



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

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1. Ethanol Safety Seminar (Day/Night Sessions)

The Connecticut Fire Academy will be hosting a free Ethanol Safety Seminar on Tuesday, August 30, 2016. Both a day session (9am-2pm) and evening session are offered (5:30pm-10pm) with lunch / dinner provided. The program is open to emergency responders to include firefighters, EMS, LEPCs, Police and Safety Managers. See the attached flyer for additional information and registrations.

2. NUSAR Survey Request

Newtown Underwater Search and Rescue (NUSAR) is conducting a survey to establish how many INDEPENDENT Dive Rescue/recovery, and K9 SAR Teams (recognized by a Municipality) are currently operating with in Ct. This Survey is to assist NUSAR and our State representatives to amend the State Statute regarding Workers Compensation coverage. Please send replies to NUSAR at Chief@nusar.org

3. National Preparedness Month

September is recognized as National Preparedness Month (NPM) which serves as a reminder that we all must take action to prepare, now and throughout the year, for the types of emergencies that could affect us where we live, work, and also where we visit. Due to the success of last year's theme, "*Don't Wait, Communicate. Make Your Emergency Plan Today,*" will be returning for this September with a continuing emphasis on preparedness for youth, older adults, and people with disabilities and others with access and functional needs. For more information visit: <https://www.ready.gov/september>

4. Firefighter Near Miss Report of the Week

SCBA Complacency Result in Injury

SUMMARY

Before entering a burning structure, a firefighter didn't ensure that his SCBA was fully functioning and donned properly. Upon entry, he inhaled the interior smoke and combustion gases, resulting in injury and hospitalization. This week's report emphasizes the importance of the basics when donning our equipment.

EVENT DESCRIPTION

An engine crew arrived at a working structure fire in a single-story, wood-frame residence, with heavy smoke visible on Side A. The firefighters entered the front door to pursue an offensive interior attack, and they were met with heavy, dark smoke down to the floor level and high heat conditions.

Within two minutes of entering the structure, one of the firefighters inhaled two breaths of heated smoke and gas. The firefighter immediately exited the building and notified command. He was evaluated by paramedics and transported to the hospital for follow-up care. The firefighter's blood gases were normal for CO and other fire related gases, and he didn't suffer long-term residual injury.

Following the incident, the fire department conducted a full investigation on the chain of events. The firefighter had checked his equipment at the beginning of his shift, and all components were working properly. The SCBA was removed from service and certified technicians evaluated the mask and unit.

The firefighter was issued a new mask along with fit testing to confirm the seal. It was determined that the firefighter had been improperly storing the face piece and that his seal was potentially impaired as a result. It was also determined that the firefighter didn't completely open the valve on the bottle before entering the fire. All other causes were eliminated.

View the report: [Failure to open SCBA cylinder completely and poor facepiece seal result in inhalation injury](#)

TAKE-AWAYS

Regardless of the simplicity of the skill, there are always opportunities for training to enhance our proficiency with the basics. A failed simple task, such as not fully opening the SCBA cylinder, can slow the tempo of a fireground operation and can cause distractions when one of our own is injured. Making sure that our PPE is donned correctly is paramount when entering an IDLH environment.

This department conducted a full investigation after the event. While the report didn't delineate how the firefighter stored the mask, it highlights that we should review the manufacturer's recommendations on best practices for storage of equipment. While a shortcut may give us a few seconds' advantage, if that shortcut takes us off the fireground, it isn't worth it.

DISCUSSION

- What is your department's policy/guideline for SCBA use and operation? What are the best practices for SCBA donning and use?
- Before entering a hot zone or IDLH environment, what kinds of actions can personnel take to ensure that SCBAs and PPE are going to function correctly?
- What does your SCBA manufacturer's manual say about its operation and use? Specifically, how is it to be stored and what are the function checks when it is donned?
- What can your crew do to increase competency operating an SCBA and SCBA cylinder with a gloved hand?

LEADING PRACTICES

Researching LODD reports, you may notice that it's often the small things that add up to the root cause of a fatality. Regular drills on the basics are incredibly important. We can become complacent in our basic Firefighter I and II skills due to the high demand of various other types of knowledge, skills and abilities.

The proper use of an SCBA is the only barrier between your health and severe injury or death in many types of responses. We must ensure we hone the most basic tasks of our profession. Always, without fail, open your SCBA cylinder completely.

This report also mentions the importance for following manufacturer recommendations in use and storage of PPE. Like our previous Report of the Week that mentions the importance of proper equipment maintenance, following the guidance of the manufacturer applies to all the tools in our toolbox. Keeping our equipment clean and conducting regular function checks ensures serviceability. Every manufacturer is different, so it's important to review your manufacturer's recommendations for your PPE.

RELATED NEAR MISS REPORTS

- [SCBA Trouble during Search and Rescue Entry](#)
- [SCBA Storage Leads to Failure](#)
- [SCBA Becomes Dislodged during Attack](#)

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- [IAFC SCBA Survival Training Drills \(PDF\)](#)
- [Fire Training Tool Box Quick SCBA Drill \(PDF\)](#)
- [NIOSH LODD Report: Two FFs Found Unresponsive at Residential Fire \(PDF\)](#)
- [FirefighterNation Article: Tips for Proper SCBA Maintenance](#)

5. Kent Volunteer Fire Department Golf Tournament 9/12/2016

Dear Golfing Partners and Friends,

KVFD is having their 13th Annual Golf Tournament at the exclusive members only Bull's Bridge Golf Club in Kent, CT. Since 2004 BBGC has hosted this event, which has been well attended. The hole-in-one prize is a 4 day stay at the Lodge in Pebble Beach, CA for 2 with the opportunity to golf on 3 area courses and airfare is included. The closest to the pin prize is a \$50,000. cash prize and is shootout among the 4 closest golfers. Raffles and silent auction will be conducted. After your 18 holes there is a 3 course dinner at the Fife 'n Drum Restaurant in Kent, CT

Event: Kent Volunteer Fire Department Golf Tournament

Where: Bull's Bridge Golf Club 71 Bull's Bridge Road South Kent, CT

When: Monday September 12, 2016; 11:00 am Registration- 12:00pm Shotgun Start

Cost: \$250 per golfer

For KVFD Golf Tournament information, registration and sponsor forms go to www.kentfire.org/golf. For additional inquiries contact Scott R. Harvey at golf@kentfire.org

6. Employment Opportunity – Part Time Firefighter/EMT – Somers

The Somers Fire Department is accepting applications for part-time Firefighter/EMTs.

Minimum requirements include FF2, EMT (3+ years preferred), and Q or CDL.

The complete job description, requirements, and application can be found at:

<http://www.somersct.gov/jobs.cfm>

Applications are due by September 1st. The written test will be held on September 10th.

7. Dedication of 9-11 PATH Subway Car 745 Display @Shore Line Trolley Museum on September 11th the 15th Anniversary of 9-11 Terrorist Attack on America

On Sunday September 11th, which is the 15th Anniversary of 9-11, the Shore Line Trolley Museum at 12 noon will dedicate and open to the public for the first time, PATH Car 745. There is expected to be a brief ceremony with area public officials and first responders participating.

On September 11, 2001, Car 745 was the lead car (on the north end) of a 7-car train which had left Hoboken at 8:42 AM, arrived on Track 3 at about 8:52, and was due to depart the loop station at 9:00 AM for the return trip to New Jersey. Behind it were cars 143-160-845-750-139-612. When the unthinkable happened, the entire PATH station was ordered evacuated, employees included. As a result, there was no loss of life on the train or in the station.

Since the car's arrival at its permanent home, the Trolley Museum has designed and built a special display that will allow visitors to the museum to go into the car and actually experience what thousands of passengers had experienced daily traveling from NJ to the World Trade Center everyday going to work. The car is exactly as it was found.

It was a Sunday in 2001, but Peter Rinaldi, a senior engineering manager with the Port Authority of New York & New Jersey was working another long, grueling day at "ground zero," coordinating the logistics of the recovery operation. He opened an intact emergency exit hatchway on West Street near Vesey Street and entered, along with several other engineers, police and fire personnel, into the north tube of the PATH system's loop through the World Trade Center site. They had no idea what to expect. The tunnel was flooded

and so small rafts were employed. Paddling through a remarkably intact section of the tunnel and following the submerged track way, they found themselves at the north end of the 5-track PATH WTC station. There Peter climbed onto the platform and walked through the doors of Car 745, still open and waiting for the passengers that never came back on 9/11. He stepped aboard the car and into the operating cab and at that moment became determined that, somehow, this car must be saved. Over 14 years later, his vision became a reality as Car 745 touched down on trolley museum rails and became part of its collection.

The museum has also worked with a child's book author Marie Betts Bartlett to craft a child's book about Car 745 who has become Poppy and the book describes Poppy's purpose. The books will be available at the opening on 9-11.

The museum invites you to attend the dedication and then board the car and experience riding a PATH car on 9-11 2001. Due to the change in traffic patterns because of the Fall Festival, visitors are asked to use Foote Road to attend this event. For more information on this exhibit and all Shore Line Trolley information go to: www.shorelinetrolley.org

PLEASE DO NOT REPLY TO THIS EMAIL