS missions related to EMAC deployments, to place all preparations on hold. If you are in the process of completing your paperwork required for deployment under EMAC, please continue to see it through to completion That way we will have the paper in place in the event of future deployments.

The resources contacted are asked to keep the information they have and adjustments can be made when or if requested in the future.

The EMAC information hotline (651-288-4180) will be updated daily. This is a 24/7 resource tool to stay up to date on the status of resource requests.

Your patience is appreciated and needed. The system works; it just hasn't been tested to this degree of magnitude, ever. We all want to be part of the solution, not the problem and that is why we are making sure the i's are dotted and the t's are crossed on our end before anyone leaves. We are all learning a lot. One thing we already knew is that we have great people and partnerships.

**We all have the strength to endure the misfortunes of others.**

**- La Rochefoucauld  
(1613-1680)**



**Katrina Creates Overnight boomtowns**

**MEDINSIGHTS, INC**

**What is MedInsights, Inc?**

MedInsights, Inc. is a workers' compensation managed care organization chosen by your employer to assist with the medical management of your care.

MedInsights, Inc. has partnered with FOCUS to provide a complete managed care program, which includes a physician and facility network familiar with the needs and requirements of the Connecticut workers' compensation plan.

From the point of injury through recovery, MedInsights, Inc. will work with you, your employer, and your provider to facilitate a safe and efficient recovery period and return to work. MedInsights case management specialists skilled in managing work related injuries and illnesses are available to ensure that you receive the care you need while avoiding unnecessary and inappropriate treatment. In order to ensure that you receive high quality medical care, MedInsights, Inc. will provide utilization management services. For more information about your employer's Managed Care Plan or MedIn-

sights, Inc., please telephone your employer's Workers' Compensation Department.

**Please send claims to:**

GAB Robins  
North America  
800 Connecticut Blvd.  
East Hartford, CT  
06118

**Dispute Resolution**

The employee, employee representative, or provider of care has the right to dispute Utilization Review determinations of the Medical Care Plan.

Appeals may be made in writing or on an expedited basis telephonically and through fax communications.

The parties may request an appeal of an adverse determination within fifteen (15) days of receipt of the adverse determination. A response will be available within thirty (30) days of receipt of the appeal request.

In the event that either the employee or medical provider wishes to appeal a decision made by the Utilization Review department, either party may write to:

MedInsights, Inc.,  
206 Gothic Court, Ste.  
308, Franklin, TN  
37067.

An expedited telephonic appeal may be initiated by contacting MedInsights, Inc. at 1-800-220-2517.

Any provider or employee dissatisfied with the results of the appeal may request a hearing by the Connecticut Workers' Compensation Commission.

**What happens if an injury occurs?**

In an emergency situation, the injured employee proceeds immediately to the nearest emergency care facility. The employer contacts the MedInsights First Report of Injury line at 1-800-828-2717 and reports the injury immediately; the first report of incident (FRI) line is answered by a Customer Service Representative twenty-four (24) hours/day and seven (7) days/week.

For non-emergency injuries, the injured employee reports the injury to his/her supervisor immediately and is directed to the posted list of participating network providers and facilities (wall card) from which to select care.



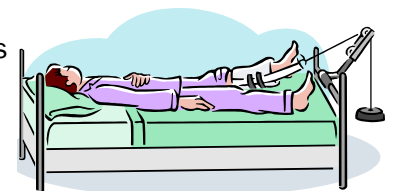
**Injured on the Job?**

The Information in this Booklet Contains Facts About:

- Reporting an Injury
- Access to Managed Care Arrangement
- Dispute Resolution

Provided by:

**MEDINSIGHTS**  
206 Gothic Ct. Ste  
308  
Franklin, TN 37067



**MEDINSIGHTS, INC (CONT'D)**

The injured employee selects a provider and proceeds accordingly. The employer contacts the MedInsights First Report of Incident line at 1-800-828-2717 and reports the injury immediately.

**How do I know which doctor to go to and what if they are not in the network?**

A directory of medical providers is available at all times. It can be reviewed with your supervisor or claims payer. If you choose to treat with a medical provider not listed in the network, your Workers' Compensation benefits shall be suspended (subject to the order of a W/C Commissioner). However, if you are referred for treatment in a specialty not included in the Network directory, you may seek treatment from any provider on the list of approved Workers' Compensation Providers.

**Where do I get my prescriptions filled?**

In compliance with Connecticut Public Act 01-85, for any pharmacy needs please proceed to any TPS (Third Party Solutions) pharmacy which includes CVS, AFS Stop & Shop,

Arrow, A&P, and K-Mart. For questions related to pharmacy selection, contact MedInsights, Inc. at 1-800-828-2717.

**How is my medical treatment pre-certified?**

You and/or your medical provider must contact MedInsights, Inc.'s Utilization Review Department at 1-800-220-2517 and provide necessary information including information about yourself, your medical provider, and the type of treatment to be certified. You and your provider will be advised of the certification decision.

**Medical treatments requiring pre-certification:**

- Physical and Occupational Therapy
- Second Surgical Opinion\*
- Chiropractic Treatment\*
- Repeat imaging procedures, i.e. MRI, CT, Bone scans, arthrograms
- Repeat myelograms, EMGs
- Nerve conduction/velocity studies
- Home health care services

- Non-emergency surgeries & hospitalizations
- Repeat baseline diagnostic & laboratory studies
- Biofeedback
- Pain management, i.e. facet/trigger point injections, epidural steroid injections
- Nursing/convalescent homes
- Inpatient rehabilitation
- Non-emergency dental service
- Thermography
- Work hardening/conditioning
- Psychiatric/psychological therapy or testing
- Pain, chemical dependency, or weight loss clinics
- Purchased /leased durable medical equipment (DME)
- Reconstructive/cosmetic surgeries
- Outpatient surgeries
- Experimental/investigational procedures/treatment

*\*Unless referred by treator*



All initial and subsequent or follow-up physician office visits and consultation visits do not require pre-certification.





**BUSINESS OFFICE/PETER O'NEIL**

It is with mixed emotion that I inform the staff that Peter O'Neil will be leaving the agency for a promotional opportunity at the Department of Public Utility Control in New Britain.

While I am very happy for Peter and his family, this news comes at a time that our agency business office is being reviewed by DAS and OPM for possible consolidation into a new centralized business office in Hartford.

An obscure section of the state budget passed this past legislative session called for DAS and OPM to develop a plan to consolidate certain small and medium size state agency business offices into a central office.

It is important to stress that Peter's move is not connected with the review and possible consolidation, rather the result of his efforts to advance himself within his career ladder in state government.

Peter and I along with Commission Chairman Peter Carozza and Vice-Chair Kevin Kowalski have been working very hard to maintain our independence and business office staffing.

Unlike many agencies that were notified their fiscal and human resource (HR) personnel were being moved (without any review) to a central office in Hartford, DAS/OPM will be visiting the Academy next week to conduct desk audits of our business office staff functions. We were told that a decision regarding any personnel/position transfers will be made very quickly following the audit.

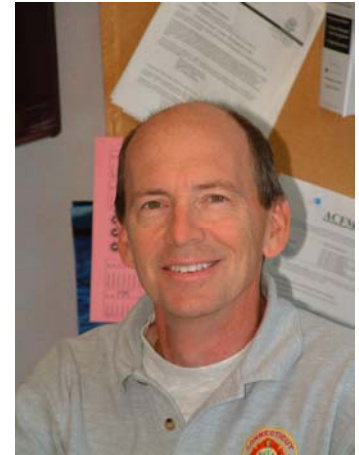
One known point we were informed of, at a recent meeting, is that all the agency's HR functions responsibilities will be transferred to the new central office irregardless of their findings.

As of now, Pete's last official day here at the Academy was September 29<sup>th</sup>.

We are on hold refilling his position until a final decision is made regarding our business office.

Please understand the last several weeks have been a stressful time for Peter, Ed, and Ron. Your support of them is appreciated.

Jeffrey J. Morrisette,  
State Fire Administrator



**Peter O'Neil**

Every morning I get up and look through the Forbes list of the richest people in America. If I'm not there, I go to work.

**-Robert Orben**

**ANNUAL STATE FIREFIGHTERS MEMORIAL SERVICE**



The Connecticut State Firefighters Association Memorial Foundation cordially invites you to attend the annual State Firefighters Memorial Service to be held at 2:00 P.M. on Sunday, October 16, 2005 at the Connecticut Fire Academy in Windsor Locks.

Please SAVE THE DATE and plan to attend this important event honoring our Fallen Firefighters.

It is expected the names of six fallen heroes will be added to the Memorial at this year's ceremony.

Invited speakers include Governor M. Jodi Rell and a representative of the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation.

Those planning to attend should RSVP no later than October 7, 2005 by visiting the following website

[www.ct.gov/cfpc](http://www.ct.gov/cfpc) then click on the calendar bottom right of the page or call (860)627-6363 Ext. 231.

Seating is only provided to family members of deceased firefighters being added to the Memorial this year. All others should plan to bring a lawn chair. In the event of inclement weather the Memorial Service will be moved indoors.

**"I have no ambition in this world but one ... and that is to be a firefighter".**  
-Edward F. Crocker,

**GENERAL TRADES WORK POSITION**

The Commission on Fire Prevention and Control has filled a General Trades Worker position to work with Plant & Facilities.

Mark Ruggiero joined the staff at the Fire Academy on August 19th.

Mark lives in Hartford and has nearly 10-years of experience ranging from SBC telephone repair technician to most recently as an assistant electrician with R & M Electric out of Rocky Hill.

Please join us in welcoming Mark to the Fire Academy family.



**Mark Ruggiero**

**LAWS INTO AFFECT OCTOBER 1, 2005**

**☑ Ban on Pocket Bikes**

“Mini-motorcycles” will be banned on any public highway, public sidewalk or public property in Connecticut. A “mini-motorcycle” is a vehicle that has not more than three wheels in contact with the ground, has a seat in which the rider may sit, is propelled by an engine having a piston displacement of 50 cc or less, is capable of a speed of more than 20 miles per hour and is not eligible for registration.

**☑ Cell Phone Restrictions**

Drivers 18 years of age and older will need hands-free accessories to legally use cell phones or mobile electronic devices while operating a motor vehicle, except for in an emergency situation or by drivers who are peace officers, firefighters or ambulance drivers who are performing their official duties.

**☑ Child Restraint Requirements**

Children under the age of seven or who weight less than 60 pounds will be required to use a DMV approved child restraint system when riding in a motor vehicle. Also, children under the age of one or who weight less than 20 pounds will be required to ride in a rear facing child restraint system approved by the DMV.

**☑ Dogs in Pick-up Trucks**

Drivers will be banned from transporting dogs in the open rearward compartment area of pick-up trucks unless the dog is properly secured to prevent it from being thrown or falling or jumping from it.

**☑ Restrictions on Jake Brakes**

Each truck equipped with an engine compression brake device (“Jake Brakes”) must also be

equipped with a muffler, in good working condition for such device.

**☑ Reclaim of Towed Motor Vehicle**

The option for the owner of a towed motor vehicle to remove the vehicle without paying any costs, by signing a declaratory statement that says he or she believes the vehicle was taken illegally, will be eliminated. Beginning October 1, if a vehicle is towed from private property, the owner must pay the towing and storage costs, but retains the right to contest the towing action.

**☑ New Law for 16-17 Year Old**

Restricts 16 and 17-year-olds from driving between the hours of midnight and 5 a.m.

I have a new philosophy. I'm only going to dread one day at a time.

-Charles Schulz (1922-2000)



**EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES INSTRUCTOR**

The Connecticut Fire Academy is accepting resumes for Emergency Medical Services Instructor's (EMS-I's) to build our existing staff to deliver multiple programs that we offer.

If you have experience in the EMT or MRT programs and are self motivated and reliable please sent a resume to be considered for an

interview. Any questions, please contact Bill Auclair, Program Manager at 860-627-6363 ext. 250.

Please send application to:

Connecticut Fire Academy  
34 Perimeter Road  
Windsor Locks, CT 06096

Attn: Bill Auclair,  
Program Manager



**TANKER(S) DONATION SOUGHT**

An Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC) request was issued by the State of Mississippi last evening requesting the donation of "Water Tankers for Fire-fighting".

The specific request reads as follows:

Description

Request donation of

firefighting Water Tankers for fire departments that lost apparatus during Hurricane Katrina. Minimum 2000 gallon tank please.

If a fire department within Connecticut has a tanker available for donation and meeting the above referenced specifications please contact Jeff Morrissette, State Fire Administrator

(860) 627-6363 Ext. 230.

Don't ever think  
the fire is getting  
tired just  
because you are.

**RECOGNIZING OUR STAFF**

**Letter from Roberta Ash, Bureau of Fire Prevention**

A letter was received from Roberta Ash, Bureau of Fire Prevention who wrote on behalf of the Brian David Ash Memorial Fire Prevention Fund, I

would like to personally thank Russ Emons and the Academy again for your generosity in supporting our 19th annual fundraiser.

The pamphlets you donated to our fundraiser will help us continue to spread our life-saving message,

"Working Smoke Detectors Save Lives."

Roberta thank Russ Emons for all his support this year.



## USFA OPENS CALL CENTER IN SUPPORT OF FIREFIGHTERS

### EMMITSBURG, MD

The United States Fire Administration, at the request of a number of fire service organizations and disaster relief efforts, announces the opening of a national call center to assist fire organizations seeking to help fire departments, firefighters and their families affected by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita.

The call center has been created to accept calls from departments with equipment to be donated to departments that have lost theirs.

The call center will also be taking calls from fire departments needing equipment in the disaster areas, as well as firefighters seeking assistance with their family needs.

The USFA call center number is 1-800-250-9036 and the email address is [fireaid@dhs.gov](mailto:fireaid@dhs.gov).

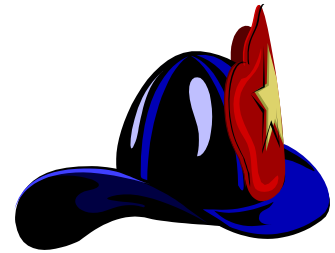
Starting Saturday, September 24, 2005, the center will be open from 7am to 7pm (EDT), seven days a week until further notice.

All donations will be managed by a Steering Committee representing the numerous relief efforts currently underway throughout this nation.

Requests for assistance will also be reviewed by this steering committee for matching of the offer and the need.

For more information, please visit the USFA Web site at: [www.usfa.fema.gov/aboutmedia/2005releases/092405.shtm](http://www.usfa.fema.gov/aboutmedia/2005releases/092405.shtm)

FEMA prepares the nation for all hazards and manages federal response and recovery efforts following any national incident. FEMA also initiates mitigation activities, trains first responders, works with state and local emergency managers, and manages the National Flood Insurance Program and the U.S. Fire Administration. FEMA became part of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security on March 1, 2003.



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.

### BOOK BUDDY EVENT IN WINDSOR LOCKS

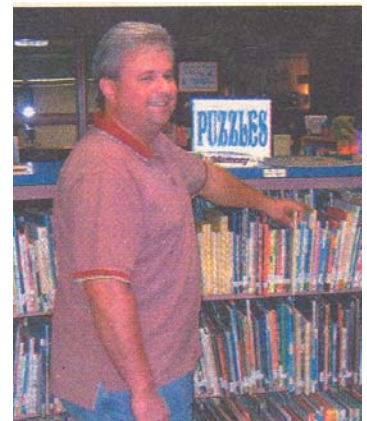
A program that introduces books to kindergarten students, not as dreary obligations for school, but as a gift from someone who cares. That is why the Windsor Locks Department of Social Services started the Book Buddy Program four years ago.

Edward Bycenski and Denise Fortin from the Connecticut Fire Academy helps Janet Leiper of the town's social services, to deliver the books.

Edward Bycenski said "you have to see how their eyes light up when they see us."

The program is administered by Janet Leiper who finds the volunteers to buy the books, links them with the young recipients, makes sure that the books are wrapped up as gifts and coordinates the operation with principal Jeffrey Ferreira or the North Street Elementary School, where the town's kindergarten is housed.

Edward Bycenski said "The program benefits everyone". "It benefits the kids, and it benefits families who don't have the resources to go and buy their children books." The truth is, Bycenski said, it's not the book that matters. It's the thought that someone else cares about you enough to go out and buy it for you.



Edward Bycenski

Photo by John Karas

### USE OF STATE OFFICE COMPUTERS

Recently a computer located at the Connecticut Fire Academy accessible to and used by both full and part-time employees was found to contain a significant amount of downloaded sexually explicit material.

The use of any agency computer for this type of activity is a violation of both state and agency policy. Dependent upon the type of material downloaded this activity may also be illegal.

It is important for all employees that utilize state agency computers to reacquaint themselves with the State Computer Acceptable Use Policy. [The policy may be viewed on the Instructor web page or by visiting:](#)

<http://www.cmac.state.ct.us/policies/aup.htm>

Violation of this policy may subject employees to disciplinary action up to and including suspension, termination and possible criminal arrest.

Use of computers is for the conduct of agency activities only.

Jeffrey J. Morrissette,  
State Fire Administrator

The man with the best job in the country is the Vice President. All he has to do is get up every morning and say, "How's the President?"

-Will Rogers



**DUTY OFFICERS WANTED!**

If you are interested in becoming a Duty Officer please contact Deputy Director of Training Mark D. Lewandowski at [mark.lewandowski@po.state.ct.us](mailto:mark.lewandowski@po.state.ct.us) no later than October 31, 2005.

**DUTY OFFICER OPERATING GUIDELINES**

- Scope:** The following guidelines are established to aid and direct the Duty Officer's in the performance of their duties. If the guideline fails to address a particular circumstance, the Duty Officer shall act in the best interest of the Connecticut Fire Academy, after first protecting students, guests, and employees health and wellness.
- Hours of Work:** **Night Shift:** 6 PM to 6 AM. **Day:** 8 AM to 4:30 PM. Each of these shifts is considered an 8-hour pay period. Duty Officers are required to be in an Academy designated uniform from 6 PM to 12:00 Midnight and during the entire day shift.
- Emergencies:** The Deputy Director of Training shall be notified for the following conditions: Fire, Medical Emergency or Criminal Activity. If the Deputy Director is not available then the Director of Training shall be notified, if Director of Training is not available than the State Fire Administrator. All criminal or suspected criminal activity must be reported to the Connecticut State Police at Troop-W (860-627-3340).
- Duties:** The Duty Officer is a representative of the Connecticut Fire Academy during periods of time when full-time staff is unavailable. They will act in the best interest of the Connecticut Fire Academy.
- A Duty Officer Daily Log will be completed for each day worked. It will be turned into the Deputy Director of Training on a daily basis. The log is to be used as a guide to the daily tasks that need to be performed on each shift and is not intended to be all inclusive. Additional tasks will be left with log and completion of said task will be noted on the log under the Comments Section.
- Open building for evening classes.
  - Ensure lighting level is appropriate.
  - Eliminate hazards and report maintenance problems as required. Carry cordless phone and monitor extension 274 at all times.
  - Enforce posted rules.
  - Secure training ground and fire station after training is complete.
  - Open pool as required.
  - Issue linens and handle problems for dorm residents.
  - Complete special assignments as required.
  - Make sure training office and office wing is secured when not occupied and overnight.
  - Support training programs as required.
- Recruit Guidelines:** Maintain professional relationship at all times.
- Ensure recruit rules and regulations followed.
  - Assist recruits with homework or extra study/practice of class materials if possible.

## OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF TRAINING

The Academy sports a new adornment atop our training tower. A Davis Weather Station has been installed that wirelessly transmits data to a receiver in the training division that may ultimately be replicated on many of our desktop computers. The suggestion to purchase the device stemmed from our 6-hour discussions during the Connecticut Fire Academy's initiative per the national safety stand-down.

We remain appreciative to everyone who participated in the event. In all good faith, we will attempt to implement all the suggestions as time and funding permits. It was good to see folks that we don't normally see at our quarterly safety committee meetings. This type of viewpoint and contributions allows for improvements and increased accountability.

Please remember that **anyone** is welcome to attend our quarterly Safety Committee meetings and equally enter the conversations. The next regularly scheduled meeting is December 6, 2005 in the Commission on Fire Prevention and Control

meeting room. The States Workers' Compensation Commission recently conducted an extended audit of our Safety and Health Committee activities and found us in compliance with Administrative Regulations 31-40v-1-11 of the Connecticut State Statutes.

A bit of good news for a select few instructors. The Department of Administrative Services (DAS) informed us that they are raising the hourly rate for Connecticut Fire Academy adjunct instructors in the entry rate (Level 1) \$17.00 to \$18.00/hour. Their explanation is to accomplish parity with the Police Academy part time instructors. In anticipation of your questions, the remaining rates of \$20.00 and \$23.00/hour remain the same.

In partnership with the new DEMHS organization, we and the Police Academy will be providing "lending" instructors to them for special assignments. The current need is for exercise planners, due to the federal funding initiative directing DEMHS, to concentrate upon exercises for 2006.

Other future federal direction will surely shift and cause a parallel demand for subject matter experts (instructors) in specific topics.

Such instructors are identified by DEMHS and employed by us for their use. They will not count against our compliment control. Announcements of persons employed by us do not necessarily mean that they are (or will become) fire service instructors. Simply that we are serving as a fiscal method to employ people for another agency's use.

Another revised benefit to adjuncts is the state's announcement of increasing the mileage reimbursement rate to 48.5 cents per mile. For all things that the state may be accused of, here is an example of the state being proactive and attempting to maintain pace with our ever increasing fuel prices.

Another outcome of our safety stand down conversations was that our instructor meetings require ample notification.

It was suggested that we provide at least three months advance notice and make the meetings mandatory to guarantee participation. Consequently, I am pleased to announce that there will be a mandatory adjunct instructor meeting scheduled for January 17, 2006 (**night**) from 6:30PM – 9:30PM. An identical meeting will be convened January 19, 2006 (**day**) from 2:00PM – 5:00PM.

We always welcome discussion topics for these meetings. Please feel free to mention any item of concern or benefit to Academy operations to Fred Piechota Ext. 225, Mark Lewandowski, Ext 240, Jeff Morrisette, Ext. 230 or myself Ext. 272. Thanks for your usual professionalism, and more importantly, caring about the appearance and reputation of the Connecticut Fire Academy.

*Adam D. Piskura*

Adam D. Piskura,  
Director of Training



**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**

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