



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

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### 1. **Special CPAT Sessions**

The Connecticut Fire Academy is offering *two special sessions of CPAT* this Summer. Candidates that register to attend will take CPAT under test conditions. Those that successfully pass will receive a CPAT completion certificate. Registration is limited to 50 candidates per session. The two special sessions will take place on July 23<sup>rd</sup> and August 6<sup>th</sup> beginning at 8am. The Registration fee is \$100 for each session. Please use the following link to register **ONLY** for the Special Sessions:

<https://ctlms.ct.gov/Saba/Web/Main> All those interested **must** use the online system.

The CFA is not accepting registrations for the special CPAT sessions over the phone, faxed, or mailed applications. The regular Fall session of CPAT is also accepting applications thru July 21<sup>st</sup>. Registration for the Fall CPAT sessions are not connected with the two special sessions.

For further information or questions, please contact CPAT Program Manager Jason Decremer at 860-264-9242 or [jason.decremer@ct.gov](mailto:jason.decremer@ct.gov)

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### 2. **Firefighter Near Miss Report of the Week**

**After an all clear, FFs found themselves held at gun point**

## **SUMMARY**

This week's report brings to the front what could occur as we respond to gun-violence events. Firefighters must keep their situational awareness and ensure that tunnel vision does not lead them into an unsafe scenario.

## **EVENT DESCRIPTION**

My partner and I were dispatched to an assault with gun shots fired and reports of several people down. Upon arrival, we were staged a block away, awaiting the police department to confirm that the scene was safe. We were both experienced as firefighter paramedics; we both knew our SOPs very well and felt our actions were within our scope.

A few minutes into our staging time, several police cruisers flew by and checked on the scene. We waited for a few minutes and were advised that police had stabilized the scene, so we approached. When we turned the corner, we saw several cruisers parked with no officers in the area. Dispatch advised us that they had suspects in custody on an adjacent street, so we felt safe to enter.

When we pulled up, our initial assessment revealed two victims lying on the ground with obvious gunshot wounds. The first victim was obviously deceased so we approached the next and found a critical patient. We immediately began treatment. In the process of treating this patient, we failed to notice several people beginning to surround us. This crowd turned out to be gang members involved with the shooting and the patient we were treating was apparently on a rival gang. We found ourselves being held at gun point and told to leave the critical patient alone and go back to the first patient we found to "save" him.

We felt it prudent to obey their demand and left the patient lying on the ground. We then began treatment on the victim who had obviously fatal wounds and picked the patient up and moved him to our truck and immediately left the scene. We then advised dispatch of the situation and requested backup for the real patient left on scene.

## **TAKE-AWAYS**

These firefighters recognized that they failed to maintain situational awareness of the gathering crowd. In the lessons learned, they discussed the need to not only confirm that the scene is safe to enter from police, but also to have a police presence during the on- scene treatment phase, which may have potentially prevented this event.

With an increased likelihood of treating injured in warm zones of active-shooter situations, it's imperative to have an awareness of what's going on around you and what protection is needed.

## **DISCUSSION**

- What is your department's policies or guidelines in gaining access to scenes of violence?
- How are communications conducted between your police department and responding personnel? What training has been conducted between your agencies to clarify

expectations during patient assessment and care during such emergencies? What were some of the lessons learned from this training?

- How would you and your crew operate in a similar incident to ensure appropriate situational awareness and scene safety? Is having a constant police presence a viable option for your community? What other options are available for you, besides using law enforcement?
- What is the frequency of these events in your department? Have you changed how you respond to these incidents? If this response is common to you, discuss if complacency has set in to make your responders less aware of their surroundings. If this is a low-frequency response, discuss how you can be better prepared for such an incident.

### **LEADING PRACTICES**

Active-shooter events are unfortunately becoming increasingly prevalent. A national shift is gravitating to medical responders entering into warm zones, where there still exists a potential to be confronted by armed suspects. In order for firefighters and EMS personnel to have a safe and effective response, multidisciplinary/multijurisdictional training must be implemented. Having open communications with law-enforcement officials is paramount. This doesn't occur just at the chief officer level. Patrol officers and firefighters must also have similar conversations to increase awareness of best practices from both disciplines.

Having a police presence on these types of scenes accomplishes two vital objectives:

- Fire and EMS personnel are trained to concentrate on patient care, often overlooking the preservation of the crime scene; saving a life is the priority, but having a trained professional who is aware of the investigative process oversee any potential evidence could be instrumental in making an arrest.
- In this incident, there were only two EMS responders. Having a police presence provides a dedicated set of eyes on overall scene safety. Noticing gang members beginning to congregate could at least allow the medical providers to reevaluate patient care. Should violence break out again, police have the ability to neutralize further threats.

The fire service is constantly evolving. Scientific research has shifted how we operate on structure fire responses; medical technology has brought to the streets diagnosis tools once only available in emergency rooms. With regards to active-shooter responses, after-action reports discussing lessons learned have identified how first responders can better serve their communities in a safe manner during these violent emergencies. Take the time to review these after actions to ensure your response is safe and effective.

## RELATED NEAR MISS REPORTS

- [Fire Engine Struck by Bullet Returning to Station – with Pictures](#)
- [Patient Threatens Medics with Knife](#)
- [Shots fired during residential house fire alarm](#)
- [Shots fired at wellness check](#)

## ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- [Integrating Law Enforcement, Fire and Emergency Medical Services During Active Shooter/Hybrid Targeted Violence Incidents \(PDF\)](#)
- [IAFC On Scene: Is Your Department Prepared for Mass-Casualty Events?](#)
- [The Lancet: The medical response to multisite terrorist attacks in Paris](#)

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### 3. Middlesex County Fire Chiefs Association July Meeting Notice – **Tonight**

The Middlesex County Fire Chiefs Association regular monthly meeting will be held on Wednesday, July 13, 2016 at the Chester Fire Department beginning at 19:00 hours.

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### 4. Middlesex County Fire School Announces Fall Firefighter I Programs – Westfield and Clinton

The Middlesex County Fire School is presenting a Firefighter I course to be held at the **Westfield Fire Dept. in Middletown, CT**. This training class will meet the NFPA 1001 Standard for Firefighter Professional Qualifications for Firefighter I and will run on Wed. nights and weekends (NOTE: 3 Monday classes). IFSTA Essentials of Firefighting and Fire Department Operations 6<sup>th</sup> edition textbook will be used for this program. Students are required to provide this manual as it is NOT included in the tuition. Students must provide their own full protective clothing and SCBA with spare cylinder for classes. ALL STUDENTS MUST BE 18 YEARS OLD PRIOR TO FIRST DATE OF CLASS

Location: Westfield Fire Dept. 653 East Street., Middletown, CT

Cost: \$900

Hours: weeknights 1900hrs-completion, weekends start 0830hrs-completion

Start Date: Wednesday August 17, 2016

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The Middlesex County Fire School is presenting a Firefighter II course to be held in **Clinton, CT**. This training class will meet the NFPA 1001 Standard for Firefighter Professional Qualifications for Firefighter II and will run on Thursday nights and weekends. IFSTA Essentials of Firefighting and Fire Department Operations 6<sup>th</sup> edition textbook will be used for this program. Students are required to provide this manual as it is NOT included in the tuition. Students must provide their own full protective clothing and SCBA with spare cylinder for classes. ALL STUDENTS MUST BE 18 YEARS OLD PRIOR TO FIRST DATE OF CLASS

Location: Clinton Fire Dept., 35 East Main Street., Clinton, CT

Cost: \$650

Hours: weeknights 1900hrs-completion, weekends start 0830hrs-completion

Start Date: Thursday September 8, 2016

Send applications or inquiries to:

Jay Woron

Director, Middlesex County Fire School

58 Bystrek Drive

Middletown, CT 06457

860-635-5914

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## **5. Valley Fire School Announces Fall Firefighter II Program**

The application period for the Valley Fire Chiefs fall 2016 Firefighter II program is now open. The class will begin on September 7, 2016 and will be held on Wednesday evenings and some Sunday days. This program is being hosted by the Oxford Fire Dept and will be held at the Oxford Center firehouse. For more information or to apply online, go to [valleyfireschoolct.org](http://valleyfireschoolct.org) or email [jvincent@valleyfireschoolct.org](mailto:jvincent@valleyfireschoolct.org).

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## **6. 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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## **7. National Honor Guard Academy is Coming to CT**

The NHGA is one of the premier honor guard training units in the country. This week long course is dedicated to developing and elevating the ceremonial knowledge and skill level of honor guard units while reinforcing a sense of pride and compassion by upholding honor guard

traditions with precise attention to detail. The NHGA specializes in providing honor guard training to firefighters, police officers, and EMS personnel.

See attached for more information.

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