The adage that “there is strength in numbers” has been reinforced time and time again throughout history. It has been proven that large groups of people, organizations, and/or governments all working together toward a common cause can literally change the world — whether it was during periods of war, political processes, or civil and societal movements. Many examples of this can be cited, including our forefathers who ended British rule while forming our nation and Martin Luther King’s dream that focused our nation on becoming a better and more tolerant place.

Although not on as grand of scale as the previous examples, the fire service has also proven that organizations working in concert can achieve things that were not previously possible when individuals or organizations attempted them alone. Perhaps one of the earliest examples stems from the lack of national fire service training standards and accreditation or certification processes through the late 1960s and early 1970s. During this period, a consortium of major national fire service organizations formed the Joint Council of National Fire Service Organizations to address this and many other causes relevant to all fire service organizations and members. The IAFF, IAFC, NFPA®, and five other organizations participated in this consortium. The Joint Council formed the National Professional Qualifications Board (commonly referred to as the Pro Board), which led to the development of the first national professional qualifications standards and fire service accreditation process. The Joint Council dissolved in the late 1980s and turned over management and control of the professional qualifications standards and accreditation process to the NFPA®. It is clear that these accomplishments would have never been possible without all these organizations working together.

A more modern example of the success of fire service collaboration is the Congressional Fire Services Institute (CFSI). Because the fire service never previously had an organized voice at the federal level, we often found ourselves at the bottom of the barrel when it came to federal support. This changed in 1989 when the CFSI was formed as a nonprofit, nonpartisan policy institute designed to educate Congress about the fire and emergency services. Today, more than 40 fire-service and related organizations participate in the CFSI National Advisory Committee that plays a critical role in developing CFSI’s legislative agenda. Clearly, much of the success that the fire service has enjoyed at the federal level in recent years, including the Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program, SAFER, and the Public Safety Officer Benefit Program, would not have happened nor continued without the collaboration of these organizations working through the CFSI.

IFSTA has always been an active supporter of — and participant in — collaboration among state and national fire service organizations. IFSTA was a charter member of the Joint Council and remains a staunch supporter of the NFPA® and the standards making process. IFSTA supports more than 20 principal or alternate members of NFPA® professional qualifications standards or related committees.

For many years, IFSTA/Fire Protection Publications has also served as the publishing and distribution arm of the National Incident Management System Consortium and its IMS Model Procedures Guides. More recently, IFSTA and FPP have assisted or worked together with a variety of other organizations on a series of important projects that will benefit the fire service. These projects include the following:

- Managing cooperative agreements with the U.S. Fire Administration (USFA) to develop research reports on Traffic Incident Management Systems and Emergency Vehicle Conspicuity and Visibility
- Assisting the IAFC Foundation in final production and printing of its new text on fire station design
- Assisting the Cumberland Valley Volunteer Firefighter’s Association with editing, final production, and printing of its white paper on Fire Service Reputation Management
- Assisting the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation with developing and publishing a college-level textbook to support classes on the implementation of its 16 Life Safety Initiatives

IFSTA and FPP are very proud of our legacy of cooperation and partnership with other fire-service and related organizations. Our commitment to being a part of new, collaborative efforts that benefit the people we serve remains as strong as ever. We are glad that the other organizations we work alongside feel the same way. It makes us all better people and organizations.

Keep the faith!

Michael A. Wieder
Executive Director, IFSTA
TABLE OF CONTENTS

Executive Director’s Ramblings……………………………inside cover

IFSTA Update
  Marine Fire Fighting for Land-Based Firefighters ………..2

Guest Editorial
  Fire Service Politics...There Are Lots of Issues………………..4

Hot News
  IFSTA/FPP Attends FDIC……………………………………5
  FPP Library Receives the Schifletti Book Collection…………5
  IFSTA/FPP Announces Partnership…………………………5

FPP Update
  Fire Prevention Applications for Company Officers…………6

IFSTA Update – 2
  Fire Investigator………………………………………………8

NAFTD Update
  Are You Prepared? ………………………………………….10

Product Review
  Progressive Leadership, Principles, Concepts and Tools:
  The Fire Officer’s Guide to Excellence in Leadership……13

Advertising
  Marine Fire Fighting for Land-Based Firefighters ………..3
  Fire Prevention Applications for Company Officers …………7
  Fire Investigator …………………………………………….9
  Coming Summer 2010 From IFSTA and FPP ………………11
  Principles of Vehicle Extrication……………………………back cover

GO GREEN AT IFSTA.ORG
Do you want to read Speaking of Fire online at ifsta.org? If so, we will notify you when it is available for viewing—all you need to do is send your e-mail address to sof@osufpp.org. You can print your own copy at your convenience and therefore won’t need a printed copy from us. If you definitely don’t want a printed copy of Speaking of Fire, please include in your e-mail your name, address, and account number so that we can remove you from the SOF mailing list. Thanks!

Cover Photo Courtesy of Chris Mickal, New Orleans, LA.
Until September 11, 2001, the largest loss of fire service lives in the United States was when the SS Grand Camp exploded in Texas City, Texas: 27 firefighters and 34 vessel crew members died. The largest loss of life in the history of Toronto, Canada, was when 118 died aboard the cruise ship Noronic in 1949. Every year, vessel fires occur somewhere in the world. The loss of life and property may be on a scale not usually encountered on land and may require resources beyond any one agency’s capability.

The second edition of Marine Fire Fighting for Land-Based Firefighters provides information and training advice for firefighters who respond to marine vessel fires or waterfront incidents, whether their area has deep-sea ships, ship repair yards, tugs and barges, recreational craft, or all of these. Others who may be interested in this book include Incident Commanders, all emergency responders, command team members, harbour/port officials, and coast guard authorities.

For most firefighters, a major shipboard fire will be a once-in-a-career experience. A large-scale marine incident is multifaceted and requires a multidisciplinary response, which includes:

- Expertise in hazardous materials
- High-rise fire fighting
- Technical rescue
- Experience with other types of incident situations

The value of training for such incidents pays off. Unified response and expertise in incident management systems transfers to other large-scale responses, while the tactics required for marine response encourages versatility and improvisation. The strategies and tactics in this book have been validated through training exercises and a thorough review by fire officers with shipboard fire experience.

This manual has been arranged to follow the requirements of NFPA® 1005, Standard for Professional Qualifications for Marine Fire Fighting for Land-Based Firefighters, in a logical progression. It is designed to aid firefighters in preparing for fires onboard marine vessels. Details of vessel layout and construction, specialized arrangements such as fixed fire fighting systems, and interaction with ship officers and crew are explained.

The second edition presents new material, which includes the following:

- Expanded instructional features
- Emphasis on small vessels
- Small-boat construction types
- Recognizing hazards of vessels in dry dock
- Fire-suppression systems for marinas
- Marine and facility planning and response
- A Fire Control and Safety Plan, included with the manual

The front of each chapter lists the Key Terms, Job Performance Requirements (JPRs), and Learning Objectives. A case history of a marine incident begins each chapter, and the chapter ends with a summary and review questions.

Since the publication of the first edition of Marine Fire Fighting for Land-Based Fire Fighters in 2001, the level of interest in shipboard fire fighting by fire departments has increased. The publication in 2007 of NFPA® 1005 has aided the expansion of this new area of expertise. Several members of the IFSTA Marine Committee participated in the development of NFPA® 1005.

The IFSTA Marine Committee, comprised of mariners and firefighters, has spent the last two years revising and updating this book. It is our hope that both firefighters and seafarers may be safer because of these efforts.

About the author:
John F. Lewis is with SeaFire Training, Ltd.; Surrey, B.C. CANADA. Lewis served as the IFSTA Marine committee chair.
This manual prepares firefighters and emergency responders in meeting Marine Fire Fighter I and Marine Fire Fighter II training and certifications requirements of NFPA® 1005, *Standard for Professional Qualifications for Marine Fire Fighting for Land-Based Fire Fighters*, 2007 edition. The second edition features a single-column layout with many new photos and examples. This manual gives assistance to fire service personnel with the training, knowledge, technical information, and reference materials necessary for the safe and effective management of marine fire incidents. It describes the roles and responsibilities of the vessels crew, emergency responders, and other agencies and describes the concept and implementation of a unified command structure within an incident management system. The manual describes common situations encountered in vessel fire situations for vessels of all sizes.

Who may be interested in this manual:
- Firefighters
- Incident Commanders
- Vessel crew members
- All emergency responders (including EMS)
- Command team members
- Harbor/port officials
- Coast guard authorities
- Preincident planners

New material addressed:
- Expanded instructional features
- Emphasis on small vessels
- Small-boat construction types
- Recognizing hazards of vessels in dry dock
- Guidelines for using fixed fire-suppression systems in closed spaces
- Fire-suppression systems for marinas
- Marine and facility plans and response

Front of each chapter:
- Key Terms
- List of NFPA® Job Performance Requirements (JPRs)
- Learning Objectives
- Case History
Fire Service Politics...There Are Lots of Issues

By Chief Dennis Compton

The Congressional Fire Services Institute (CFSI) recently held the 22nd Annual CFSI Seminars and Dinner event in Washington, DC. The turnout was excellent. The CFSI offered the largest-ever menu of seminars from which the attendees could select. As in the past, each seminar was 50 minutes long. The intent was to present current national fire service issues from the political arena in a concise format, delivered by leading experts in the particular subject areas. This unique learning opportunity is not duplicated anywhere in the fire service. It is literally an outstanding briefing on the status of the subjects covered in those seminars that the attendees select to attend.

Reviewing the list of seminars offered in 2010 is like reading a summary of the major political issues drawing the attention and effort of the nation's fire service as a whole. The series began with a presentation by Chief Billy Goldfeder that developed around the theme of Making the Right Decisions. Other seminars offered were as follows:

- Challenges & Solutions in the Wildland Urban Interface
- The Federal Role in the Advancement of Professional Fire and Arson Investigations
- Infectious Diseases: How a Pandemic Can Affect America's Fire and Emergency Services
- Protecting Our Own: Firefighter Roadside Safety
- Working Together on Capitol Hill
- CFSI Congressional Roundtable
- Emergency Communications Systems: Communications Systems for First Responders in Disasters
- Funding Our Nation's Fire and Emergency Services: The Federal Commitment
- Fire Service-Based EMS Advocates: The Coalition's Work Continues
- Protecting Our Homeland: The Role of FEMA and USFA in Homeland Security
- Automatic Fire Sprinklers: What's Happening Nationally?
- Fire Prevention, Public Education, and Code Development: National Public Policy and Programs Update
- Preserving Benefits for the Volunteer Fire Service
- “…So Everyone Goes Home” Town Hall Meeting

Each of these topics is important to our nation's fire service, and each has significant political overtones and impact within the fire service community. As an example, one of the seminars addressed “Fire Prevention, Public Education, and Code Development: National Public Policy & Program Update." This was timely and interesting because it covered three major accomplishments, which will have a national fire safety impact. The panelists were Meri-K Appy, Lorraine Carli, and Gary Keith.

- Meri-K Appy, President of the Home Safety Council (HSC), discussed the new HSC Start Safe Program. Funded through a federal grant, Start Safe provides resources for preschool teachers and administrators to work hand-in-hand with local fire departments to deliver lifesaving lessons to preschoolers, as well as their parents or caregivers. For more information go to www.homesafetycouncil.org.
- Lorraine Carli, NFPA® Vice President of Communications, provided an update on the work of the Coalition for Fire-Safe Cigarettes. The Coalition proudly reports that fire-safe cigarette legislation has now passed in all 50 states. The Coalition is now working to support states in the development of strategies to implement and enforce fire-safe cigarette laws. For more information go to www.firesafecigarettes.org.
Subjects from his collection run from old state and national fire codes, sprinkler plan reviews, historical fires, to children’s books, and even two MAD magazines that have fires as a theme. Currently, over 160 books are in the collection.

The following are just a few of the topics from the collection:

- Analytic system for the measurement of relative fire hazard, 1914
- Automatic sprinkler protection, 1919
- Describing the great fire, 1909
- Fighting the great fires of history, 1873
- Official roster of the Massachusetts permanent firemen's association, 1914

“Jimbo” is currently the CEO of Fire Safety Consultants, Inc., Schaumburg, Illinois. He has served on a number of IFSTA committees as well as NFPA® committees. He was a visiting instructor at Fire Protection and Safety Technology (FPST) for two semesters.

About the author:
Susan Walker is the FPP librarian.

FPP Library Receives the Schifiletti Book Collection

By Susan Walker

The FPP Library and Archives now houses quite a treasure: the Schifiletti Book Collection. James “Jimbo” Schifiletti is a 1970 graduate of Oklahoma State University (OSU). For those of you who know Jimbo, you might not think he fits the profile of a bibliophile. However, he visits used book stores, antique stores, E-bay, and who knows what other nefarious sources for old, out of print and, many times, very valuable rare books to add to this collection.

IFSTA/FPP Announces Partnership

One of the main objectives of the Fire Protection Publications (FPP) mission is to produce high quality, technically accurate, state-of-the art fire training and educational materials. Based on a shared interest in serving the fire service and serving them well, FPP and Action Training Systems have maintained over twenty years of cooperative effort. Building on this strong foundation, FPP welcomes Action Training Systems as a distributor of its products.

Interim Director, Craig Hannan: We are excited to formalize our relationship with Action Training. They have distinguished themselves as leading producers in developing multimedia training for the fire service. We look forward to where our partnership takes us in the future.

George A. Avila, Jr., President / CEO of Action Training Systems: IFSTA/FPP and Action Training Systems share in the commitment to develop the highest quality training materials for the fire service community. We believe that our combined efforts will enable us to deliver a superior total training solution to support the mission of the fire service.

HOT NEWS

IFSTA/FPP Attends FDIC

IFSTA/FPP was well represented at the Fire Department Instructor’s Conference (FDIC) Exhibition held in Indianapolis, Indiana, March 24-26, 2010. This exhibition remains the largest fire service trade show in the United States and despite the recent downturn in the economy and fire agency budgets, FDIC was well attended.

Various displays at the exhibition included all aspects of the fire service industry, such as fire apparatus, personal protective equipment (PPE), fire suppression equipment, and training materials. Many companies and organizations use FDIC to debut new products such as new fire apparatus models and advances in PPE.

IFSTA/FPP exhibited its full line of training materials, including seven previously released new manuals. All the manuals were well received and there was noted interest in Dennis Compton’s Progressive Leadership Principles, Concepts, and Tools; Brett Lacey and Paul Valentine’s Fire Prevention Applications for Company Officers; and IFSTA’s Building Construction Related to the Fire Service (3rd edition) manuals.

Those who follow fire service history may find it interesting that the early days of this conference included only seminars and some field demonstrations. The trade show part of FDIC began after IFSTA/FPP and Brady Publications set up tables to display their training materials in the lobby of the conference hotel in Memphis, TN. From those humble beginnings, FDIC has evolved into the major exhibition it is today. This is just another way that IFSTA/FPP has been a major influence on the fire service.

IFSTA/FPP Announces Partnership

One of the main objectives of the Fire Protection Publications (FPP) mission is to produce high quality, technically accurate, state-of-the art fire training and educational materials. Based on a shared interest in serving the fire service and serving them well, FPP and Action Training Systems have maintained over twenty years of cooperative effort. Building on this strong foundation, FPP welcomes Action Training Systems as a distributor of its products.

Interim Director, Craig Hannan: We are excited to formalize our relationship with Action Training. They have distinguished themselves as leading producers in developing multimedia training for the fire service. We look forward to where our partnership takes us in the future.

George A. Avila, Jr., President / CEO of Action Training Systems: IFSTA/FPP and Action Training Systems share in the commitment to develop the highest quality training materials for the fire service community. We believe that our combined efforts will enable us to deliver a superior total training solution to support the mission of the fire service.
Many firefighters and company officers desire to move to the next rung on the promotional ladder and assume the next level of supervisory responsibility. "Fire Prevention Applications for the Company Officer" was developed to provide the company officer, firefighter, or technician with the appropriate tools, awareness, and confidence to conduct basic-to-intermediate-level fire inspections and perform other fire prevention tasks.

The intent of this textbook is to provide a resource that covers the majority of issues, problems, and situations that can be encountered by an engine company crew during a company-level inspection. This textbook does not provide a comprehensive, all-encompassing fire prevention text that will prepare suppression forces for doing complex inspections perfectly or conducting other fire prevention activities. Company officers should also be aware that it takes many years of experience and a lot of training to be a journeyman-level fire inspector.

In order to train new company officers, chapters include information on:

- Impact of fire prevention on operations
- Codes, standards, and ordinances
- Conducting inspections
- Building construction and occupancy classification
- Egress fundamentals
- Fire protection systems
- Preincident planning
- Complex hazards

The following are some basic training skills covered by this text.

Company Level Fire Prevention Programs
Company inspections familiarize crews with individual buildings, processes, and locations where they might fight fires. It also provides opportunities for identifying fire hazards and checking on fire protection equipment that is available or may be necessary. Company inspections should:

- Identify fire or other hazards and associated fire risk.
- Use consultation and informational discussions on how properties can protect themselves.
- Show how firefighters can be a community resource for educational opportunities.
- Help the public to identify their risks, and most importantly, help them learn to mitigate the threat to themselves and their organization.

Risk Assessment
A risk assessment basically clarifies what the problems are now and what they likely may be in the future. It provides a basis for determining how best to address these problems by identifying targets of opportunity. This book identifies methods to conduct a risk assessment.

This assessment can be based on multiple inputs such as previous run history, number of similar occupancies, number of occupants, type of occupants, or a combination of these. Basically, the objective should be to manage the risk of those things that are outside typical response capabilities.

Preincident Planning
Preincident planning is a worthwhile effort as it provides key information for given occupancies or locations that can save a lot of time and anxiety when an event occurs within that occupancy. Detailed information in the text describes how to select a preincident plan and how to perform it. It helps summarize what elements may be important for responders.

Fire and Life Safety Educational Opportunities
The text also discusses the importance of fire and life safety education. While this is a topic that does not deal with company level inspections directly, it has relevance to an officer's daily life.

Every time we make contact with another human being in the course of our job, we have a chance to engage in public awareness or education. The book provides insight on fire and life safety education techniques, topics, and its relevance.

Company Level Fire Investigations
Company officers are usually first on the scene and inadvertently have access to most, if not all, of the critical information during the first few minutes of a fire. The crew's observations, evaluations, and technical analysis of what happened are critical to any fire scene investigation. As an officer assigned fire prevention functions, this book can help increase knowledge in evaluating basic origin and cause and assist in leading crews through the basic task of recognizing where a fire started, what specifically initiated it, and when other assistance may be needed.
Company Standby Fire and Life Safety Duties

Many times crews may be called to investigate various situations that require quick workarounds and innovative solutions to mitigate a crisis or help a business through a tough situation. Examples can include overcrowded occupancies, sprinkler system freezes and subsequent breaks, and impromptu public events with concerns that escalate quicker than anticipated. These situations may require code enforcement, fire watch, preincident planning, and any number of other solutions not anticipated. The Company-Level Standby chapter helps prepare individuals for various situations by making certain that the spirit of the fire code is upheld, businesses can still operate in a safe manner, and that the community exposure is as positive as possible.

Company Fire Inspections

The main portion of the text provides critical information on various hazards, how to evaluate their risk not only to the community but to the company officer and crew, how to prevent and mitigate them, and how to do it in a way that gets the biggest bang for the buck. The intent is to provide a means for gaining knowledge to enhance skills at communication, anticipating expectations, providing leadership and guidance, and leaving a good impression with those we serve.

Inspections are but a part of company officer’s sometimes daunting responsibilities. Conducting inspections is easy. It is conveying the information, gaining compliance, articulating why things are bad or good, and leaving a positive lasting impression that requires finesse and skill. Reading this text will not magically give the number of years of experience that would be nice to draw upon to be able to solve all these tasks comfortably. However, it should provide sufficient information to help an officer or crew member deal reasonably with most code-related or fire and life safety education challenges faced by the company officer.

About the authors:
Paul Valentine is a Senior Engineer with Nexus Engineering, in Oakbrook Terrace, Illinois. Prior to his position at Nexus, Paul served the Mount Prospect (IL) Fire Department for 18 years where he held the position of Fire Marshal and Fire Protection Engineer. He has a bachelor of science degree in Fire Protection and Safety Engineering Technology from Oklahoma State University and a master of science degree in Management and Organizational Behavior from Benedictine University. He is a graduate from the National Fire Academy’s Executive Fire Officer Program. He is also a principal committee member of NFPA® 1037, Standard for Professional Qualifications for Fire Marshal. Paul is coauthor of Fire Prevention Applications (Fire Protection Publications) and Fire Prevention Applications for the Company Officer (Fire Protection Publications). He can be reached at pvalentine@nexus-tech.com.

Brett Lacey is coauthor of Fire Prevention Applications (Fire Protection Publications) and Fire Prevention Applications for the Company Officer (Fire Protection Publications). Lacey is the Fire Marshal for the Colorado Springs (CO) Fire Department. He is a registered professional engineer and a certified safety professional with a bachelor of science degree in Fire Protection and Safety Engineering Technology from Oklahoma State University.
IFSTA UPDATE 2

Fire Investigator
Second Edition

By Clint Clausing

IFSTA is proud to announce the publication of Fire Investigator, Second Edition. This revision meets the JPRs of NFPA® 1033 Standard for Professional Qualifications for Fire Investigator, 2009 Edition. The second edition is designed to be an applicable text for both public and private fire investigators.

Fire investigations are an important aspect of the fire service. The ability of investigators to determine the origin and cause of the fires that they investigate is key to delivering accurate court testimony and providing reports that precisely depict the history of a fire. The results from investigations are used to identify trends in fire incidents and to help prosecute arsonists. In the private sector, investigations are used as evidence in court to determine civil wrong and damages in insurance claims.

The manual begins with two chapters providing introductory information. Chapter 1 emphasizes the responsibilities and authority of investigators. Chapter 2 provides safety information vital to performing investigations at fire and explosion scenes safely.

Chapters 3-7 provide a great deal of background information for investigators including much of the scientific and practical knowledge that investigators need to perform their duties. Chapter 3 provides a comprehensive introduction to fire behavior, chemistry, and physics. This chapter is adapted from IFSTA’s Essentials of Fire Fighting, 5th Edition.

Chapter 4, Explosion Dynamics, is the first of its kind in any IFSTA manual. This chapter explores the science behind explosions and describes the damage that may be associated with explosions. Rather than focusing on large-scale, high-grade explosions like those encountered at terrorist events, this chapter describes lower grade explosions such as deflagrations. These explosions are the ones that most investigators will encounter in their duties, especially diffused gas explosions.

Chapters 5 and 6 provide background in building construction and building services. It is important to understand building construction so that avenues for fire spread are understood. Chapter 6, Building Services, has been expanded to include fire detection and suppression systems and surveillance systems.

Chapter 7 is the third science-oriented chapter in the book. It introduces investigators to the basics of electricity and circuit structure. Because electrical arcs, short circuits, and electrical overheating are a common cause of fires, it is essential that investigators understand how electricity in modern structures functions.

Chapter 8 describes the investigative process with an emphasis on the scientific method. This revision of Fire Investigator carries the language of the scientific method throughout the book. Fire investigators will be questioned not just on what they find but on how they conducted their investigations. The investigative process and rigorous, scientific examinations are essential skills investigators need.

Chapters 9-13 describe the skills that investigators need in order to investigate a scene including the following:

- Securing a fire scene
- Identifying, documenting, and collecting evidence
- Packaging and preserving various types of evidence

continued on page 12
Fire Investigator Second Edition is designed to provide fire investigators with the information, data, and resources necessary to meet the job performance requirements for fire investigators as defined in NFPA® 1033. The second edition features a single-column format with new, full-color photos and illustrations. In addition, the book has been reorganized to put more emphasis on area of origin and cause determination with expanded information about fire pattern analysis. The text describes basic skills investigators should understand including, but not limited to, the following:

- Safe practices for conducting an investigation
- Effects of fire and explosion science on fire investigation
- Building construction and building services
- Investigative process
- Protecting, documenting, and collecting evidence
- Conducting interviews
- Scene examination and reconstruction
- Area of origin determination
- Ignition source, sequence, and cause determinations

Who may be interested in this manual:

- Private fire investigators
- Public fire investigators
- Officers responsible for origin and cause determination
- Students training to become fire investigators
- Arson investigators

New material covered:

- Explosion dynamics
- Explosion scene examination
- Explosion origin and cause determination

Front of each chapter:

- Key Terms
- List of NFPA® Job Performance Requirements (JPRs)
- Learning Objectives
- Case History
Fire training officers know the importance of NFPA® 1403, Standard on Live Fire Training Evolutions, when conducting live fire training. Training officers also spend countless hours before the training session preparing many tasks, which include the following:

- Completing checkoff sheets
- Ensuring adequate water supply
- Making certain that safety officers are in place

While training officers spend countless hours preparing for live fire training, they also have to be ready for other routine and emergency situations such as severe weather, earthquake, utility system failure, flood, pandemic outbreak of disease, medical emergency, and numerous other situations. Fire departments should have an emergency preplan to deal with such situations. Fire departments should also have a preplan that addresses how its training division or training officer will handle these types of situations when they occur at the facility or on the training ground. In the private sector, the term often used for this is *business continuity planning*. How will business continue if training officers are faced with a situation that changes “business as usual”? 

If you think it can’t happen to you, think again. On Thursday October 29, 2009, training was taking place at the Arkansas State Fire Academy in Camden, Arkansas. At approximately 1600 hours, two tornadoes touched down near the Academy. Within seconds, the training facility was touched by two F2 funnel clouds.

At the time of the storm, the academy was conducting a statewide firefighter rookie school and the students were conducting their afternoon physical fitness run on the grounds. With little warning, the storm hit the area and caused significant damage to the academy buildings, vehicles, and emergency apparatus. The instructors were able to quickly get the students into a classroom building as the storm hit and no injuries were reported. The impact to the academy included the total loss of the engine bay and severe damage to the following: two engines; a variety of emergency response and support vehicles; equipment; personal and academy vehicles; the training building (multilevel smoke house); and the classroom building.

Medical emergencies are also not uncommon for fire and rescue training classes that involve routine and strenuous activity. Several reports published in fire service trade journals and NIOSH line-of-duty death investigations describe how career and volunteer firefighters attending training classes have experienced chest pains, difficulty breathing, and heart attacks. According to an eight-year study (1997 through 2004) conducted by the United States Fire Administration, an average of 103 firefighters die per year. Of those, approximately 11 die during training exercises. (This estimate excludes the 343 firefighters who died September 11, 2001).

According to a recent study by the Maryland Fire and Rescue Institute (MFRI), cardiac-related events are the single largest identifiable cause of training fatalities. The study also indicates the likelihood that the amount of cardiovascular stress seen in training activities is similar to that of actual live fires. In contrast, cardiac-related events do not play nearly as dominant a role as causes of nonfatal training injuries, where musculoskeletal injuries dominate all other categories. Reading this study is a must for any fire training officer. A free copy of this report is available from MFRI at http://www.mfri.org/fireresearch/hsg/healthandsafetyguidelines.pdf

A study underway at the Illinois Fire Service Institute shows that fireground injuries have declined by approximately 40% from 1990 to 2003. However, the number of injuries related to the leading sources — overexertion/strain, slips, trips, and falls — has only reduced by about 7% during the same time span. If these types of injuries occur on the fireground, they will also occur on the training ground. Training officers need to be prepared to mitigate these risks before and during training sessions and be ready to take the necessary actions when they happen.
Wildland fire training exercises also require similar preparations. Medical emergencies and environmental realities cannot be overlooked. For example, a local fire department was conducting an exercise along a city park and wetlands area. As the firefighters were stretching line, a member of the public works crew arrived to post signs and banner tape indicating that the area was closed due to a sewage spill. As a result, all the firefighters required decontamination. In another training exercise, the crews encountered a bee’s nest and a person who had allergies was stung. Fortunately, the person was equipped with a bee sting kit, and there was a positive outcome.

The bottom line is that fire training officers need to be prepared when an emergency happens on the training ground. Before each training session, training officers and instructors need to create and review a safety plan for the day’s events. If a medical emergency occurs, everyone should know what to do. Training officers should use NFPA® 1584, Standard on the Rehabilitation Process for Members During Emergency Operations and Training Exercises, when developing their plan to ensure hydration and proper rehab procedures are in place for students and instructors.

Training officers need to monitor student’s physical condition as it relates to illness. Students, especially in entry-level firefighter training academies, will be afraid to miss classes. Sometimes this means that they may attend training when they should be home in bed. Therefore, training officers should be aware of and prepared for illnesses and viruses such as H1N1 and norovirus. A daily housekeeping practice at the training facility should include disinfecting training equipment, classroom tables, and common areas such as doorknobs and computer keyboards.

Training officers need a back-up plan for “technology emergencies” in the classroom. If you plan on using a PowerPoint® presentation, plan ahead and make contact with the host facility and discuss its resources and any limitations or protections that the agency has implemented to protect its equipment and network.

Fire training officers have a responsibility to ensure that training programs, equipment, and facilities are prepared before an emergency takes place. It may not be a tornado (such as the one that struck the Arkansas State Fire Academy); it might be something such as food poisoning that affects a class of 20 students and your instructor cadre. Regardless of the type of event, you need to be prepared before it happens.

About the author:
Eriks Gabliks is the Deputy Director, Department of Public Safety Standards and Training, Oregon Public Safety Academy, Salem, Oregon. Gabliks can be reached at eriks.gabliks@state.or.us
• Photographing an incident scene using a DSLR camera (Digital Single Lens Reflex)
• Creating scene sketches
• Writing and compiling notes
• Conducting interviews with witnesses, property owners, possible suspects, law enforcement personnel, and fire service personnel
• Conducting exterior and interior scene examinations

Of special note in these chapters are Chapters 10 and 13. Chapter 10 has been updated to focus on the latest, digital cameras that investigators currently use. The photography section in the chapter describes the use of digital cameras at investigation scenes. Information about film cameras from the first edition has been preserved in an appendix for investigators who still use film cameras.

Chapter 13 has been revised to include the examination of explosion scenes. Again, the explosion scenes described are predominantly deflagrations, the kind of explosion scenes that most investigators are more likely to encounter.

Chapters 14-16 describe the determinations that all investigators must reach when investigating a fire. In the previous edition, the corresponding chapters were simply descriptive of how to examine a scene. The second edition has changed the focus of these chapters to more closely reflect the investigator’s work. Investigators do not simply examine a scene; they determine the origin of the fire and determine its cause.

Chapter 14, Area of Origin Determination, expands upon the first edition by going beyond simply defining the fire patterns that investigators may discover. The chapter describes the scientific basis for fire patterns and what they indicate in terms of fire intensity and fire spread.

Chapter 15 is the most similar to the previous edition. It describes how to remove debris from a scene with as little disturbance to evidence as possible and how to reconstruct the scene as it looked before the fire. These skills help to identify the area of origin but are of greater importance for discovering a fire’s cause.

Chapter 16 expands the emphasis of cause determination established in the first edition. Fire cause is better defined as the point when the first fuel ignited and the ignition source came into contact. This is known as the ignition sequence. The cause is the combination of these, scientifically discovered and described by an investigator. The 2nd edition takes this more particular definition of fire cause. Finally, the cause classifications described in this chapter are descriptions used in the legal proceedings that follow from investigations.

It is important that investigators understand their responsibilities for presenting findings in an organized and professional way. The last chapter, Chapter 17, instructs investigators on their duties following an investigation including:
• Creating formal, written reports
• Communicating with the press in interviews and media releases
• Presenting evidence during court testimony

In conclusion, Fire Investigator, Second Edition is a much needed revision and excellent new addition to the IFSTA library. Students intending to become certified instructors, private investigators seeking to renew their skills, and firefighters who may be responsible for discovering origin and cause can all find the information they require in this new revision.

About the author:
Clint Clausing is a senior editor at Fire Protection Publications and served as the project manager for this manual.
Progressive Leadership, Principles, Concepts and Tools:
The Fire Officer’s Guide to Excellence in Leadership

An effective and efficient fire department requires strong and positive leadership. Too often, department personnel are not adequately trained to excel in their leadership positions. Chief Dennis Compton’s new book titled *Progressive Leadership, Principles, Concepts and Tools: The Fire Officer’s Guide to Excellence in Leadership* provides practical approaches for current and future company officers, chief officers, fire chiefs, and leaders of labor, and other employee groups to improve their own performance as well as the performance of their departments. This book assists leaders of career, combination, or volunteer fire service members to hone their leadership skills in the pursuit of excellence and improved departmental behavior and performance.

It provides ways to ensure success, which include the following:
- Desirable traits and characteristics for firefighter and fire officer candidates of all ranks
- How to embrace change in a positive and productive manner
- Keys to institutionalizing self-discipline and the importance of consistently supervising required changes in behavior and performance
- The mental and emotional challenges required to create a culture of safety and excellence

As Chief Compton says, “There is really no secret to organizational development and excellence. Achieving success requires leadership, management, supervision, training, hard work, competence and open minds.”

Serving as a road map to successful leadership, *Progressive Leadership Principles, Concepts, and Tools* is sure to be a prominent guide and a reliable reference that the officers and firefighters alike will find themselves picking up and using often.

Order today by visiting ifsta.org, or calling 800.654.4055.

Gary Keith, NFPA® Vice President of Field Operations and Chairman of the Home Fire Sprinkler Coalition (HFSC), presented the results of a recently completed research project by FM Global titled “The Environmental Impact of Automatic Fire Sprinklers.” Gary stated that “these new scientific findings round out the facts we’ve known for decades about home fire sprinklers – that they save lives, prevent injuries, and protect property and possessions. Now we know with scientific certainty that sprinkler technology also offers valuable environmental benefits. This new information will be a boon to fire departments that include sprinkler education in their local fire safety outreach.” For more information go to www.homefiresprinkler.org.

These major programs represent just three of the many important subjects addressed at the 2010 CFSI Seminar Series. Being an informed professional is important to all members of the fire service, especially those in positions of leadership. Perhaps this information will wet your whistle and inspire you to investigate these and other issues more frequently and in more depth. It might also inspire you to attend the 2011 CFSI Seminars and Dinner Event in Washington, DC on April 6 and 7. Information improves effectiveness…and effectiveness is one of the things we should all be striving for.

About the author:
Chief Dennis Compton is a well-known speaker and the author of several books including his newest offering, titled *Progressive Leadership Principles, Concepts, and Tools*. He has also authored the three-part series of books titled *When in Doubt, Lead; the books Mental Aspects of Performance for Firefighters and Fire Officers as well as many articles, chapters, and other publications*.

Dennis served as the Fire Chief in Mesa (AZ) for five years and as Assistant Fire Chief in Phoenix (AZ), where he served for twenty-seven years. Chief Compton is the Past Chairman of the Executive Board of the International Fire Service Training Association (IFSTA) and Past Chairman of the Congressional Fire Services Institute’s National Advisory Committee. He is currently the Chairman of the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation Board of Directors, and the Chairman of the Home Safety Council Board of Directors.
NOW AVAILABLE!
PRINCIPLES OF VEHICLE EXTRICATION
Third Edition
Item #36755....$55.00