



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

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1. Rescue Week and Beyond – Revised - Program Flyer and Application

The Connecticut Fire Academy is pleased to announce the delivery of Rescue Week and Beyond – expanding the traditional Rescue Week to encompass the weeks between October 1st and October 28th. The course offerings for Rescue Week and Beyond have been designed to provide many new training opportunities and the new dynamic schedule includes evening and weekend offerings that will be more convenient and accessible for individuals working weekday shifts. New RIT and Rope Programs will include a competitive aspect, complete with trophies and exciting awards for winning teams. Course offerings have been expanded to meet the needs of a wider audience including career and volunteer Fire Service personnel, EMS providers, Fire Cadets/Explorers, USAR and CERT personnel. Attached, please find the program flyer and application. Don’t delay, sign up today!

2. Enfield’s September 11th Memorial Event

On Sunday September 11, 2016 Enfield Fire District #1 will pay tribute to the victims of that fateful day fifteen years ago by hosting a parade and vigil ceremony at the 9/11 Memorial Tribute Garden located at Station #2 at 199 Weymouth Road, Enfield, CT. Parade begins at 4:00pm from Porter and Chester on Weymouth Rd to Station #2.

Please see attached

3. Fire Instructor I Class Hosted by Wolcott Company 2

Seats remain for a Fire Instructor I class hosted by Wolcott Fire Department Company 2. Classes to be held on 6 Sundays September 11, 18, 25, October 2, 16, 23 with a written exam date of 11/6/16. Cost is \$390 not including required text. For more information contact Captain Brian Andrews BAndrews@wolcottvfd.com. Flyer attached.

4. Firefighter Near Miss Report of the Week

Apparatus is Struck by Bullet Returning from Call

SUMMARY

It is imperative for firefighters to understand the law enforcement community is not the only target with regards to the careless or unlawful use of firearms. This week's report is a reminder that we must be vigilant when in our communities. This apparatus was struck by a bullet when returning from a call.

EVENT DESCRIPTION

The firefighters were returning from a call when they heard a shot and simultaneously the windshield broke, spraying glass all over the cab of the engine. The driver immediately stopped the apparatus and everyone checked themselves for injuries. The captain notified the battalion chief, advising that the engine had been struck by something and their windshield was shattered. The battalion chief then requested police and EMS to respond to the scene.

After checking themselves for injuries they could see where a bullet had entered through the curved portion of the upper left corner of the windshield, ricocheted against the windshield's flat part, and dropped to the dash. The scene was investigated by police, and the company was placed in a reserve apparatus.

The driver was sprayed by the glass from the windshield, and while he received no cuts, went home for the night. The captain received a few minor cuts around his neck but did not require medical attention. The two firefighters in the back were not affected by the glass.

View the report: [Fire Engine Struck by Bullet Returning to Station - with pictures](#)

TAKE-AWAYS

The reporter discussed two important lessons learned from this event. After the bullet was found, the apparatus stayed in place. It would have been better to leave the area first to finish investigating the damage in a secure location. In the report, the investigation deemed that this was a random act, however, if this were a malicious act, the firefighters were still in danger by immediately stopping and then staying.

The battalion chief made an excellent choice to dispatch police and EMS immediately after learning of the event. The reporter stated the fire department was not prepared to appropriately work with law enforcement on the investigation of the incident. The report stated that it is imperative for fire departments to work with police to develop a plan for such events.

DISCUSSION

- Discuss the relationships between police and fire departments in your area. How can you improve the working relationships with your law enforcement community?
- Review your operating guideline or protocol for apparatus accidents? How would you change your actions in a shooting incident similar to this report?
- Does your fire department have a plan for requesting an expedited police presence in situations such as an active shooter, civil unrest or potential firefighter hostage? How would you request a police presence on the radio when you are not in a position to use plain talk communications?
- Talk with law enforcement representatives about their investigation process. What do you need to be mindful of after a shooting incident to ensure a smooth response from both your agencies?

LEADING PRACTICES

Firefighters are being exposed to acts of violence across the country. From mass casualty active shooter to the single victim gunfire, we find ourselves adapting our response matrix in order to best serve our citizens in a safe manner. Certain jurisdictions are moving away from the concepts of staging several miles away waiting for law enforcement to clear a shooting scene. Discussions of “warm zone” responses in shooting situations and the issuance of ballistic vests are currently hot topics.

Despite how your department responds to shooting incidents, our job is inherently dangerous and there is no complete guarantee that we will never face violent individuals, aimed to target fire service professionals. If there aren't department-wide policies in place, start planning within your company on how to react, should you be involved in gunfire. This is where a high level of situational awareness is paramount.

Having a dialogue with your local law enforcement is also vital to ensure an appropriate response. Knowing their mindset in these scenarios can alleviate confusion between responders. Having a discussion on the various priorities between the two agencies makes for a more streamlined response. Patients can be treated on the front end, but a successful investigation to prevent another incident could also save lives.

RELATED NEAR MISS REPORTS

- [Violent patient sets up personnel for injury.](#)
- [Firearm Pulled on Paramedics During Assessment.](#)
- [Self Inflicted GSW on the Scene of MVC.](#)

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- [IAFC On-Scene Article: Is Your Department Ready for a Mass Casualty Incident?](#)
- [NIOSH LODD Report: Career Lieutenant Killed and Fire Fighter Injured By Gunfire While Responding To Medical Assistance Call](#)
- [FireEngineering Article: Safe Response to Civil Unrest Incidents](#)
- [USFA Recommendations for Organization and Operations During Civil Disturbance \(pdf\)](#)

5. Beyond Hoses and Helmets: Leadership for Volunteer & Combination Departments

The Manchester 8th District Fire Department is sponsoring the program Beyond Hoses and Helmets: Leadership for Volunteer & Combination Departments on Saturday and Sunday, September 24-25th. Cost:

\$25 per person. Program presenters are Melvin Byrne and Larry Curl. See attached fliers for more information or contact Captain Danielle Cowee at dcowee@mfd8th.org

6. Save the Date: October 28 - Recruitment & Retention Seminar: Lessons Learned

On Friday, October 28, the Connecticut Volunteer Workforce Solutions (VWS) program will be hosting a recruitment and retention seminar that will discuss the lessons learned from Phase II of our FEMA SAFER grant and discuss firsthand recruitment and retention success stories that Connecticut departments have experienced.

This training is open to up-and-coming officers, company officers and chief officers, but will benefit attendees of any rank. Departments are encouraged to invite their elected officials, town managers, and others to contribute to the dialogue.

All departments in Connecticut are welcome to attend! More information about this seminar will be sent out soon. Breakfast and lunch will be provided.

Questions?

Contact Abena Bonso-Bruce by email or at 703-896-4836.

7. 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

PLEASE DO NOT REPLY TO THIS EMAIL