



What's Happening

Navy Fire & Emergency Services Newsletter



Protecting Those Who Defend America

December 2003

Seasons Greetings

Email the Editor
Ricky.Brockman@navy.mil

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From the Director, By Bill Killen, CFO

As we close out the year 2003 and reflect on the past twelve months, we can express pride in not having any fire deaths in Navy housing or in our industrial and military facilities. Truly, the credit for the success Navy has had in keeping fire losses to their current level is the leadership and management of our Navy fire chiefs. Congratulations Chiefs, and thank you for a job well done.

I lost a dear friend and mentor on Thanksgiving Day with the passing of retired Northern Division Area Fire Marshal Charles B. Gindele. Charlie never hesitated to provide me with advice and often whispered good counsel in my ear. He is now with his beloved Ruth, may he rest in peace.

THE BIGGEST EVENT (in my opinion) for Navy F&ES this past year was the establishment of the Commander Navy Installations (CNI). CNI is in the "growing" stage and is still gearing up to meet the challenge from CNO to "gain a better return on investment" and our part of that mission is to ensure the most effective and efficient fire and emergency services to support the Navy's war fighting mission. CNI brings new challenges, many of them are going to be tough and require innovative thinking and smart management of how we do business and expend scarce resources. My challenge to you in the coming year is to provide your Navy F&ES Program Office with your ideas and concepts on achieving making the F&ES RETURN ON INVESTMENT a success.

2004 will see Change 2 to OPNAVINST 11320.23F, which will reflect the establishment of CNI, and the revision of both the OPNAVINST and DoDI 6055.6. Rick Brockman of our staff is coordinating the collection of comments and recommendations for changes and improvements to both instructions. CNI developed an excellent Matrix to track and process recommended changes, and Rick has made a similar Matrix for tracking recommended changes to the DoDI. I hope that the DOD Fire & Emergency Services Working Group can effect the revision more quickly and efficiently than in the past.

Every Navy fire chief is requested to submit nominations for the DoD F&ES Awards program. We have some outstanding fire departments and personnel, nominating these departments and personnel is in and of itself an honor. They deserve the opportunity to compete for these awards, both at the Navy and DoD level. Do your part, submit your nominations.

In closing, I extend my sincere best wishes for a joyous and safe holiday season to you and your family and to every Navy firefighter and their families also.

V/r Bill

Taps

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Taps for Former Fire Marshal

By Chief Paul Stewart

Our very good friend and former Fire Marshal Charles "Charlie" B. Gindele passed away on 27 Nov 03. We feel certain many, if not all, remember Charlie, and will recall the quality of individual and professional he was. The existence of the Charles B. Gindele Award through the Ogden Competition should also be familiar to everyone and, as you know, the award was to recognize "the individual who best personified those qualities of accomplishment, dedication and leadership in the field of fire prevention, public education and total commitment to this philosophy that Mr. Gindele is most remembered for".

I hope each of you will join with me in including Charlie's family in your prayers as they attempt to deal with his passing. Further, I know that I could not have reached all who were friends with Charlie, and will ask each of you to pass this information on to others.

IAFC Releases Officer Development Handbook for Current and Aspiring Chief Officers

*Fairfax, Va., Wednesday, December 10, 2003...*The International Association of Fire Chiefs (IAFC) has announced the release of the *Officer Development Handbook*, a professional development guide for current and aspiring chief fire officers.

Published in partnership with the IAFC Foundation, the handbook is intended to help fire officers at all levels plan a systematic development program for their professional fire service careers.

The *Officer Development Handbook* outlines four key elements of professional development—education, training, experience and self development. The handbook discusses each of these elements at different levels of a fire officer's career—supervising fire officer, managing fire officer, administrative fire officer and executive fire officer. Each section also includes an overview of the corresponding National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) 1021 Standard for Fire Officer Professional Development.

"The IAFC has championed the idea of moving the fire service toward professional status," IAFC President Ernest Mitchell said. "The *Officer Development Handbook* is another significant step in that direction."

The *Officer Development Handbook* is available electronically at the IAFC Web site, www.iafc.org/downloads/index.shtml. Printed copies will be available in Spring 2004—watch for future members alerts or information in *On Scene* for more news and ordering information.

Harvard Executive Fellowship Program

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Eight Senior Fire Executives To Be Awarded Fellowships To Harvard's Program For Senior Executives In State And Local Government

Washington, D.C.- Michael D. Brown, Under Secretary of Homeland Security for Emergency Preparedness and Response, announces that application procedures have been established for the 2004 Harvard Fire Executive Fellowship Program. This program is sponsored through a partnership between the International Association of Fire Chiefs (IAFC), the International Fire Service Training Association (IFSTA), the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) and the Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency. Each organization will fund the tuition costs of two individuals for a total of eight fellowships.

US Fire Administrator R. David Paulison said "as a former graduate of the Harvard Fellowship Program, I know this experience provides the opportunity for senior fire executives to participate in a high quality and world recognized, professional development program." Paulison further added, "The individuals selected will have the unique opportunity to share with other state and local government participants about the many contemporary emergency services issues and challenges faced by all Americans."

Eight senior fire executives will be awarded fellowships to attend Harvard's annual "Program for Senior Executives in State and Local Government." The 3-week program is conducted on the Harvard campus in Cambridge, Massachusetts. Selected Fellows would be assigned to attend one of the two 2004 session dates: June 13 - July 2, 2004, July 11-30, 2004 or a third session scheduled for February of 2005. Applicants must be available to attend any one of the three sessions. Applicants are responsible for travel costs to the final interview process, and if selected also to Cambridge. Housing will be provided at NETC for the interview process.

The following criteria and guidelines have been established for the 2004 program:

Application is open to senior fire executives who have demonstrated significant career accomplishments and have the potential to impact and initiate change. Attainment of a senior position is less important than demonstrated experience in facilitating significant change within a public sector setting.

Preference may be given to applicants who are graduates of the NFA's "Executive Fire Officer Program," although program completion is not a prerequisite. Preference may also be given to applicants who have completed graduate-level degree programs or course work.

Individuals whose organizations have been represented in the Harvard Fellowship Program during 2001, 2002, or 2003 will not be considered. The program is available to international participants.

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Continued*

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A FEMA General Admission Application (Form 75-5) is required and must be postmarked no later than January 31, 2004. An organizational chart of the applicant's sponsoring organization (with applicant's position highlighted) is required.

All applicants are encouraged to include a resume with their submission.

All application packages should be forwarded to the following address:

Harvard Fellowship Program, U.S. Fire Administration
c/o Ms. Kathleen Carter, 16825 South Seton Ave,
Emmitsburg, Maryland, 21727.

For questions contact Ms. Carter @ (301) 447-1349 or
<mailto:Kathleen.Carter@dhs.gov>

For more information visit the USFA/National Fire Academy website at <http://www.usfa.fema.gov/fire-service/nfa/higher-ed/nfa-high2.shtm> and the Harvard University/John F. Kennedy School of Government Senior Executives in State & Local Government website:

<http://www.execprog.com/programs.asp?programid=29&displaymode=view>

On March 1, 2003, FEMA became part of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security. FEMA's continuing mission within the new department is to lead the effort to prepare the nation for all hazards and effectively manage federal response and recovery efforts following any national incident. FEMA also initiates proactive mitigation activities, trains first responders, and manages Citizen Corps, the National Flood Insurance Program and the U.S. Fire Administration.

***USFA
Reauthorized***

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IAFC News Alert
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Bill Restores the Position of the U.S. Fire Administrator

Fairfax, Va., Friday, November 21, 2003... This morning, the U.S. House of Representatives passed legislation that reauthorizes the U.S. Fire Administration (USFA) through fiscal year 2008. The bill passed the Senate last night and now proceeds to the White House for the president's signature.

Among the provisions of the bill is the reestablishment of the U.S. Fire Administrator position. USFA has technically been operating without an administrator since Congress approved the authorizing legislation to create the Department of Homeland Security, which inadvertently eliminated the U.S. Fire Administrator position.

IAFC President Chief Ernest Mitchell applauded the passage of the legislation. "The IAFC has worked closely with our allies on Capitol Hill to move this important piece of legislation

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PSOB Benefit Update

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. By reestablishing the position of the U.S. Fire Administrator, we ensure that the fire service will continue to have a prominent voice in the Department of Homeland Security,” he said.

In addition, the bill includes the Firefighting Research and Coordination Act, a measure sponsored by Senator John McCain (R-AZ) and Congressman Dave Camp (R-MI). This measure requires the Fire Administrator to work with other federal agencies, consensus standards development organizations and the first responder community to evaluate new fire fighting technologies and develop appropriate standards for that technology.

Hometown Heroes Survivors Benefits Act

Fairfax, Va., Wednesday, November 26, 2003... On Nov. 25, the U.S. Senate passed the Hometown Heroes Survivors Benefits Act of 2003, which extends federal benefits to public safety officers, including fire fighters, police officers and other first responders, who die of heart attack or stroke while on duty. The U.S House of Representatives passed the legislation Nov. 21, 2003. It will now go to President Bush for his signature.

The Hometown Heroes bill extends the current Public Safety Officers’ Benefits (PSOB) Program to public safety officers who die as a result of a heart attack or stroke resulting from strenuous physical activity that occurred:

While responding to an emergency or participating in a training exercise

- While still on duty after the response or participation
- Within 24 hours of the response or participation

Heart attacks and strokes represent a significant risk among public safety officers, accounting for nearly half of all fire fighter deaths each year. In 2002, 37 on-duty fire fighters died of heart attacks.

“Sadly, dozens of fire fighters die each year from heart attacks or strokes they suffered while on duty,” said IAFC President Ernest Mitchell. “The IAFC has been working to get this critical piece of legislation passed through Congress so that families of fallen fire fighters can now receive much-needed federal assistance.”

The PSOB program, administered by the Department of Justice, provides a one-time financial benefit—currently set at \$267,494—to families of public safety officers (police, fire and EMS) killed or permanently disabled in the line of duty. In cases involving heart attacks or strokes, the burden of proof is currently placed on the family to demonstrate a direct relation between the heart attack or stroke and the actions performed in the line of duty. The Hometown Heroes Survivors Benefit Act shifts that burden to the Department of Justice by adding language presumptively qualifying heart attacks and strokes as line-of-duty deaths.

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Name The Newsletter

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Battery Recall Alert

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Vote for Your Favorite

We're still looking for a suitable name for our newsletter. Maybe "What's Happening" is the choice, but it seems a little unoriginal. Here are the names you suggested, vote for your favorite by 30 December 2003 by e-mailing the editor: Ricky.Brockman@navy.mil

1. The Maltese Cross
2. The First Alarm
3. Navy Fire Rescue Information
4. Navy Fire Emergency News
5. The Bugle
6. Navy Fire & Emergency Services Information
7. From the Top...
8. Newsladder
9. Fire News
10. The Hot Spot
11. What's Happening
12. The Hose Line
13. The FIRE STOP
14. The Head Set
15. Region and Department Information and Observations
16. The Spotlight
17. The Fire Station
18. The Tailboard

CPSC, Galls Announce Recall of Batteries Sold with Galls® H.A.L.O. Tactical Flashlights

WASHINGTON, D.C. - The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission announces the following recall in voluntary cooperation with the firm below. Consumers should stop using recalled products immediately unless otherwise instructed.

Name of product: Fuji Power and A&T Fuji Power CR123A 3-volt lithium batteries originally provided with Galls® H.A.L.O. Tactical Flashlight.

Units: Approximately 10,084

Distributor: Galls Inc., of Lexington, Kentucky

Hazard: The batteries originally provided with the flashlight may overheat or explode presenting a potential for fire or personal injury.

Incidents/Injuries: Five reports of batteries overheating or exploding have been received, causing minor injuries such as burns and minor property damage from fire.

Description: The batteries were provided in pairs. Each is a 3-volt lithium battery with a white label. The name "Fuji Power" or "A&T Fuji Power CR123A" is on the label.

Sold at: Galls catalog, Galls website www.galls.com and retail stores in Lexington, KY; Long Beach, CA; Riverside, CA; San Diego, CA; Orange County, CA; and Signal Hill, CA, from June 2001 through May 2003. The flashlight sold individually for about \$49 and when bundled with other items for up to \$99.

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Manufactured in: Taiwan.

Remedy: Call Galls toll-free at 1-800-477-7766 to receive free replacement batteries for each pair of batteries originally received with your Galls® H.A.L.O. Tactical Flashlight purchased prior to June 2003. If you have already replaced the batteries (Galls recommends that Duracell Ultra 123 3-volt lithium replacement batteries be used), Galls will provide an equivalent credit (\$10.99 for each pair of Fuji Power or A&T Fuji Power lithium batteries) that can be redeemed towards the purchase of any other merchandise ordered from Galls.

Consumer Contact: Call Galls customer service representatives toll-free at (800) 477-7766 Monday through Friday, 7 am to midnight ET, Saturday and Sunday 9 am to 9 pm ET.

Here are what the eight 'points' on the Maltese Cross symbolize:



Safety Supplements For Aircraft Rescue

New Safety Supplements (6 &7) have been posted for TO 00-105E-9 *Aerospace Emergency Rescue and Mishap Response Information (Emergency Services)*. Please follow the instructions to the attached Notification as always. This Safety Supplement supercede and rescinds Safety Supplement 5. The SS-5 link has been deactivated, but kept on the list to prevent confusion.

Link to Safety Supplement #6 (F/A-22)

<http://www.afcesa.af.mil/Directorate/CEX/fire/SS-6.pdf>

Link to Safety Supplement #7 (F-16)

<http://www.afcesa.af.mil/Directorate/CEX/fire/SS-7.pdf>

For TO 00-105E-9 Web Site (Robins AFB, GA):

<http://www.robins.af.mil/logistics/LGEDA/documents/to00-105E-9.htm>



NVFC News

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Volunteer Restriction 'Downright Un-American'

By BILL LARKIN , New Britain (CT) Herald Staff Writer
11/16/2003

State Sen. William Aniskovich (R-Branford) said he thinks a clause in Hartford's 68-page contract with its firefighter union preventing employees from volunteering in their hometowns is "downright un-American."

During a telephone interview, Aniskovich -- also the Senate's minority president pro tempore -- said the clause eliminates the choice "that this country was founded on" and could jeopardize the safety of suburban residents.

"In many towns, public safety is the No. 1 or 2 priority," said Aniskovich, who said last Thursday Republican legislators want to pass legislation eliminating similar clauses in contracts like Hartford's. "Both public safety and education strikes at the hearts of many residents. Both need to be preserved."

But if the contract, which is set to take effect June 30, 2008, remains as is, towns may face large employee replacement costs. Newington Mayor Thomas McBride, who could not be reached for comment Saturday, has predicted the town would have to pay as much as \$4 million to replenish its fireman ranks.

Aniskovich said such figures are too high for municipalities, many of whom are increasing mill rates almost every year.

"For a lot of small towns, that's a lot of money," the senator said.

"Especially at a time when taxes are rising."

When asked how Hartford residents may react to legislation allowing their paid firefighters to work risky volunteer jobs in other areas, Aniskovich said there is no evidence linking volunteer firefighters and increased overtime budgets. "It's theoretical that injuries could increase if we passed a bill," he said. "But we don't make policy based on theory."

About a dozen cities statewide have approved clauses with similar restrictions to those that could be enacted in Hartford. But while officials have largely looked the other way in the past, Aniskovich said he fears that trend may change as more contracts are signed. GOP lawmakers began discussing legislation after like-minded officials from Newington, Berlin, Rocky Hill and Wethersfield lobbied for help, according to the senator.

Newington Town Council member John Kelly said he was proud of officials, such as Newington Town Manager Paul Fetherston, who helped bring the issue to legislators' attention. Kelly said it is a "pretty high priority" for Newington to ensure the future of its volunteer firefighter program.

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"I was quite taken aback and insulted by the city of Hartford when they proposed this change," said Kelly, a Democrat. "It just kind of appeared without any notice. That's not in the spirit of regional cooperation."

Cities like Hartford have long advocated a regional revenue-sharing system under which small towns would help defray costs in larger, urban areas. However, Aniskovich said such a plan should work in both directions.

"Ironically, those city folks who talk about regionalism only seem to support it when they receive the benefits," the senator said. "But keeping their firefighters under lock and key makes them look like hypocrites."

Ideology aside, Aniskovich said GOP lawmakers advanced a bill because small towns are often neglected by the General Assembly. His comments correlate with those of local officials like Kelly, who can do little more to resolve the issue besides lobbying.

"Hopefully (legislation) gets through," Kelly said. "Aside from the workplace issues, there's absolutely no merit to that (Hartford) contract. All this does it just make it harder for towns to retain firefighters."

Aniskovich said legislation is supported by both Democrats and Republicans in the Senate, adding that many towns rely on volunteer firefighters even if they do not have programs.

However, he said he anticipates resistance from urban areas led by mayors with widespread local authority.

Bill Larkin can be reached at blarkin@newbritainherald.com

Lifesaving Award

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Portsmouth Naval Shipyard Fire Fighter Saves Fellow Fire Fighter

The Navy Fire & Emergency Services Certificate of Lifesaving was awarded to Portsmouth Naval Shipyard Fire Fighter Eric Ouellette. Awarded as recognition of his successful Life Saving initiatives on 8 November 2003, wherein he was instrumental in saving the life of a fellow fire fighter, who was choking due to a piece of food blocking his airway. This Certificate of Life Saving was presented with sincere appreciation and gratitude for a job well done!



Inspector Earns Award

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Naval District Washington Fire Inspector Earns Governor Volunteer and Service Award

Captain Jeff Williams of the Indian Head Vol. Fire Dept. & Rescue Squad Inc. was presented with the Governor's Volunteer and Service Award by Governor Robert Ehrlich Jr. at a ceremony held at the Maryland Hall of Creative Arts in Annapolis MD. Captain Williams was nominated by



his department for his efforts in educating the residents of Indian Head and Charles County on the importance of Fire Safety and Prevention. Jeff works aggressively to educate citizens through a variety of programs hosted by the department throughout the year. In addition to the department's Annual Fire Prevention Open House, Captain Williams has organized other community events that include a Fire Safety program at the local elementary school, day care facilities, senior citizen centers and a Smoke Alarm Safety Awareness Program, which includes the distribution and installation of the alarms in the homes of the residents served by the department. Jeff has served on the Fire Prevention Committee for 12 years and it's chairman for past the past 4 years. He also serves as the Fire Prevention Committee Chairman for the Southern Maryland Volunteer Firemen's Association. Jeff is employed by the Naval District Washington Fire Department as a Fire Inspector.

New Water Tanker Delivered

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Navy Regional Fire-Rescue Hampton Roads, Sewells Point District

By Lt. John D. Friis, EMT-ST, Haz Mat Tech



The Peninsula Fire District took delivery of Tanker 506, the latest addition to the NRFR fleet. T-506 is now in service at Fire Station # 14. T506 is an 2003 E-One International, 3,000 gallon capacity, 500 gpm pump, with at 3,500 gallon portable folding tank.

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Advisory Board

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Navy F&ES Advisory Board

The Navy F&ES Advisory Board recently completed two days of meetings at NAS Mayport FL. Several topics were discussed at the meeting to include the role of CNI in Navy Fire Service. CAPT Vincent Racanelli, Director Public Safety CNI briefed the Board and attended some of the discussions. Contact your Advisory Board member for specifics of the meeting.



Navy F&ES Advisory Board at NAS Mayport, FL (2-3 Dec 03)

Chief Paul Stewart Announces His Retirement

Chief to Retire



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Director Bill Killen presents a gift to Chief Stewart, Fire Chief, Naval Air Station Jacksonville. Chief Stewart has announced his retirement effective 1 Jan 04. Chief Stewart's dedication and professionalism will be missed within the Navy F&ES community. ***Best Wishes with your retirement !!***

Trade Net

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TRADENET, TRADE's Training Network

A National Fire Academy sponsored activity

The main purpose of TRADENET is to enable Fire Departments to maximize their performance through quick and easy information exchange. The information provided here must be non-copyrighted and should not be incorporated into any copyrighted programs. The TRADENET newsletter is now distributed through the USFA/FEMA server. This change will make controlling your subscription easier by allowing you to add new email addresses or delete old ones. There are now over 2600 "subscribers" to the weekly newsletter. If you wish to subscribe, go to the following site, <http://www.usfa.fema.gov/fire-service/nfa-train2.shtm> and select "Subscribe to TRADENET" and this takes you to the USFA automated subscription service. Or go directly to that automated email subscription page at <http://www.usfa.fema.gov/applications/listserv/usfamail.cfm>; select the appropriate list.

TRADE's Virtual TRADEing Post is online and running. This site allows you to see an index of each CD, access and download any specific lesson plan you see and use as you need to in your Department. The intent of TRADE is to "share" information that will allow the Fire Service not to reinvent the wheel each and every time they need something. The site is <http://feti.lsu.edu/municipal/NFA/TRADE/>

Link to the USFA/NFA TRADE Site <http://www.usfa.fema.gov/dhtml/fire-service/nfa-train2.cfm>

Rescue Support

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NAEC Lakehurst Fire & Emergency Services Supports Rescue Efforts

By now, you have all seen on the news the images of the tragic parking garage collapse in Atlantic City that occurred on Thursday and claimed the lives of some construction workers (see first attached article). What you may not be aware of is that Navy Lakehurst, through support for the New Jersey State Police Urban Search and Rescue Team (Task Force One), played a key role in the efforts to rescue trapped workers and to stabilize the damaged structure to ensure no further tragedy occurred.



Immediately after the collapse occurred, Task Force One was mobilized and began the recall of personnel and preparation of equipment for deployment to the disaster site from Lakehurst. Navy Lakehurst departments were there to provide Task Force One with any assistance necessary (e.g. Security provided an escort off the base to ensure their departure was not slowed by traffic). Also, several members of our Lakehurst team who are members of this all volunteer search and rescue team were mobilized for this disaster. Task Force One lead the rescue efforts in Atlantic City (see second attached article)

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Navy Lakehurst has enjoyed a strong and mutually beneficial partnership with Task Force One for several years. Task Force One benefits from having access to world-class training, staging, and deployment facilities (including the ability

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to deploy by air or rail as well as by road) from Lakehurst (see third attached article). Navy Lakehurst also receives many tangible benefits from this partnership. The advanced rescue technique training the Fire Department receives as part of this partnership has already been credited with saving the life of one of our teammates. Additionally, the reimbursements received from Task Force One for the use of shared facilities helps reduce the total cost of these facilities to the Navy and DoD.

We all should be proud of Navy Lakehurst's contribution to this recent rescue effort and to the continuing contribution we make to Homeland Security through partnerships with organizations like Task Force One.

Parking Deck In A.C. Collapses; 3 Killed, 1 Man Trapped

Published in the Asbury Park Press 10/31/03

By WILLIAM H. SOKOLIC, MICHAEL T. BURKHART and MATT KATZ
GANNETT NEW JERSEY

ATLANTIC CITY -- Three people were killed and 19 others injured when the top five stories of a Tropicana casino parking garage under construction collapsed yesterday morning, authorities said.

One person remained trapped last night in the rubble of the garage, being built next to the Tropicana Resort and Casino.

Searchers used cameras, dogs and the missing man's cell phone in an attempt to locate the person, believed to be in a stairwell between the third and fourth floors. By 10:45 p.m., authorities said they were focused on recovery, not rescue.

"There's always a slim possibility" that the missing ironworker is alive, said Chief James Foley, task force leader for the New Jersey Urban Search and Rescue team. "But we don't see anything at this point that would indicate that."

Authorities worried about the 10-story building's stability.

Robert Levy, director of emergency management for the city, said the building "could go at any time." He said search cameras and dogs had gone into the rubble, and trucks carrying lumber were being brought in to shore up the building.

"We are planning for the worst," Levy said. "It's one of the worst collapses Atlantic City has ever seen."

"This is a very grim day," said state Labor Commissioner Albert Kroll. He said construction workers fled amid shouts of "Run!" and "The building's coming down!"

Not everyone made it to safety.



ASSOCIATED PRESS photo

Parts of the top five stories of an Atlantic City parking garage under construction dangle at a steep angle after Thursday's collapse. As of Thursday night, three workers are known dead, a fourth is missing and 19 are injured, some critically.

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Automated search cameras and scent-tracking dogs explored through the heap of twisted metal and five concrete slabs, each of which measured half the length of a football field.

The names of those who died were not released pending notification of relatives.

Concrete being poured

The accident happened about 10:40 a.m. at the 10-story garage rising on Brighton Avenue.

Workers were pouring concrete on the top floor when one corner of the structure began to buckle, said State Police Capt. Ed O'Neill. The top story collapsed and brought the next four levels down with it, trapping an estimated 30 people, O'Neill said.

Some workers slid and then fell to the street as concrete slabs buckled like dominoes, said Thomas Cole, a bricklayer from Dover Township.

The cause of the collapse had not been determined, said Gary Roskoski of the federal Occupational Safety and Health Administration.

Les Down, 44, was working on the sixth floor of the garage when a co-worker felt the floor move down a couple inches. Moments later, the floor completely disappeared.

"It fell all the way down and a couple of his buddies landed on top of him," said Down's brother, Bruce.

The mason worker was able to walk to emergency crews and was taken to Atlantic City Medical Center, where he has two broken collar bones and a possible neck injury, his brother said.

About 300 workers were at the site when the accident occurred, said Harold Simmons, a plumber from Atlantic City who heard "a large rumble" from inside the garage.

"I didn't know where it was coming (from), but I knew it didn't sound right," Simmons said.

The next thing he knew, "everything was bashed all the way down."
Families rush to scene

Spouses and children of union workers rushed to the scene, gathering at a triage area set up between Atlantic and Pacific avenues in hopes of seeing or hearing word about their loved ones.

"He was working up there last night, I know," said one distraught woman. Kasha Williams of Bridgeton spotted her father, Norman, about 3:30 p.m.

A teary-eyed Kasha wasted no time doing the one thing she feared she'd never get to do again -- give her dad a hug.

Norman Williams, a union laborer, said he was working on the corner of the garage that collapsed.

"It sounded like 'Boom, boom!' " he said. "I ran the opposite way."
Williams said he survived "by the grace of God."

But the scene turned somber just 20 minutes later when rescue workers emerged from the rubble carrying a stretcher draped with a white sheet.

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As the procession passed a few feet away, Williams removed his baseball cap, bowed his head and stood in silence.

That victim had been removed from the fourth story of the parking deck, officials said. The body of another victim, found between the fourth and fifth stories, was removed about 6:50 p.m.

A third worker died at an area hospital.

"It's a tragedy. We're devastated," said Maureen Siman, a Tropicana spokeswoman.

Rescuers said they would be unable to reach the trapped person until engineers stabilized the structure.

Shoring up the garage

Dozens of trucks hauled lumber to the scene to help shore up the building and prevent a secondary collapse.

That process was expected to take much of the night, said Michael Schurman, Atlantic County's deputy emergency management coordinator.

"It's an extremely dangerous situation," added John Bereheiko, deputy chief of the Atlantic City Fire Department. "We're not willing to sacrifice our people until the masonry above us is secure."

Stacey Strasky, 40, of Voorhees said she was outside the parking garage Sunday when she heard popping and wailing coming from the building. She told a security guard, who said the building was only settling.

Yesterday, Strasky said her concerns should have been forwarded to someone with more authority.

"For in-house security to blow it off as being just the settling of construction, that's not professional," she said. "I'm angry. There are human lives at stake here."

Federal safety inspectors interviewed Strasky yesterday as they began sorting through events leading to the collapse.

A Washington Township firm, F and R Demolition Consultants, was one of several companies dispatched to the scene to help with the stabilization efforts.

"It's an extremely sensitive mission," said company owner Rosemarie Rizzo. "If this collapses, I shudder to think what would happen."



TIM MC CARTHY photo

An ironworker tries to comfort a woman outside the garage, where hundreds worked.

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Federal investigators will compare blueprints of the garage to what was built, said Roskoski, OSHA's South Jersey area director.

They also will evaluate the concrete's "cure rate," which will show whether workers gave it enough time to harden, he said.

\$245 million expansion

The 2,400-space parking garage was one piece of a \$245 million project intended to transform the city's landscape.

The garage was to serve a 200,000-square-foot Tropicana complex called The Quarter -- a retail, dining and entertainment facility expected to open in March all on a 3 1/2-acre parcel bordered by Atlantic, Pacific, Iowa and Brighton avenues.

Members of 23 different unions have worked on the project, which also includes a 31-story, 502-room hotel tower. London-based architects Wimberly, Allison, Tong & Goo, along with Philadelphia-based Keating Building Corp., are the lead designers. Both have done casino work before. Wimberly designed The Venetian Resort Hotel Casino in Las Vegas, while Keating did contracting, construction management and design work for Bally's Park Place Wild Wild West Casino in Atlantic City.

"This is a difficult time. Obviously, our first concern is the well-being of the people that are injured or missing," the Keating firm said in a statement.

Fabi Construction Co., the company performing the concrete work yesterday, was the same firm involved in a fatal accident at the site in 1995 that led to fines imposed by OSHA.

A Fabi employee died in the earlier accident when a concrete slab on the 10th floor of a parking garage collapsed during demolition.

But the accident yesterday was the worst Roskoski said he could recall in his seven years in South Jersey.

"It's one of the worst collapses Atlantic City has ever seen," added Robert Levy, the city's director of emergency management.

Tom Baldwin of the Gannett State Bureau, Gannett New Jersey and The Associated Press contributed to this story

[Reduce Training
Risk Report](#)

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FEMA SPECIAL REVIEW OF FIRE FIGHTER TRAINING UNCOVERS WAYS TO REDUCE THE RISK OF TRAGIC OUTCOMES

WASHINGTON, D.C. - A technical special report on the risks of firefighting training and ways to reduce deaths and injuries is being released by the Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) today. The special report underscores the inherent danger of such training but reiterates the importance of experience gained in real, rather than closely controlled training fires.

*Training Risk Report
Continued*

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"It's important that fire departments train firefighters in as close to actual conditions as possible while also protecting them in the process," said Michael D. Brown, Homeland Security Under Secretary for Emergency Preparedness and Response. "This special report highlights how this challenge can be met by the nation's fire service educators and trainers."

The review, compiled by the U.S. Fire Administration (USFA), also highlights the importance of following currently accepted procedures and standards to avoid training deaths and injuries and the need for instructors to avoid situations for which the students are not yet prepared.

The challenge is very real. Since 1987, reported training-related injuries have increased by nearly 21 percent. In 2001 alone, almost 7,000 training-related injuries were reported. That year, a firefighter died and two were injured while participating in a live burn training situation.

At the same time, live fire training buildings and simulators fed by propane or natural gas have many built-in safety features but may not provide the same quality of realism as live fire training in acquired structures. The training buildings, for example, fail to teach students to react to the diverse conditions encountered in real fire operations.

In addition, the need to provide training in situations other than fires, such as hazardous material incidents, increases the danger to participants. In 1997, for example, a member of a unit training to respond to a chemical incident was overcome by a nerve agent and needed to be administered an antidote to stop the seizures.

"Safe and effective - but realistic - firefighter training is vital to meet our mission of preserving life and property," said US Fire Administrator R. David Paulison. "This special report reviews training issues, tragic mistakes of the past and determines ways fire-related training can be safer but effective."

Other lessons learned cited in the special report include:

- * It is increasingly important that firefighters receive training in fire behavior and extinguishment methods for different types of buildings;
- * Modern protective equipment may make life-threatening fire conditions less obvious and firefighters must be trained to recognize the visual and physical clues to impending danger;
- * During training, a firefighter's physical stress level should be monitored continuously and departments should consider stronger physical screening programs and long-term health and wellness programs to reduce training-related heart attacks and strokes.

USFA develops technical reports on selected major incidents, usually involving multiple deaths or a large loss of property. USFA also prepares periodic special reports to discuss events, drills or new technologies or tactics of interest to the fire service. The focus is on "lessons learned" or new knowledge that underscores ongoing issues in fire service. These reports provide detailed information on the nature of the fire problem in this country for policymakers who decide resource allocations, and within the fire service to improve codes and code enforcement, training, public fire education and building technology. This special report was based on meetings, informal interviews and a study of a wide array of fire training literature.

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Link to the full report: <http://www.usfa.fema.gov/applications/publications/tr100.shtm>

NFA Enrollment

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NATIONAL FIRE ACADEMY ANNOUNCES SECOND SEMESTER ENROLLMENT PERIOD IS NOW OPEN

EMMITSBURG, MD - The United States Fire Administration's (USFA) National Fire Academy (NFA) is now accepting applications for its second semester residential program, which begins April 1, 2004 and ends September 30, 2004. The enrollment and application period for the second semester officially opens today, November 1 and will close December 31, 2003.

Applications received that are post-marked after the open enrollment period, cannot be accepted. General eligibility requirements include substantial involvement in fire prevention and control, emergency medical services, fire-related emergency management activities or other allied professions. Applicants must also meet specific selection criteria for each course.

To find out more about the National Fire Academy and to obtain a General Admission's Application to apply for second semester residential training courses and programs, please go to <http://www.usfa.fema.gov/fire-service/nfa/nfa.shtm> or <http://www.usfa.fema.gov/fire-service/nfa/nfa.shtm>

Lakehurst Fire Expo

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NAVY LAKEHURST 2003 FIRE EXPO OVER 900 CLIENTS SERVED

The atmosphere in Navy Lakehurst's historic Hangar 1 heated up during the annual Fire Expo, presented by the Navy Lakehurst Fire Department. The expo is held each year to promote fire prevention week and fire prevention awareness.

Participants in this year's expo included representatives from the Navy Lakehurst Department of Defense Police, Navy Lakehurst Public Safety Department as well as neighboring fire departments and fire prevention bureaus and the New Jersey State Fire Marshals Office. The New Jersey State Police as well as local police departments were on hand to distribute handout's safety related topics.

The Ocean County Prosecutor's Arson Unit, New Jersey State Urban Search and Rescue Team and the Tri-County Antique Fire Apparatus Association were on hand to display equipment and answer any questions from the base employees, contractors and guests. There were also displays from the Ocean County Health Department and Community Medical Center handed out literature on health and child safety.

The Naval Weapons Station Earle Fire Department joined in with a mobile fire safety trailer, which allowed children and employees to get the feel of real smoke and what it's like to be in a Smokey environment.

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Fire Expo Continued

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Navy Lakehurst Fire Division and Mutual Aid Apparatus position themselves for the start of the Fire Divisions 2003 Fire Expo

The expo was an enjoyable way for base employees to catch up on some of their annual training requirements and as have lunch (supplied and grilled by the Chief Petty Officer's Association). The Navy Lakehurst Fire Department made arrangement for safety related items, which were given away through a raffle. Items given away were smoke and CO detectors, fire extinguishers, escape ladders, highway safety kits and flash lights.

In all over 900 clients were educated in fire safety, fire prevention and this is a credit to all the organizations pulling together as one. In fact the Navy Lakehurst Fire and Police Department have teamed up to plan on an even bigger event during the summer's National Night Out celebration.



The Fire Division Public Education table at the Navy Lakehurst 2003 Fire Expo. Pictured from left to right are Fire Inspector's Quinn, Burns, Cohen, and Battalion Chief Ralph Marrlow along with Buster the mascot of the Lakewood Blue Claws baseball team.

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Fire Expo Continued

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Buster the mascot of the Lakewood Blueclaws baseball team demonstrates the use of a 15lb CO2 extinguisher at the Navy Lakehurst 2003 Fire Expo.

Public-Access AEDs

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Public-Access to AEDs Can Double Survival Rates, New Study Shows

A new study presented at Tuesday's American Heart Association Scientific Sessions showed that AEDs in public places, combined with training, can double cardiac arrest survival rates.

The number of survivors of sudden cardiac arrest markedly increased when the victims were helped by community volunteers trained to perform not only CPR but also to use an AED, according to the results of a large multi-center study funded by the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute (NHLBI) in collaboration with the American Heart Association.

The results of the Public Access Defibrillation (PAD) Trial were presented in the Late Breaking Clinical Trials section of the American Heart Association's Scientific Sessions 2003 in Orlando, Fla. Over an average for 21.5 months, there were 29 cardiac arrest survivors to hospital discharge, in the group assigned to CPR plus AED; as compared to only 15 survivors in the group assigned to CPR only.

"Sudden cardiac arrest is a top killer of Americans. This important study shows that lives can be saved by training community volunteers to use external defibrillators," said Acting NHLBI Director Barbara Alving, MD.

It is known that defibrillation by trained public safety and EMS personnel is a highly effective lifesaving treatment for cardiac arrest. However, it has not been known whether placing AEDs in the community and training lay

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AEDs Continued

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persons to use them would prevent additional deaths. The PAD Trial sought to answer that question by evaluating survival of cardiac arrest victims in areas where there were community volunteers trained in CPR only, compared with survival of those in areas where there were volunteers trained in both CPR and the use of an AED.

The PAD Trial trained approximately 20,000 volunteer rescuers at 24 sites in the United States and Canada. Each site identified between 20 and 70 community units with a potential for out-of-hospital cardiac arrests. Some of these were large residential units such as apartment complexes; other sites were public and included shopping centers, senior centers, office buildings, and sports venues, etc. Each study unit was randomly assigned to train volunteers in CPR only (recognition of cardiac arrest symptoms, instruction to call 9-1-1 for EMS support, and performance of CPR) or in CPR and the use of an AED. Defibrillators were distributed to the sites offering training in the use of an AED. All volunteers received two to four hours of initial training, and most were retrained one or more times during the study.

The majority of victims in both groups were men in their late 60s or early 70s. Increased survival of cardiac arrest victims was primarily found in the CPR plus AED "public" sites rather than in the residential locations.

Survival rates in residential study locations were very low and were not improved by adding AEDs to the volunteer response teams.

"This study was a major frontier to cross," said Joseph P. Ornato, MD, chair of the PAD steering committee, who presented the findings in Orlando. "We now have the results of the world's largest test of public access defibrillation. We trained almost 20,000 volunteers. They did an incredible job and there were no major injuries or serious safety issues," added Ornato, who is professor and chair of the Virginia Commonwealth University Medical Center's Department of Emergency Medicine in Richmond.

Additional information from the PAD trial is still being analyzed, including long-term survival results, quality of life, mental function of survivors and the cost of implementing each type of system (costs of identifying and training volunteers and placement of AEDs).

An important next step in research on the use of AEDs, said Ornato, is to test the safety and effectiveness of home use of these devices. The NHLBI is currently funding a multi-center 7,000 patient study designed to evaluate whether providing the devices to families of heart attack patients will improve survival if a cardiac arrest occurs in that person's home.

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Wildfire Images

Fire in Fillmore, California

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Fire near the Reagan Library in Simi Valley, California

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Wildfire Photos

By Rick Brockman, Navy F&ES

Here are some striking photos of the wildfires in California sent to me by my daughter who lives in the city of Ventura.



Residents of Moorpark dealing with the ash



Fire in Moorpark, California

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Urban-Wildland Interface near the 118 Freeway in Simi Valley

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*Protecting homes
in Moorpark*



*Early afternoon in
Simi Valley*

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*Night time in Simi
Valley*

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*View of Reagan
Library from the
123 Freeway near
Thousand Oaks*

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*Ventura County
Fire Fighters
Look at a Twister
of Flame, in Simi
Valley*

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What the ?

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Found this on my MSN Homepage. Thought it illustrates the fact that not everybody thinks very highly of us despite recent events. I'll let you read and react for yourself.

Article appeared on MSN.COM author is a writer for Sports Illustrated.
nnsi@cnni.com

Smoke And Mirrors Stop Calling Firefighters "Heroes."

By Douglas Gantenbein

Posted Friday, October 31, 2003, at 12:05 PM PT

When California Gov.-elect Arnold Schwarzenegger toured the state's catastrophic wildfires a few days ago, he uttered the phrase that now accompanies any blaze as surely as smoke: "The firefighters are the true heroes."

It's understandable why he said that. As fires go, the California blazes are scary. They are moving incredibly quickly through dried brush and chaparral that practically explode when they ignite, threatening the life of any firefighter nearby. Steven L. Rucker, a 38-year-old firefighter and paramedic for the town of Novato, was killed working to save houses. Elsewhere, thousands of firefighters have worked for hours on end in 95-degree heat, dressed in multiple layers of fire-resistant clothing, sometimes without enough food or water because of the long and shifting supply lines.

Given all that, it may seem churlish to suggest that firefighters might not deserve the lofty pedestal we so insistently place them on. We lionize them, regard them as unsullied by base motivations, see them as paragons of manliness (and very tough womanliness). They're easily our most-admired public servants, and in the public's eye probably outrank just about anyone except the most highly publicized war veterans. But the "hero" label is tossed around a little too often when the subject is firefighting. Here's why:

Firefighting is a cushy job. Firefighters may have the best work schedule in the United States—24 hours on, 48 hours off. And those 24 hours are usually not terribly onerous. While a few big-city fire stations may have four, five, six calls, or more during a shift, most aren't nearly that busy, giving firefighters time to give tours to school kids, barbecue hamburgers, wash fire engines, sleep, and pose for "The Firefighters of [Your City Here], 2004" calendars. Indeed, fire officials devote much of their time to figuring out how to cover up the fact they're not getting the hoses out very often. So we have firefighters doing ambulance work, firefighters doing search-and-rescue work, anything but Job No. 1. Meanwhile, the long days off give many firefighters a chance to start second careers. That makes it easy for them to retire after 20 years, take a pension, and start another profession. I've known firefighters who moonlighted as builders, photographers, and attorneys.

Firefighting isn't that dangerous. Of course there are hazards, and about 100 firefighters die each year. But firefighting doesn't make the Department of Labor's 2002 list of the 10 most dangerous jobs in America. Loggers top that one, followed by commercial fishermen in the No. 2 spot, and general-

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aviation commercial pilots (crop dusters and the like) at No. 3. Firefighting trails truck-driving (No. 10) in its risks. Pizza delivery drivers (No. 5) have more dangerous jobs than firefighters, statistically speaking. And fatalities, when they occur in firefighting, often are due to heart attacks and other lack-of-fitness problems, not fire. In those cases where firefighters die in a blaze, it's almost always because of some unbelievable screw-up in the command chain. It's been well-documented, for instance, that lousy communication was a huge reason why so many firefighters still were in the burning World Trade Center when it imploded, and well after city police and port authority police had been warned by their own commanders of an imminent collapse and cleared out.

Firefighters are adrenalin junkies. I did mountain rescue work for several years and more than once was praised as a "hero." Oh, give me a break. It was fun and exciting. Firefighting is even more of a rush. Sharon Waxman, in an excellent article in the Washington Post, interviewed firefighters in California. Every one was in a complete lather to get to the next hot spot. "It's almost a slugfest to get in there," one told Waxman. This urge to reach the fire is not entirely altruistic. It sure beats washing that damned fire truck again, for one thing. Plus a big fire is thrilling, plain and simple.

Firefighters have excellent propaganda skills. Firefighters play the hero card to its limit. Any time a big-city firefighter is killed on duty, that city will all but shut down a few days later while thousands of firefighters line the streets for a procession. In July 2001, I witnessed the tasteless spectacle of Washington state firefighters staging a massive public display to "honor" four young people killed in a forest fire (one absurd touch: hook-and-ladder rigs extended to form a huge arch over the entrance to the funeral hall). For the families of the four dead firefighters—three of whom were teens trying to make a few bucks for college—the parade, the solemn speeches, and the quasi-military trappings all were agony. "It's just the firefighters doing their thing," one bystander said to me later with a shrug.

Firefighters are just another interest group. Firefighters use their heroic trappings to play special interest politics brilliantly. It is a heavily unionized occupation. Nothing's wrong with that, but let's not assume they're always acting in anything but their own best interests. In Seattle not long ago a squabble broke out between police and firefighters when both were called to the scene of a capsized dinghy in a lake. The firefighters put a diver in the water, a police officer on the scene ordered him out to make way for a police team, and all hell broke loose (yes, the cops were at fault, too). The dispute wasn't over public safety, it was over who got the glory. New York firefighters, admittedly deep in grief over lost co-workers, exacerbated the challenge of body recovery operations after 9/11 by insisting on elaborate removal procedures for each firefighter uncovered, an insult to others who died there. Not long before that, in Boston, a special commission released a scathing report that detailed a 1,600-member fire department up to its bunker gear in racism, sexism, and homophobia. Since then the department has bitterly resisted reform efforts.

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Opening in Japan

Navy F&ES POCs

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None of this is meant to dispute that firefighters aren't valuable to the communities in which they work. They are. But our society is packed with unheralded heroes—small-town physicians, teachers in poverty-stricken neighborhoods, people who work in dirty, dangerous jobs like coal-mining to support a family. A firefighter plunging into a burning house to retrieve a frightened, smoke-blinded child is a hero. But let's save the encomiums for when they are truly deserved, not when they just show up to do their job.

GS-13 Fire Position Open In Japan

Chief Dan Marshall has announced he will have a GS-13 Site Managers position opening soon. For more information contact Chief Marshall at: Marshall.Daniel@cnfj.navy.mil



Seasons Greetings

*From your
Navy Fire & Emergency Services Staff*

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We are in the process of transitioning to NMCI and new email addresses. Our new email address format will be: firstname.lastname@navy.mil
