Seats remain available for the next Seminar Series scheduled for Friday August 20, 2010 at the Connecticut Fire Academy. The presentation is Residential Home Fires have Become the Most Dangerous Firefight You Will Face, course #11049. The program is delivered by: James Dalton, Coordinator of Research and Development, Chicago (IL) Fire Department and Peter Van Dorpe, Battalion Chief, Chicago (IL) Fire Department. Registration begins at 0800 and the seminar is scheduled from 0830 to 1630, the seminar cost is $55.00 which includes lunch.

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.

Speakers Bios:

James M. Dalton
Coordinator of Research and Development
Chicago Fire Department

James M. Dalton, FF/EMT is currently the Coordinator of Research and Development and a fire service instructor for the Chicago Fire Department. Mr. Dalton also serves as an adjunct instructor for the City Colleges of Chicago Fire Science and Technology program and is a technical consultant for the Illinois Fire Service Institute specializing in Structural Collapse Operations. Mr. Dalton holds an Associates degree of Applied Science in Fire Science and Technology from the City Colleges of Chicago. He also holds a Baccalaureate and Masters Degree of Architectural Structures from the University of Illinois. Mr. Dalton is also currently a candidate in the Public Safety Administration Masters program with Lewis University.

Mr. Dalton's experience in the fire service is preceded by over 12 years of combined academic and professional experience in areas of structural engineering, architecture and construction management. Mr. Dalton has served as an educator in the areas of structural design and building technology at numerous architectural programs throughout his tenure. His past experiences include the following: Assistant Professor and Structures Program Chair for the School of Architecture at the University of Illinois at Chicago, Adjunct Associate Professor of Architecture at Washington University in St. Louis and Adjunct Associate Professor of Architecture at Judson College. He has served has visiting faculty and guest speaker at many collegiate institutions throughout the United States. He is currently engaged with providing presentations on building construction and lightweight construction topics through his work has program manager and subject matter expert for The Department of Homeland Security's Assistant to Firefighters Grant research program entitled, "The Structural Stability of Engineered Lumber Under Fire Conditions". These lectures have been presented at numerous national fire service and design professional venues.

Pete Van Dorpe
Battalion Chief
Chicago, IL FD

Battalion Chief Peter Van Dorpe is a 28 year veteran of the Chicago Fire Department and currently assigned to the 14th Battalion. He holds a Bachelor's degree in Fire Science Management from Southern Illinois University. He has made presentations on modern fireground challenges at FDIC, Firehouse Expo and the National Fire Academy. In addition to his work as a Field Instructor for the Illinois Fire Service Institute, he is a lead instructor for the Chicago Fire Department's Fire Officer School, and teaches building construction for the fire service through the City Colleges of Chicago. He has recently participated as a Subject Matter Expert for The Department of Homeland Security's Assistant to Firefighters Grant research program entitled "The Structural Stability of Engineered Lumber Under Fire Conditions". Chief Van Dorpe is known for his high energy presentations.