



**State of Connecticut  
Department of Emergency Services & Public Protection  
Commission on Fire Prevention and Control**

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**1. CT Fire Academy & CFA Bookstore Independence Day Holiday Closing**

The staff offices of the Commission on Fire Prevention and Control and the CFA Bookstore will be closed for the Independence Day Holiday on Monday, July 4<sup>th</sup>. The CFA Bookstore will also be closed on Saturday, July 2nd due to staff vacation. The Academy & Bookstore will both reopen on Tuesday, July 5th. We hope everyone has a safe and happy July 4<sup>th</sup> holiday!

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**2. Acts Affecting Firefighters and Fire Marshals**

The Connecticut General Assembly's Office of Legislative Research has published the report Acts Affecting Firefighters and Fire Marshals. To view the report visit:

[https://www.cga.ct.gov/olr/Documents/year/AA/2016AA-0122\\_2016%20Acts%20Affecting%20Firefighters%20and%20Fire%20Marshals.pdf](https://www.cga.ct.gov/olr/Documents/year/AA/2016AA-0122_2016%20Acts%20Affecting%20Firefighters%20and%20Fire%20Marshals.pdf)

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**3. Aerial Operator in Bethel Starting July 16**

Aerial Operator, a six-day course meets NFPA Standard 1002 for the driver/operator section, which addresses aerial devices. Instruction will be given on: aerial, tower ladders and articulating

booms. Course content will prepare the student for the practical and written examinations for Aerial Operator certification.

Certification Examination Prerequisites: Certified Firefighter I, or member of a fire department on or before July 1, 1977 and legally licensed to drive emergency apparatus.

Proof must be submitted with the application. Candidates for certification to this level must be in possession of a Connecticut Driver's license with a "Q" Endorsement, a Class A or B Commercial Driver's license (CDL) or shall provide proof that the Driving/Operating requirements of NFPA Standard 1002, Chapter 4, have been satisfactorily completed. Certification testing time: requires an additional date for the certification written exam.

Tuition is \$290. Application [http://ct.gov/cfpc/lib/cfpc/CFA2013student\\_application.pdf#51848](http://ct.gov/cfpc/lib/cfpc/CFA2013student_application.pdf#51848)

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#### **4. Rescue Technician: Core in Ridgefield – Space Remains**

The Rescue Technician: Core course in Ridgefield, scheduled to begin on August 8<sup>th</sup> has space remaining. If interested, apply using Course #17030. Tuition is \$420. Application [http://ct.gov/cfpc/lib/cfpc/CFA2013student\\_application.pdf#51848](http://ct.gov/cfpc/lib/cfpc/CFA2013student_application.pdf#51848)

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#### **5. Vision 20/20 Webinars**

If you didn't get a chance to take part in the two Vision 20/20 webinars, you can now stream and download them (Click on Title)!

- **[Model Performance - State Programs that are Succeeding](#)**
  - **Focusing Resources Where They Matter Most**
  - Gary West, Tennessee State Fire Marshal
  - Marshal West will be talking about the "Get Alarmed Tennessee" program that installed over 100,000 smoke alarms in high-risk areas and has resulted in a 28% reduction in fire deaths.
  - **Fire Data in a Serious State**
  - Sara Wood, Kansas State NFIRS Program Manager
  - Ms. Wood will talk about removing barriers, making data more accessible and creating a more positive attitude towards data reporting. As a result, they have increased reporting levels from 31% to 83% of departments in two years.
- **[Model Performance - Cities with Solutions](#)**
  - **No More Fire Deaths**
  - Derrick Sawyer, Deputy Chief, Philadelphia Fire Department
  - Chief Sawyer will explain that by using a detailed analysis of fire data, Philadelphia launched a pilot program for a focused smoke

alarm installation program in high risk areas that resulted in a 30% improvement as compared to the rest of the city.

- **Sprinklers in Rapid City**  
Tim Behlings, Division Chief, Rapid City Fire Department
- Chief Behlings will describe the sprinkler initiative in Rapid City that focuses on a wide diversity of occupancies and that has resulted in 33 sprinkler saves since it started. As Chief Behlings says, "we need to stop digging the hole and building a ladder so that more people are protected by sprinklers..."

You will also learn more about the free, online [V2020 Fire Safety Materials Generator](#) and other resources available on the [Vision 20/20 website](#).

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## **6. Employment Opportunity – Firefighter/EMT – City of Groton**

The City of Groton is seeking to hire one (1) qualified candidate for the position of Firefighter/EMT.

High school diploma or equivalent. Education and certifications addressed in the position description (CT Firefighter 1 and a basic CT Emergency Medical Technician certification) are required at time of application.

The candidate must possess a valid Candidate Physical Abilities Test Card (CPAT) earned within twelve months prior to job offer. The starting salary is \$44,965.37 plus full benefit package.

Pre-employment physical exam including drug screen, lifting evaluation, psychological, physical and references are required.

Applications and position description can be downloaded at [www.cityofgroton.com](http://www.cityofgroton.com) or obtained in person at the Groton Utilities Customer Service Division.

**Submit application with copies of certifications** to the HR Director, 295 Meridian Street, Groton, CT 06340 by **4:00 p.m. on July 8, 2016**.

The City of Groton reserves the right to extend the closing date without additional notice or to re-advertise for the position. **AA/EOE**

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## **7. Zika Virus Informational Bulletin**

See attached important information for all First Responders about the Zika virus disease (Zika). The purpose of the document is to provide facts about the virus including the degree to

which it may be transmitted, and guidance for First Responders who may come in contact with an individual suspected of carrying the virus.

[2016-14 Zika Virus - Important Information](#)  
[2016-14 Zika Virus - Basics](#)

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## 8. CFPC/CFA Follow us on **Twitter**

For the latest fire service news and information follow the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection's Commission on Fire Prevention and Control – Connecticut Fire Academy on its official Twitter page **@CTCFPC**

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## 9. Firefighter Near Miss Report of the Week

### Firefighter Falls from Second Story Window during Training

#### SUMMARY

Situational awareness is just as important during training events as they are during actual emergencies. In this week's report, during bailout drills, a firefighter bailed out a second-floor window that he mistakenly thought was on the first-floor level.

#### EVENT DESCRIPTION

An officer and a firefighter were participating in bailout-drill training. Their masks were covered to obstruct their vision and they were disoriented. The team followed a hose line down a flight of stairs to what they thought was a window on the first floor and a window to exit.

The firefighter bailed out of the window, thinking he was on the first floor and the distance to the ground was minimal. Unfortunately, he was actually bailing out of the second-floor window without a belay or ladder to assist, resulting in a fall with substantial injuries. Following recovery from a pelvis and a right-clavicle fracture, the firefighter returned to work six weeks later.

[View the report: Firefighter Falls from Second Floor Window During Training](#)

#### TAKE-AWAYS

It's always important to keep training as realistic as possible and to allow personnel to make so-called safe errors to learn from. However, instructors must always have students within sight to prevent them from making a dangerous mistake.

Safety walkthroughs before such training are essential, even during disorientation drills.

In this instance, there was a lack of appropriate supervision. Reinforcement of communication between firefighters and instructional staff increases the value of the training and improves its safety.

Conducting drills on proper search techniques may also be better served in separate training scenarios. Mixing high-risk training such as firefighter bailout techniques with other skills proved to be unfavorable in this instance.

## **DISCUSSION**

- How does your department incorporate various skills into multifaceted training drills? Discuss when safety measures were not at their best.
- Who manages safety at training drills and is responsible for preventing similar incidents like this one? Are they present or identified at every drill?
- How do the various members of your crew or department keep track of their location inside a smoke-filled building? How are the skills and equipment different when operating in residential, commercial and industrial structures?
- Review your department's mayday policy or guideline. What do your members need to communicate to facilitate a rescue? What are they to do for self-rescue?

## **LEADING PRACTICES**

Firefighters must be fluent in orientation skills. We can practice these off duty in large structures, such as grocery stores or parking garages, by observing what cardinal direction we face and constantly orientating ourselves to the Alpha, Bravo, Charlie or Delta sides of the building. This isn't done under the stress of a fireground, but it uses similar skills that may prove beneficial during these scenarios.

Before training, make sure you're aware of who's watching out for your safety. Instructors must designate a safety officer and assign enough assistant instructors to make sure the drill is conducted safely. A quick safety briefing before a drill or evolution to review possible scenarios where injuries or accidents may occur is always recommended.

Finally, constantly communicate with those you're partnered with to improve situational awareness during an evolution. If you feel as though you're ascending or descending stairs, moving from one story to the next, communicate that to your partner and via radio to those on scene. If you aren't sure, ask. Communication just may be the difference between a successful training evolution and a near-tragic event such as this one.

If suddenly surrounded by a cloud of ash and dust, do your best to hold your breath as long as possible. Recall from experience or training how far you can move on one breath! If the gas is superheated, get low to escape the heat.

## **RELATED NEAR MISS REPORTS**

- [Ladder Bailout Training Injures Firefighter](#)
- [Firefighter Falls During Rope Descent Survival Drill](#)
- [Firefighter Falls During VES Training](#)

## **ADDITIONAL RESOURCES**

- [IAFC's Safety & Health: Performance Metrics—The Value of Leading AND Lagging Indicators](#)
  - [FireEngineering Training Minutes: The Importance of Bailout Training](#)
  - [National Fallen Firefighter's Courage to Be Safe Program \(Online\)](#)
- [IAFF Fire Ground Survival Training Program](#)

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### **10. Colchester Emergency Communication (Station KX) Operations Closure**

From the New London County Fire Chiefs Communications Committee:

As a reminder, dispatch operations from Colchester Emergency Communications (Station KX) will end at 0001 hours 1 July 2016 (Midnight Thursday into Friday).

The follow responsibilities are being transferred:

#### **New London County Towns dispatched by KX**

- Bozrah Fire/EMS Quinebaug Valley Emergency Communications
- Colchester Fire/EMS Quinebaug Valley Emergency Communications
- Salem Fire Quinebaug Valley Emergency Communications
- Gardner Lake Fire/EMS Quinebaug Valley Emergency Communications

#### **Hartford County Town dispatched by KX**

- Marlborough Fire/EMS Tolland County Emergency Communications

#### **Middlesex County Towns dispatched by KX**

- East Haddam Fire/EMS Valley Shore Emergency Communications
- East Hampton Fire/EMS Glastonbury Police

#### **Middlesex Paramedics**

- Middletown Medic Valley Shore Emergency Communications
  - Marlborough Medic Valley Shore Emergency Communications
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