



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

- 1. CFDIA September Meeting**
- 2. Connecticut Fire Chiefs Association Receives Safer Grant**
- 3. National Campus Fire Safety Month Quiz/Sweepstakes to Raise Awareness of Cooking Fire Hazards**
- 4. Firefighter Near Miss Report of the Week**
- 5. Written Exam Prep Course**
- 6. From Baby Wipes to Annual Physicals: Fighting Cancer in the Fire Service Free Webinar**
- 7. IAFC First Responder Donation**

1. CFDIA September Meeting

The next meeting of the Connecticut Fire Department Instructors Association (CFDIA) will be held at the Connecticut Fire Academy on September 7th at 9:00 a.m. Also as a reminder, the annual banquet will be held at the Manor Inn in Southington, this year the dinner will be held on Thursday, October 6th, with a Social Hour starting at 6:00. The Dick Sylvia and Harry Kelly award recipients will be announced shortly.

2. Connecticut Fire Chiefs Association Receives Safer Grant

\$1.12 Million Will Assist Communities in Recruiting and Retaining Volunteer Firefighters

August 31, 2016 | Glastonbury, Connecticut – The Connecticut Fire Chiefs Association (CFCA) proudly announces its receipt of a Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) Recruitment and Retention grant from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security in the amount of approximately \$1.12 million. The grant will allow the CFCA to continue its partnership with the Volunteer Workforce Solutions (VWS) team of the International Association of Fire Chiefs (IAFC) in an effort to assist communities in achieving a viable and sustainable volunteer firefighting workforce. This will be the third phase of the CFCA VWS program, also referred to as Everyday Hero CT.

“The CFCA is proud to spearhead this program that sets out to increase the operational readiness of the Connecticut fire service as a whole, to further improve services to the residents and visitors of the state of Connecticut,” says CFCA President Michael Thurz. “The CFCA thanks all of the Connecticut Congressional Delegates for their continued support of the program.”

Phases I and II of the CFCA VWS program established the Everyday Hero CT program and yielded significant interest in the volunteer fire service throughout the state of Connecticut. Almost 300 new members joined the 15 departments selected to participate in the program. Those departments received recruitment and retention support from the CFCA through marketing campaigns, media assistance, mentoring programs, technology, and leadership training. Phase III will seek to improve recruitment and retention in Connecticut based on lessons learned and data acquired during the first two phases. It will be a multi-faceted approach that will benefit many Connecticut departments and eventually have a nationwide impact.

For more information about the CFCA visit www.connecticutfirechiefs.com. The Connecticut Volunteer Workforce Solutions website is available at www.everydayheroct.org.

3. National Campus Fire Safety Month Quiz/Sweepstakes to Raise Awareness of Cooking Fire Hazards

NFPA and The Center for Campus Fire Safety co-host quiz to address increase in cooking-related fires on and off campuses

September is Campus Fire Safety Month and this year the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) and The Center for Campus Fire Safety (The Center) are teaming up to host their second national campaign with an online Campus Fire Safety Quiz & Sweepstakes (Quiz) titled, “What Kind of Cook are You in the Kitchen?” The Quiz raises awareness about the dangers of cooking fires among college-aged students who live in on- and off-campus housing.

Video

Caption: “What Kind of Cook are You in the Kitchen?” College-aged students are asked to test their cooking fire safety knowledge through an interactive quiz and enter a sweepstakes for a chance to win an American Express gift card.

According to NFPA’s recent report, “Structure Fires in Dormitories, Fraternities, Sororities and Barracks,” between 2010 and 2014, U.S. fire departments responded to an estimated annual average of 3,970 structure fires in dormitories, fraternities, sororities and other related properties. Approximately seven in 10 fires (71 percent) in these properties began in the kitchen or cooking area. The vast majority (86 percent) of fires in these properties involved cooking equipment. Unattended cooking was the most common cause of cooking fires.

The report also states that newer dormitories are more likely to have kitchens in suite-style apartments rather than more traditional dorms, further increasing the potential for cooking-related fires.

“With more access to kitchens, students are making more meals or snacks using stoves and ovens, often for the first time and without proper training,” said Lorraine Carli, vice president of Outreach and Advocacy for NFPA. “The campaign encourages students living on- and off-campus to know the risks and the preventative actions that can save their lives.”

The Quiz, available online from September 1 – 30 on [The Center's website](#), targets students currently enrolled in an institution of higher education. By participating, students will be able to recognize unsafe practices and learn appropriate ways to cook meals that will reduce the risk for injury and damage caused by fire. Students who complete the Quiz will be entered into a sweepstakes where two winners will be randomly selected to receive a \$500 American Express gift card.

According to Michael J. Swain, president of The Center for Campus Fire Safety, encouraging students to share this information with their peers will send a strong fire safety message that will be remembered going forward. “With the beginning of the school year,” he says, “The Center continues its mission to make campuses and off-campus housing safer for students. We were pleased to see there were no student deaths in the 2015-2016 school year.”

From 2000 through October 2014, however, The Center states that 126 students died in 89 fires on college campuses, in Greek housing, or in privately owned off-campus housing within three miles of the campus. Of those, 107 deaths occurred in fires in off-campus housing.

The campaign provides a host of resources for students, parents and fire safety educators that focus on the dangers of cooking. The resources have been designed for sharing via social media, on college websites, and for posting in dorms and on common area bulletin boards. They include:

- Videos
- Checklists
- Tips sheets
- Infographics and flyers
- Posters

Learn more about the Quiz/Sweepstakes at www.campusfiresafety.org/cooking. Find additional resources for students, parents and fire safety educators at <http://www.nfpa.org/campus>.

4. Firefighter Near Miss Report of the Week **Firefighter Fails to Call All-Stop During New-Equipment Training**

SUMMARY

When new equipment is being placed in service, proper training between all personnel is paramount. This training could draw administrative chiefs out to see the equipment in action. This week's report, a younger firefighter was uncomfortable to call an all-stop during training of a new piece of rope rescue equipment. This led to a firefighter falling and injuring their ankle.

EVENT DESCRIPTION

Our department was using a new piece of equipment during high angle training involving picking off a victim. We have a very young department with little experience in technical rescue. During the event a victim was lowered over the edge and the rescuer was also over the edge. After the pick off had occurred the team did a raising scenario using a mechanical advantage. Now everything was going okay until they went back to a lowering system to get victim and rescuer to the ground. The new captain was training and overseeing as safety when the chief and assistant chief were on the roof asking questions of the new

equipment.

During the changeover of raising to lowering system the rope was in an awkward location for the young firefighter, and his lack of experience he did not want to stop the scenario that was going on. The young firefighter let go of the rope and held open the lowering device to reposition his hands. At this time is when the victim and the rescuer fell about 10 feet to the concrete sidewalk below, injuring the rescuer's ankle.

View the report: [Technical Rescue Training Results in FF Injury.](#)

TAKE-AWAYS

Any time a new piece of equipment is introduced into the department, it is imperative to conduct extensive training by a qualified instructor to ensure all personnel are familiar with the device. Situations may occur where firefighters when training on new equipment, don't want to show in front of others their unfamiliarity with the exercise. In these situations, your department's culture must allow for anyone to call an all-stop without feeling uncomfortable thus allowing the instructor to focus on a safer learning experience.

Also, a risk/benefit analysis should be conducted during the planning phase of training highlighting where injuries could be more prevalent or severe should something go awry. For this instance, either using mannequins for training or utilizing a less risky scenario (such as rope rescue training at lower heights) may also achieve the goal of firefighters becoming familiar with the equipment while not putting other's at jeopardy.

DISCUSSION

- Who conducts the training of new equipment for your department? How common is it for your department to use the equipment's sales representative to oversee initial training? Do all members of the department have access and review the manufacturer recommendations manuals with regards to the use of new equipment?
- Review with your younger personnel the concepts of "Crew Resource Management", with the specifics of having the ability to call an all-stop. Discuss how best to convey that you are uncomfortable with a situation with firefighters of all rank or experience.
- When conducting risky training, such as technical rescue, discuss as a crew how you can provide a safer training environment. Brainstorm ideas on how these evolutions can ensure a quality learning environment but also reduce the risk for injuries.

LEADING PRACTICES

Recognition Primed Decision Making (a decision maker will pick up cues and indicators that let them recognize patterns) is how firefighters are able to make sound decisions in a split second with normally achieving a positive outcome. This holds true, only when we have something to recognize in the first place. In order to recognize a similar response, we must either have experienced a similar emergency event or reviewed/demonstrated a similar experience in training. Technical rescues can be few and far between, requiring us to rely on the review similar responses in order to accomplish our mission effectively.

This unique training must be efficient and effective in order to cross over to the streets in a safe and effective manner. We must provide a positive learning environment where we can concentrate on best practices and increase our knowledge base. Too often, we believe that to adequately experience a realistic training scenario, we must match the risk to an actual emergency. This concept can defeat our intended purpose of

training in the first place.

During trainings with a high risk for injury, everyone in the training scenario must act as a safety officer. This is from the youngest firefighter to the most seasoned fire chief. If you see something, you **MUST** say something. Training events must be designed to allow for an all stop to occur at a moment's notice to review the situation. According to the NFPA, over 6,800 firefighters were injured during training in 2014 alone. No training event is worth the risk of an injury or death.

RELATED NEAR MISS REPORTS

- [Firefighter Falls During Confined Space Training](#)
- [Rescuer Falls from the Fourth Floor to the Third Floor During Training](#)
- [Technical Rope Rescue Drill Mishap](#)

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- [IAFC's Crew Resource Management Manual \(PDF\)](#)
- [NFPA Report: Firefighter Injuries – 2014 \(PDF\)](#)
- [FireEngineering Article: Crew Resource Management for the Fire Service](#)
- [FireRescue1 Article: Planning prevents firefighter training injuries](#)

5. Written Exam Prep Course

Planning to take the Greenwich, Norwich, Suffield, or Westchester entry-level firefighter exam? Larus Institute will teach one-day prep classes on both September 17 and 18 in Norwalk. The class prepares for all tests - written, computer, and even video; shows how to write a good resume; and even introduces interview techniques. For information and to register, go to www.publicsafetyprep.com.

6. From Baby Wipes to Annual Physicals: Fighting Cancer in the Fire Service Free Webinar

On September 7th, from 12 noon-1300 hours (EST) Gordon Graham's company LEXIPOL is presenting this very unique webinar.

The participants will be these very well-known veteran firefighters, fire officers and cancer survivors:

-Fire Engineering/FDIC's Fire Chief Bobby Halton

-National Fallen Firefighter Foundation's Chairman, Fire Chief Dennis Compton

-Billy Goldfeder, The Secret List

In this "packed with facts and some opinion" webinar, we are going to cover:

---Research from around the United States, Canada and the world that helps us better understand the firefighter occupational cancer risk.

---What's being done COLLABORATIVELY in the North American fire service to take firefighter occupational cancer head on.

---Steps firefighters and company officers can take, on scene and off, to lower their cancer risk.

---The role of fire department policy in reducing firefighter cancer risk.
---Resources that firefighters and their families can draw on if they're facing a cancer diagnosis, as well as how to get involved to help.

THIS IS A GREAT NO COST OPPORTUNITY to sign up individually, as a crew or as a shift to gather round the screen...or even the department, all to raise awareness and to truly understand the **LATEST FACTS related to occupational cancer in the fire service.**

To sign up, click here:

<https://attendeegotowebinar.com/register/1224341758443358466>

7. IAFC First Responder Donation

Do you know a first responder who is experiencing financial difficulties as a result of serious injuries suffered in the line of duty? Thanks to an extraordinary donation from an IAFC corporate partner, five first responders in financial need nominated through the IAFC will each receive a \$20,000 donation.

The IAFC and three other public-safety organizations have been invited by the partner to solicit nominations as part of the partnership. A total of \$400,000 will be awarded through the four organizations. The IAFC will forward nominations received to the partner, which will then select and announce the award recipients in a few weeks.

The IAFC is accepting nominations through **11:59 PM (EDT), Friday, September 2**. IAFC membership is not required to submit a nomination.

Tell Us Your Story

While it's a short turnaround to submit nominations, the benefits are substantial. Simply tell the story of how the first responder you know was injured in the line of duty and the subsequent financial hardship.

The nominations received will be forwarded to partner executives who will review and select the five recipients. Their selections will be based on the individuals' financial needs and how compelling their stories are.

Eligibility

- Open only to firefighter and emergency responders in U.S. agencies. Local, state and federal responders are all eligible. Career and volunteer responders are eligible.
- The injury may have occurred at any time in the firefighter/responder's career, but the individual must still be alive and living with the effects of the injury.
- The firefighter/responder must have experienced a serious physical injury to be considered.
- The injury should be serious enough to have had a long-lasting impact on the firefighter/responder's ability to do his or her original job. The individual may still be working—in firefighting or emergency medical leadership, other ancillary industries, etc.—or not working due to the impact of the injury.

The head of the firefighter/responder's agency when injured must be comfortable with this individual's story being made public. The IAFC will confirm this with the agency head.

To Nominate

Please send the following information:

- Your name, title, department/agency, phone number and email address.
- Your nominee's name, title, department/agency, phone number and email address.
- A Word document detailing the incident in which the injury occurred, the nature and severity of the injuries and the financial challenges suffered as a result of the injuries. The more details provided, the better your odds are of being selected.

Email nominations to Jim Philipps no later than **11:59 PM (EDT), Friday, September 2.**

PLEASE DO NOT REPLY TO THIS EMAIL