Residential Home Fires have Become the Most Dangerous Firefight You Will Face

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Connecticut Fire Academy

2010 Seminar Series

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Although firefighters respond to all types of hazards, many line-of-duty injuries and deaths occur during the typical "bread and butter" residential fire. An investigation of 21 separate incidents between 1997 and 2008 by the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) Fire Fighter Fatality Investigation and Prevention Program highlights the problem. These incidents involved fire fighting operations in residential buildings and resulted in 26 fatalities and 11 injuries. These deaths and injuries were due to rapidly spreading fire in areas of unprotected wood construction, the collapse of unprotected dimensional lumber or the collapse of lightweight engineered wood components. In an effort to heighten awareness regarding these issues this workshop will present: case studies of fireground incidents involving unprotected combustible wood construction, developing trends in modern residential fire behavior, a review of the construction features of traditional and modern residential construction, traditional standardized testing methods used to categorize fire resistive building elements and relevant findings from research projects being conducted on the fire performance of lightweight construction by nationally recognized research organizations.

The workshop will highlight findings of the research project entitled, "The Structural Stability of Engineered Lumber in Fire Conditions" conducted by the Chicago Fire Department, Underwriters Laboratories, the International Association of Fire Chiefs, and Michigan State University. Participants will review video and photographs highlighting the failure times of the tested assemblies, limitations of thermal imaging devices, structural modeling techniques and will also be provided with an introduction to the interactive web based outreach program developed for the research project. The workshop will discuss fireground size up techniques, risk management strategies and tactical recommendations for firefighting operations in residential buildings constructed with unprotected dimensional lumber or lightweight engineered wood components.

Presenters: James M. Dalton Coordinator of Research and Development and Battalion Chief Peter Van Dorpe both from the Chicago IL Fire Department

Course # 11049 **Course Fee: $55.00** **Class held at the Connecticut Fire Academy**

All Seminar Series presentations are scheduled from 8:30 am until 4:30 pm, registration begins at 8 am. Lunch is included. Acceptance confirmation notices, with directions, will be mailed approximately two weeks prior to the start of the program. Students canceling seven days in advance will receive a full refund. Application forms can be duplicated or downloaded from **www.ct.gov/cfpc** and returned via fax or mail with payment. Additional questions can be directed to Program Manager Mark Salafia, phone 877-528-3473 ext 286 or email mark.salafia@ct.gov

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