



# What's Happening

*Navy Fire & Emergency Services Newsletter*

*Protecting Those Who Defend America*

July 2003

Email the Editor

George Morgan

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## From the Director

By Bill Killen, CFO

[From the Director](#)

Here's wishing our Navy fire and emergency services a Happy Fourth of July.

[DoD Awards Ceremony](#)

The response to our revised "What's Happening?" newsletter has been well received and several positive comments from Navy and other DOD fire chiefs who received our newsletter. I believe we had a few nominations for a name for the newsletter. George Morgan wants to give our readers a little more time to submit their suggestions in naming the newsletter.

[Health and Wellness](#)

We have an excellent Navy Fire Officer Training Conference planned for Monday 25 August featuring Chief Alan Brunacini, Phoenix, (AZ) Chief Jeff Johnson, Tualatin Valley, (OR) and City Manager and Past Fire Chief Dennis Rubin, Dothan, (AL).

[Safety](#)

Chief Don Oliver of the Wilson Fire Department, (NC) has been invited to give a special presentation Tuesday morning on "Mapping the Future of Fire". Chief Oliver will share the experiences of the Wilson Fire/Rescue Services in implementing Geographic Information Systems (GIS) technology over the past three years as well as how GIS can be applied to the fire service.

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Congratulations are in order to the Navy fire departments and the John F. Kennedy and Bonhomme Richard for submitting nominations for the DoD Awards program this year. We received more nominations this year than any other year since the awards program was established. I look forward to greeting each of the nominees and the winners at the first Navy and Marine Corps Awards Luncheon in Dallas this August 26th. RADM Steve Turcotte, USN, Commander Naval Safety Center and a member of the Space Shuttle Columbia Investigation team has been invited as our Awards Luncheon speaker.

[New Station Naples, Italy](#)

[Hard Chargers of the Month](#)

Your Navy Fire and Emergency Services Program team met at the National Fire Academy the first week of June for a strategic planning session and an excellent team building process that I am confident you will be pleased with the plans for taking our Navy fire service forward in support of the Navy mission.

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One of the highlights was the first ever presentation of an Executive Fire Officer Certificate by the National Fire Academy Superintendent, Dr. Denis ONeal, to Assistant Director Rick Brockman.

The academic requirement of the Executive Fire Officer program is only one of the measurable leadership qualities of this fine program. Equally important is the member's ethical behavior. This month the IAFC approved the Fire Chief Code of Ethics and this office supports this document in its entirety.

## Code of Ethics for Fire Chiefs

The purpose of the International Association of Fire Chiefs is to actively support the advancement of the fire service, dedicated to the protection and preservation of life and property against fire, provision of emergency medical services and other emergencies. Towards this endeavor, every member of the International Association of Fire Chiefs shall represent those ethical principles consistent with professional conduct as members of the IAFC:

- Recognize that we serve in a position of public trust that imposes responsibility to use publicly owned resources effectively and judiciously.
- Not use a public position to obtain advantages or favors for friends, family, personal business ventures or ourselves.
- Use information gained from our positions only for the benefit of those we are entrusted to serve.
- Conduct our personal affairs in such a manner that we cannot be improperly influenced in the performance of our duties.
- Avoid situations whereby our decisions or influence may have an impact on personal financial interests.
- Seek no favor and accept no form of personal reward for influence or official action.
- Engage in no outside employment or professional activities that may impair or appear to impair our primary responsibilities as fire officials.
- Comply with local laws and campaign rules when supporting political candidates and engaging in political activities.
- Handle all personnel matters on the basis of merit.
- Carry out policies established by elected officials and policy makers to the best of our ability.
- Refrain from financial investments or business that conflicts with or is enhanced by our official

position.

- Refrain from endorsing commercial products through quotations, use of photographs or testimonials, for personal gain.
- Develop job descriptions and guidelines at the local level to produce behaviors in accordance with the code of ethics.
- Conduct training at the local level to inform and educate local personnel about ethical conduct and policies and procedures.
- Have systems in place at the local level to resolve ethical issues.
- Orient new employees to the organization's ethics program during new employee orientation.
- Review the ethics management program in management training experiences.
- Deliver accurate and timely information to the public and to elected policymakers to use when deciding critical issues

It is a tradition in today's professional organizations to formally recognize and honor members who have significantly contributed to the organization. Based upon this honor among honor concept, the Navy Fire and Emergency Services Hall of Fame will soon be established to appropriately and justifiably distinguish many of the Navy personnel who have positively impacted the Fire Service profession. Please contact my office if you can share an insight of someone worthy of induction.

I look forward to seeing you in Dallas, please get your reservations and registrations in early and have a safe and enjoyable summer.

Bill

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## DoD Awards Ceremony

By Carl Glover

### Navy Candidates For This Year's DoD Awards Ceremony in Dallas

Each year Department of Defense agencies solicit nominations from the services for DoD Fire and Emergency Services Awards Program. Recognition awards will be presented at a banquet held during the annual DoD Fire and Emergency Service Training Conference, held in Dallas, August 27th this year. In order to select their nominees for the DoD awards, each military service (including the Coast Guard) and DLA held competitions to select award winners inside their own services. The individual service winners receive plaques and recognition at the DoD banquet and the DoD-wide winners are presented impressive trophies. The Navy and Marine Corps winners and runners-up are also honored at a joint Navy-Marine Corps luncheon at the conference. The six categories for both the Navy and DoD awards are:

1. Fire Department of the Year
2. Military Fire Officer of the Year
3. Military Fire Fighter of the Year
4. Civilian Fire Officer of the Year
5. Civilian Fire Fighter of the Year
6. Heroism Award

The Navy winners were selected in Washington, DC at Naval Facilities Engineering Command

Headquarters on 30 May 2003 from the 37 applications submitted by a number of commands. Sixteen nominations were received for the Fire Department of the Year alone. Nomination packages are limited to a single page and a brief command endorsement to minimize the administrative burden on commands and to promote wider participation. The number of nominations for most of the award categories was higher for 2002 than for previous years.

We are pleased to announce the selection of the 2002 Navy Fire and Emergency Services Award winners for fire department of the year, military/civilian fire officer of the year, military/civilian fire fighter of the year, and fire fighter heroism award of the year.

The 2002 Navy Fire And Emergency Service Award Winners are: A) Fire Department of The Year: Navy Regional Fire Rescue, Hampton Roads, Norfolk, VA. B) Military Fire Officer of The Year: Senior Chief Damage Controlman James W. Osborne, USS Bonhomme Richard (LHD 6). C) Civilian Fire Officer of The Year: Fire Chief Richard Strasser, Naval Air Engineering Station Fire Division, Lakehurst, NJ. D) Military Fire Fighter of The Year: Damage Controlman Petty Officer First Class John A. Restrepo, USS John F. Kennedy (CV-67). E) Civilian Fire Fighter of The Year: Chief Fire Inspector John W. Hallman III, Navy Regional Fire Rescue, Hampton Roads, Norfolk, VA. F) Fire Fighter Heroism Award: Naval Station Mayport Fire and Emergency Services, Mayport FL (team award), Battalion Chief Thomas C. Callaway, Fire Fighter Paramedic Donald H. Burkhart, Fire Fighter Paramedic Rhonsted Z. Lavender, Supervisory Fire Fighter Michael P. Zborowsky, Fire Fighter Louis A. Campenni, Fire Fighter Christopher H. Foster, and Fire Fighter Paramedic Michael D. Parks.

The 2002 finalists (runners-up) in each category were: A) Fire Department of The Year First Runner-Up: Naval Air Station, Jacksonville, FL, and Second Runner-Up, Naval Air Engineering Station Fire Division, Lakehurst, NJ. B) Military Fire Officer of The Year Runner-Up: Aviation Boatswain's Mate Petty Officer First Class Scott A. Bowman, Naval Support Facility, Thurmont, MD. C) Civilian Fire Officer of The Year Runner-Up: Assistant Fire Chief John Smithgall, Naval Air Station Joint Reserve Base, Willow Grove, PA. D) Military Fire Fighter of The Year Runner-Up: Damage Controlman Petty Officer First Class David Sheehan, U.S. Naval Support Activity Naples, Italy. E) Civilian Fire Fighter of The Year Runner-Up: Fire Lieutenant Billy Lee Brown, Naval Air Station, Jacksonville, FL. F) Fire Fighter Heroism Award Runner-Up: Naval Air Station Joint Reserve Base Willow Grove, PA (team award), Captain John Scott, Fire Fighter Jonathan Olewine, Fire Fighter Ricardo Russel, and Fire Fighter Thomas Marncik.

The nomination packages for the Navy and other service winners will be judged again by a panel of past presidents of the International Association of Fire Chiefs (IAFC) to select the Department of Defense winners in each category.

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## Health and Wellness



### THE FIREFIGHTER'S WORKOUT

Fast Food, Not Fat Food

How to have it your way

by Kim Paolino

*Reprinted with permission*

We can continue to kid ourselves and vow never to eat another fast food meal again, and really, this time mean it, get real! We're hungry and in a hurry, and lets face it; crave those hot, salty fries and great tasting burgers. We give in, devour these conveniently quick served value meals from the local fast food joint found on every other corner, and with in minutes, satisfaction.

Then it hits you. How many calories, how much fat, and we do this every time we go to the mall, (we know shopping and lunch go hand and hand) and every time cooking seems to become a undesirable task. How do we allow that seducing aroma and instant gratification take over again?

## Restaurants finally get a clue

Luckily, over the past few years, fast food restaurants finally got a clue. They now offer some healthier, yet tasty alternatives; grilled chicken sandwiches, broiled burgers, delicious salads, and pitas stuffed with fresh vegetables. Life in the fast food lane doesn't have to lead to fat city. Armed with some knowledge and a little willpower, we can put our best fork forward, and enjoy the luxury of fast food, without it making us fat. Eating a meal or two at *Burger King*, (which by the way is my favorite), or *Taco Bell*, (which is my other favorite), isn't going to hurt all that much. But if you want to reduce the fat, calories, and guilt that come with such indulgences, *make better choices*.

## Have it the healthy way

### Don't supersize

I guarantee you will be full and satisfied without stuffing in those extra 20 or so french fries. Save calories, save fat, save money.

## Lose the cheese

Ask for lettuce, tomatoes, pickles and onions to garnish your burger or sandwich. Use your imagination and create a taste bonanza.

## Hold the mayo and "special sauce"

Although loaded with taste, also loaded with fat. Squirt on a bit of ketchup, mustard or hot sauce for that extra "special" something

## Go for the grilled chicken instead of the burger

The obvious low fat, health conscious choice. Chicken, is the protein packed alternative to beef.

## If you want the burger, select the smaller size

Skip the double or triple deal. More is not always better.

## Consider ordering a baked potato or salad

A great side and filling alternative to the fries or onion rings. Pass up on the fried food.

## Drink water, or if that is too boring, a small soda

You don't need to consume those extra calories that comes with soda, and no re-fills.

There really are no surprises. We all know the menus. If you're on the go, don't have time to prepare your own healthy food, or just want something quick to satisfy your hunger, careful choices can make all the difference.

For additional information on this important and timely topic utilize the link:

[www.firefightersworkout.com/index.html](http://www.firefightersworkout.com/index.html)

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# Safety

By Carl Glover

Air Force Technical Order 00-105E-9, Aerospace Emergency Rescue And Mishap Response Information (Emergency Services) was recently updated. Safety Supplement 3 (UH-60) for Revision 8 was released on 6 Jun 03. Activities that use the technical manual should check their on-hand documents to ensure they have the correct version of the technical manual (basic document dated 30 Sep 02). The basic manual (revision 8) can be downloaded from this Web Site:

[www.robins.af.mil/logistics/LGEDA/documents/to00-105E-9.htm](http://www.robins.af.mil/logistics/LGEDA/documents/to00-105E-9.htm)

Additionally, the above Web Site has a link to the Safety Supplements for revision 8 or Safety Supplements can be downloaded from this Web Site:

[www.afcesa.af.mil/Directorate/CEX/fire/default.html#Publications](http://www.afcesa.af.mil/Directorate/CEX/fire/default.html#Publications)

## Going Green With Environmentally Safe Foams

### **Possible AFFF Restrictions and development of AFFF replacements:**

On June 6, Asst Director Carl Glover along with 192 other "interested parties" attended the initial development for an enforceable consent agreement (ECA) meeting on Perfluorooctanoic Acid (PFOA) and the telomers at EPA Headquarters in Washington, DC. The meeting participants represented 49 registered interested parties, numerous observers, and EPA staff. Groups speaking at the meeting expressed support for EPA's actions and a willingness to work toward agreements on the data needs identified in EPA's Preliminary Framework document. Copies of the attendance list, the meeting agenda, and the four opening statements submitted in writing to the Agency can be found in the electronic docket, OPPT-2003-0012. A verbatim transcript of the proceedings should be available in the docket. The next Plenary meeting will be held in Washington, DC on July 10, 2003.

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# What's The Deal

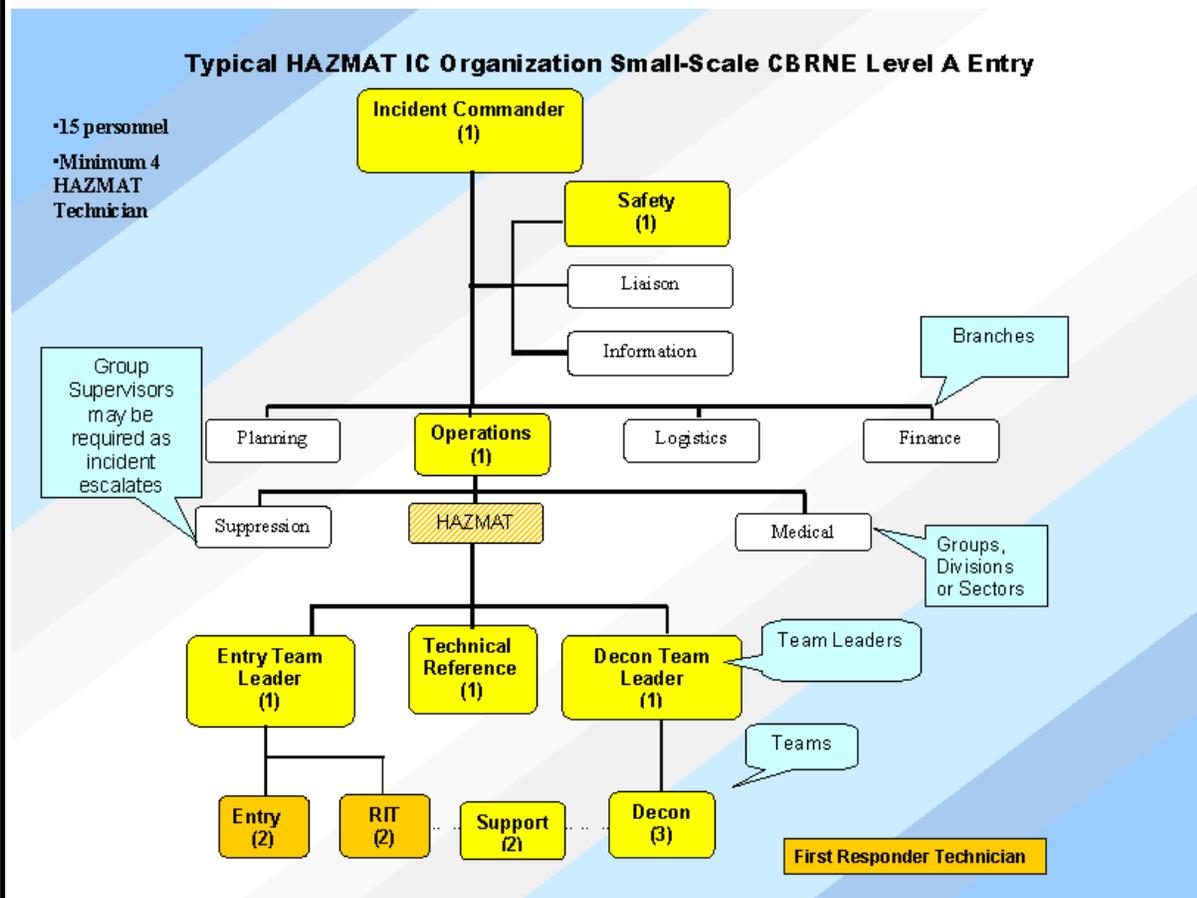
By Rick Brockman

## What's The Deal With: CBRNE/WMD?

Many of you may be asking, "What is the Navy doing to keep pace with the latest developments in CBRNE and WMD response tactics and strategies?" The Navy is in the process of developing a comprehensive plan for dealing with CBRNE and WMD events. The Navy Emergency Management Program (EMP) is actively being developed by a team of 75 members led by Captain Ken Alexander at NAVFAC Headquarters. This team has been working very hard to compile and incorporate some 4,220 reference documents into a single EMP. Links to some of those documents are included at the end of this article. The draft EMP OPNAV instruction will be submitted to the regions in mid-July to review and provide feedback before the document is passed through the formal review process at the

OPNAV level. It is also noteworthy that Captain Alexander has asked, and is tentatively scheduled, to brief the Navy EMP at the Navy Fire Officer Training Conference in Dallas this August. Stay tuned for details.

Additionally, the DoD Fire and Emergency Services Working Group and your Navy Fire and Emergency Services Advisory Board have established a response standard for CBRNE/WMD events. If an installation can place 15 emergency responders on the scene of an event, that installation will be considered CBRNE capable. The 15 responders do not necessarily have to be firefighters, but they must each have the appropriate level of training and at least four (4) must be certified to the HAZMAT Technician level. Most important, the 15 are considered a minimum initial response force capable of no more than two Level-A entries. Another obvious assumption is that this organization is capable of dealing with a single event (in this case a CBRNE event with no suppression or EMS group); the organization will have to grow as the incident escalates. Here is an example of a typical ICS organization for a CBRNE event:



Here are some links to a few web sites pertinent to CBRNE/WMD:

Commanders Guide to Force Protection and Operations in a Biological Warfare Environment (USAF Doctrine)

[www.hqda.army.mil/acsimweb/fd/policy/fire/docs/BWGuidelines11-21pm.doc](http://www.hqda.army.mil/acsimweb/fd/policy/fire/docs/BWGuidelines11-21pm.doc)

Defense Threat Reduction Agency

[www.dtra.mil/index.html](http://www.dtra.mil/index.html)

DoD Installation CBRNE Response Guidelines (DoDI 2000.18)

[www.dtic.mil/whs/directives/corres/pdf/i200018\\_120402/i200018p.pdf](http://www.dtic.mil/whs/directives/corres/pdf/i200018_120402/i200018p.pdf)

DoD Response to Radiological Incidents (DoD 3150.8)

[www.dtic.mil/whs/directives/corres/pdf/d31508\\_061396/d31508p.pdf](http://www.dtic.mil/whs/directives/corres/pdf/d31508_061396/d31508p.pdf)

Department of Navy Nuclear Weapon Accident Response Management (OPNAVINST 3440.15A)  
[neds.nebt.daps.mil/Directives/344015a.pdf](https://neds.nebt.daps.mil/Directives/344015a.pdf)

FEMA: Federal Response Plan  
[www.fema.gov/rrr/frp](http://www.fema.gov/rrr/frp)

FEMA: Federal Response Plan - ESF#4 - Firefighting Annex  
[www.fema.gov/rrr/frp/frpesf4.shtm](http://www.fema.gov/rrr/frp/frpesf4.shtm)

Joint Tactics, Techniques and Procedures for Antiterrorism (Joint Pub 3-07.2)  
[www.dtic.mil/doctrine/jel/new\\_pubs/jp3\\_07\\_2.pdf](http://www.dtic.mil/doctrine/jel/new_pubs/jp3_07_2.pdf)

National Homeland Security Knowledgebase  
[www.twotigersonline.com/resources.html](http://www.twotigersonline.com/resources.html)

National Response Plan (Draft)  
[www.nemaweb.org/docs/National\\_Response\\_Plan.pdf](http://www.nemaweb.org/docs/National_Response_Plan.pdf)

National Strategy to Combat WMD  
[globalsecurity.org/wmd/library/policy/national/wmdstrategy2002.pdf](http://globalsecurity.org/wmd/library/policy/national/wmdstrategy2002.pdf)

NRC: Federal Radiological Emergency Response Plan (FRERP)--Operational Plan  
[www.fas.org/nuke/guide/usa/doctrine/national/frerp.htm](http://www.fas.org/nuke/guide/usa/doctrine/national/frerp.htm)

Nuclear Weapon Accident Response Procedures (NARP) (DoD 3150.8-M)  
[www.dtic.mil/whs/directives/corres/pdf/31508m\\_1299/p31508m.pdf](http://www.dtic.mil/whs/directives/corres/pdf/31508m_1299/p31508m.pdf)

Oklahoma City National Memorial Institute for the Prevention of Terrorism  
[www.mipt.org](http://www.mipt.org)

SBCCOM On-Line  
[www.sbccom.army.mil](http://www.sbccom.army.mil)

USAF WMD Threat Planning and Response Guidebook (AFH 10-2502)  
[www.e-publishing.af.mil/pubfiles/af/10/afh10-2502/afh10-2502.pdf](http://www.e-publishing.af.mil/pubfiles/af/10/afh10-2502/afh10-2502.pdf)

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## NFIRS

### Safety Center update on NFIRS

The NFIRS recovery site and contingency plan were successfully tested in May. The results of the test were documented, incorporated in the Contingency Plan, and submitted to the FEMA Office of Cyber Security (OCS) for review on 28 May. On 6 June, OCS notified us that they are developing the final certification and accreditation (C&A) package for the system, including the interim C&A letters.

### Why all the concern about collecting incident data and why use NFIRS?

There are three basic purposes for completing incident reports at the local level. First, it is a legal record of the fact that a fire or other incident occurred. The report provides official notification to

people who may be required legally to know of the incident. Essentially, it reports the facts concerning an incident by describing the particular property affected, why the fire occurred, how building components and fire protection devices performed, casualties or damage that resulted, and fire department actions taken. Second, the report provides information to senior officials and fire department managers keeping them informed about current events within their areas of responsibility. This assists in efforts to evaluate the performance of fire suppression efforts at an incident and to speak intelligently about the incident and lessons learned. Furthermore, good information about a fire can motivate change in fire protection approaches in a community. Incident information generated at the local level does lead to movements promoting national changes. Without information that is obtained by keeping statistics about the fire problem, it would be difficult to initiate engineering, education, or enforcement efforts to correct the issue.

The first two purposes of the incident report can be served by any reporting method that provides an accurate description of local incidents. However, the third purpose involves the need to collect data that is usable at the state and national level. Local fire departments needs, such as training and additional resources, can often be met by state and national sources. These resources are developed and made available based on the information collected on the local level. Therefore, information needs to be collected in a consistent format that will permit a meaningful aggregation of the data from many reports prepared from all types of incidents.

Why use NFIRS? It is important that a single report serve the basic needs of several types of potential users. The data needed at the state and national level must be provided from what is collected locally. However, the locally collected data must also have an actual use at the local fire service level. It is difficult to routinely collect all of the data items that are likely to be needed by all types of potential users of the future. Compromises are needed between the ease of filling out an incident report and the potential uses of it. If data are only collected for the benefits of those outside the local area, the motivation and commitment to quality and completeness may diminish, with a resulting reduction in the usefulness of the data. Ease of use also helps to increase quality and commitment, thus increasing reliability. Reliable data increases its usefulness. Taking the time to accurately report the incident facts has significant positive impact upon solving the nationwide fire problem.

## Where Fires Occurred - 2001

- There were 1,734,500 fires in the United States. Of these:
  - 50% were Outside Fires
  - 30% were Structure Fires
  - 20% were Vehicle Fires
- Residential fires represented 23 percent of all fires and 76 percent of structure fires.
- Excluding the events of 9/11, the South had the highest fire death rate per-capita with 16.6 civilian deaths per million populations.
- Excluding the events of 9/11, 84 percent of all fatalities occurred in the home. Of those, approximately 84 percent occurred in single-family homes and duplexes.
- Intentionally set structure fires represented 9% of all structure property loss.
- 39,500 intentionally set vehicle fires occurred, causing an estimated \$219 million in property damage.

Source: National Fire Protection Association 2001 Fire Loss in the U.S. collected and compiled from NFRIS.

# New Station Naples, Italy

By Chief John Morris

## Newest European Fire Station

Station Three was completed in October of 2000 at a cost of \$1,198,010.00. The facility is 8,643 Sq ft. It is designed as a two-company station w/ three truck bays with drive through access. The fire station was designed with private bedrooms for 9 assigned shift personnel, office space for the assigned Battalion Chief, an Assistant Chief of Training and Safety and two Fire Inspectors. Additional high quality space was provided for physical fitness, SCBA refill and maintenance with a MAKO compressor system, galley with commercial restaurant grade equipment and day room, training room, PPE washing facility, storage and shop space.

This station and its assigned personnel provide fire protection and prevention services for residential, educational, retail, medical and other support and recreation facilities. Population fluctuates, ranging from 1500 to 5000 depending on time of day, with nighttime population the greatest due to concentrated residential facilities. Upon closure of the Agnano facility in 2004/05, the assigned engine and personnel will be redeployed to the Support Site, thus ensuring that two engine companies and a Chief Officer will arrive within required time criterion.

As a support base, housing and quality of life for personnel is the focus. Multi-family dwellings with a total of 1000 units are located here. Facilities are predominately three or more stories, to include a Navy Hospital, Elementary and High School, various other commercial properties including a multi-use facility that includes a residence type hotel, religious facility, restaurants etc and other mixed type occupancies. Total combined square footage is 1,926,307 valued at approximately \$339,000,000. Additional construction is ongoing and planned that will add additional residential and commercial facilities.



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# Hard Chargers of the Month

By Chief Michael P. Jones

Tom Shand an observant reader wrote "In the newsletter it mentioned an article on the Federal FD in Hawaii, but I could not see anything here. Was I missing something in the electronic copy?" Yes Tom you were in fact missing something, we failed to include the article last month so we have run it twice in this edition. Our hopes are that other installations will submit articles describing their Fire and Rescue Services. (We assure you that we will not tease you and make you wait a month for the article again.)



## Federal Fire Department COMNAVREG-HI/Naval Station Pearl Harbor, HI

### Roles & Responsibilities

Fire Departments around the country have changed as a result of 9-11, our responsibilities have increased to ensure public safety and we are changing our roles from just being "firefighters" to now becoming proactive, well-educated, well-trained "lifesavers", "fighters" and all hazard first responders".



### Mission Statement

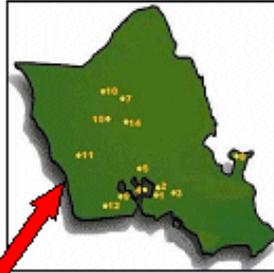
The FEDERAL FIRE DEPARTMENT provides Structural, Water Rescue, Wild land, Shipboard, Aircraft Firefighting Protection, Consolidated Dispatch Center and Fire Prevention Services to all Armed Forces Activities and installations on the Island Of Oahu (with the exception of Hickam AFB). Actively participates within a regional Mutual Aid Agreement providing assistance to Hickam AFB and the City and County Fire Department. Emergency Paramedic ALS services provided to Navy and Marine installations.

### Department Demographics





- 14 Fire Stations
- 40 Firefighting Apparatus
- 268 Personnel



## Area of Responsibilities

All DOD Military Installations on Oahu (w/exception of Hickam AFB)

- 98 Square Miles

Pacific Missile Range, Kauai

- 6.5 Square Miles
- Mutual Aid with the City and County of Honolulu
- 396 Square Miles



## Required Housing Inspections

Navy:

- 6,615 Units = 9,774,289 Gross Square Feet and 7,359,784 Net Square Feet as of 12/21/02
- Projected Unit 2003 - 240

Marine Corp:

- 2,612 Units = 3,828,712 Gross Square Feet

Army:

- 8,064 Units, 13,270,917 Gross Square Feet

Coast Guard: Red Hill Housing

- 381 Units, 394,446 Gross Square Feet

Total:

- 17,849 Units, 27,268,366 Gross Square Feet

## Other Required Facility Inspections

- 4,762
- Marine Corp/Navy: 37,046,731 Square Feet
- Army: 30,314,522 Square Feet



## Operations Division

202 personnel

40 apparatus

11 programs

- Water Rescue
- Fire Inspections
- EMT-B and EMT-I
- Radiological Control
- Firefighter Certification
- Confine Space Rescue
- Urban Search and Rescue (USAR)
- Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD)
- Hazardous Material Program (HAZMAT)
- Soldier Biological Chemical Command (SBCCOM)
- Chemical Biological Radiological Nuclear High Yield Explosives (CBRNE)



## Prevention Division

23 personnel

- Building Inspections
- Public Information Office
- Public Education
- Hot Work Permits
- Family Care Home Program
- Fire Investigations
- Fire Protection Plan Review
- Contractor Operations
- Installation Fire Warden Program
- Family Housing Orientation Program



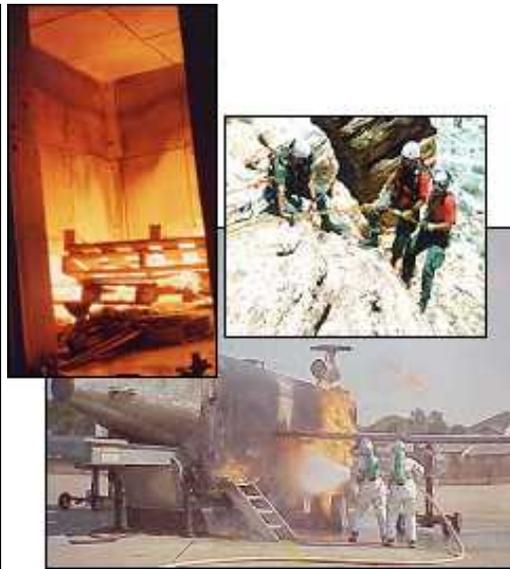
## EMS Division

11 personnel

4 apparatus

6 programs

- CPR
- AED/PAD
- ALS
- Support Operations Division
- Continuing Medical Education
- Public Education



## Training Division

3 personnel

1 apparatus

4 programs

Support All Training Requirements for the Department

- EVOC
- CDC
- CPR
- First Responders, Confined Space, HazMat
- RADCON
- EMT
- Live Fire Drills
- DoD Certificate
- Safety Officers
- Recruit Academy



## Dispatch Division (ROCCC)

29 personnel

Support All of DoD Installations

- Army
- Navy
- Marine Corps
- Air Force



## Regional Public Safety

- Fire Security
- EMS
- Shipyard
- Monitor all Alarms and Surveillance
- Ammunition Storage
- Security Gates Main and Harbor Access Points
- Enhance 911

## Administration Division

23 personnel

- Fiscal/Resource Management
- Administrative/Clerical Document Processing
- Personnel Management
- Occupational Health Programs
- Security Program Information Fiscal/Resource Management
- Administrative/Clerical Document Processing
- Personnel Management
- Occupational Health Programs
- Security Program
- Information Systems Program

## Mechanics Division

2 personnel

2 maintenance vehicles

- Preventive Maintenance Program
- Vehicle Inventory Control
- Emergency Repair
- Systems Program



## Federal Fire Department Barking Sands, Kauai

Providing Fire Protection and EMS services at Pacific Missile Range Facility Fire Protection & EMS Services (Contracted)

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## Site Visits

In an effort to assist our clients in preparation of accomplishing the self-assessment objectives of the accreditation process the Director's staff conducted the following Program Office Assessment Visits:

Dallas GOCO Facility, 28 April 2003, Deputy Director Jim Karcher



Naval Academy, 5-9 May 2003, Deputy Director Jim Karcher, Asst Directors Steve Cox and Carl Glover



NAS Brunswick, 19-23 May 2003, Asst Directors Rick Brockman, Steve Cox, and Carl Glover



Navy Security Group Activity Sugar Grove, 12-15 May 2003, Deputy Director Jim Karcher and Asst Director George Morgan. During this site visit, members of the Fire Department were asked to perform an operational readiness exercise using master stream devices. This four-person crew accomplished the task both effectively and well within an acceptable time element.

# Hampton Roads Award Ceremony

## Second Annual Navy Regional Fire Rescue Hampton Roads Award Ceremony

By Chief Ron K. Martin

The second annual Navy Regional Fire Rescue Hampton Roads award ceremony was held on 23 May 2003 at Naval Station Norfolk. The program was established to recognize assigned personnel who distinguish themselves in the performance of their duties and contribute significantly to the achievement of the mission. The Ceremony went extremely well with a total of 104 award recipients recognized for service excellence.



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## Can You Hear Me Now?

Recently I was the only fire department member attending a confined space awareness class taught by our safety officer. For the past 8 years I along with a fellow fire fighter now retired have tried to establish a confined space rescue program within our department. I can't and will not fault our Chief for what we lack in the program. He has done his best to support our cause. The problem lies with all those who are not recognizing our duty to act, support, and fund the program according to federal fire instruction 11320.

We recognized back then how low our level of expertise was in comparison to others who had been formally trained. Yes we do have tri-pods (2) with hand winches, two class 3 rescue harnesses, 9

NFPA approved kern mantle rescue ropes and a basic set of hardware that would fall well short of the requirements set by current NFC standards. The ropes are 7 to 14 years old. The rest of the equipment is at least 7 years old. All that participated in our "program" did not have the proper training in CSR other than the CS awareness training given to us by our station safety managers.

In attending the class there was little comfort having the safety manager tell us that by training PW this would minimize the need for rescues. But as you know "all roads are paved with good intentions, but stuff happens".

Locally there is a state approved program put on by the local City Fire Department. The catch is they are charging \$75.00 to \$125.00 a person to go through the basics and a Train the Trainer class that follows.

To be sure I am requesting any and all assistance with initiating a CSR program within our department or at other departments within our region.

If there is anything I can do to assist you please let me know. You have my support!!! Thank you for lending an ear.

*Chief Training Officer*

*Dear Chief Training Officer*

Mr. Killen passed on your correspondence relating to your frustration in establishing a confined space rescue team within your department. Ironically many other Navy Fire Chief officers have expressed similar concerns sparked by Mr. Killen's original message of early June.

Allow me to take each of your points and offer some proactive solutions that I am sure will re-enforce your own initiatives to meet the issue head on.

You mention that you were attending a C/S class put on by the region's CSFM and you questioned why there were no additional Fire Department attendees. I question why the class wasn't instructed by the Fire Department. The instructional talent that our Fire Departments possess is without a doubt one of our greatest assets. By utilizing some of the generic power point presentations available, our members could add real enthusiasm to the course as well as establish a firm foundation within the installations infrastructure. Credibility with our functional peers is best established during the non-emergency environments where the life and death pressures are not present. These classrooms settings also allow for the exchange of ideas to solve some of the common challenges faced with these workplace hazards. Face it; there are computer programs and CD ROMs available (one in fact that is available through Assistant Director Steve Cox of this office) that can assist our personnel during confined space awareness, operations and rescue training assignments to other installation agencies. The Awareness/ Operation class objectives are clearly defined in OSHA 29CFR 1910.146 and can be taught in a four hour class primarily lecture based except for the monitor, harness, and retrieval system practical portion. 1 instructor for 10 students is a good ratio.

I agree that rescue team training is significantly more intensive than Entrant, Attendant and Supervisor training. Rescue Team level training according to Chase Sargent, a battalion chief and paramedic with the City of Virginia Beach Fire and Rescue Department, includes additional, more comprehensive classroom training on atmospheric monitoring, hazardous materials, planning, incident management, legal updates, team decision-making, advanced rope skills, marine operations and other specialty subjects as appropriate. He continues to say that when team members' show managed training expertise, they advance to full-mission-profile exercises in which no facilitation from trainers is provided until the entire training scenario is complete. This level of training requires props, settings such as vaults, sewers, towers, reactor vessels and silos. There are excellent train the trainer courses available; conversely there are bandits out there as well. A check of Navy Fire Service Instructors may prove that collectively a region may already have this resource on the payroll and scheduling a

regional course would be the next logical progression.

Perhaps by instructing these installation programs to those agencies entering the spaces, the second part of your equipment concerns could be addressed. It interesting to note how personnel that are continually entering hazardous environments feel more secure knowing that when or if they get in trouble, the rescue team is trained and equipped to save them. Many of these same user organizations will provide the appropriate equipment i.e. harnesses, monitors, retrieval systems, EMS equipment, radios and ventilation systems to the fire department to assure the teams readiness in the event of an incident. It is also important to note here that if the permit required confined space can not be rendered safe but still requires an entry that the installation Fire Department be placed on scene as the rescue team prior to an entry and equipped accordingly.

Chief, I am troubled to read that potentially our personnel and equipment may not be in a readiness condition to respond to this rescue situation in lieu of the fact that if an emergency occurs, we will be summoned. To be placed in this setting is no doubt frustrating, but this situation can be resolved through a comprehensive installation risk based assessment followed by a self- assessment of the Fire Department's organizational capacity to safely mitigate this emergency. Inform those within the decision making process of this operational weakness and offer a solution (or several solutions). Utilize the partnerships that you can generate both inside the fence, outside the gate, and regionally with other local and Federal fire departments to assist in providing current and realistic training opportunities.

Earlier I stated that our personnel are our greatest strength, their desire and resolve to overcome challenges is what makes them professionals. Seek the assistance of your newest members as well as your veterans to propose and initiate a risk-based response to this issue before it occurs. I hope that by printing your concerns in this forum other of our Navy Installations may offer some assistance.

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## Regional Bytes

The newsletter staff is always seeking regional/site reporters to assist in the gathering of timely, accurate, and mission critical information reflective of the individual, shift, station, department, and regional efforts. This information can be parlayed through the written word or through the magic of photography (preferably transmitted through the electronic format).

### Hampton Roads Reports Two Saves By Chief James P. Meagher

Navy Regional Fire-Rescue Hampton Roads responded on two separate cardiac arrests, that happened on two different days during the Senior Olympics. Both incidents resulted in successful resuscitative efforts and each had similar links of the chain of survival in place. First responders ( on scene sports trainers), AED's, and rapid appropriate Fire Department BLS/ALS pre-hospital intervention worked together to assure that both patients were delivered to the hospital emergency room with palpating pulses. These "saves" demonstrate the importance of maintaining absolute readiness of the emergency response personnel through continual progressive training, advanced skills development, and functional equipment on scene.

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## Navy Lakehurst Fire Division Makes Valiant Rescue By Chief Daniel E. Lyon

On April 1, 2003 the Navy Lakehurst Fire Division was dispatched for a possible electrocution in Hanger 2. Upon arrival Assistant Chief Joseph Catapano reported that crews were attempting access to an unconscious, non-breathing patient located in the overhead crane inside the Hanger.

Emergency Medical personnel Firefighters Jonathan Yahr, and Matthew Croslin immediately ascended to the overhead crane to begin patient care. Once stabilized and appropriately packaged, a rigging system was employed by the Fire Division Technical Rescue team to lower the patient to the ground. Patient care was resumed and Fire Division Emergency Medical personnel transported him to a medical facility. Chief Catapano states, "That rescue work is usually done under adverse conditions. Our major objective is to remove the patient from their environment in the most effective and efficient way as possible. The patient was already in a life- threatening situation, it is our responsibility as rescuers to be the solution to the situation."

The Navy Lakehurst Fire Division had recently completed an annual a forty- hour Rope Rescue program according to Battalion Chief Daniel Lyon. The successful outcome of this incident re-enforces Navy Lakehurst Fire Division's philosophy that continual training must be maintained to efficiently and safely perform the necessary skills for technical rescue. It remains Navy Lakehurst Fire Division's mission to provide the installation employees, military personnel, and contractors with the best Fire/Rescue services possible.



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[Daily Wildfire Information on the Web](#)



Do you want to check on the wildland fires burning today in the United States? Then you should look at GeoMAC (Geospatial Multi-Agency Coordination Group) at, [www.geomac.gov](http://www.geomac.gov). It is an internet-based mapping tool originally designed for fire managers to get an overview of current wildland fires and see details of those fires. Now, GeoMAC's information and capabilities are available to the public. Information about previous fires also is documented. The area covered is the contiguous 48 States and Alaska. The fire perimeter data is updated daily based upon input from incident intelligence resources, GPS (Global Positioning System) data, infrared (IR) imagery from fixed wing aircraft and satellites. GeoMAC contains relational databases to display information on individual fires such as the name of the fire, current acreage and other fire status information or the user can link to remote automated weather station data near the wildfire. Users can easily link from GeoMAC to incident web sites via the link to the National Fire News page.

Information such as this article can be found within the SPRING ISSUE, 2003, of the Fire.Gov Newsletter. For your convenience, you may read the newsletter on-line, or print the PDF version through the following link: [www.fire.gov/newsletter/spring2003/page\\_one.htm](http://www.fire.gov/newsletter/spring2003/page_one.htm)

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## NAS Whiting Field Fire Department Honor Guard

*Submitted by Captain Stephen Volturo*

In the spring of 2002 members of our department attended the funeral of a local volunteer firefighter, where they observed a Fire Department Honor Guard participating in a funeral detail. Watching the professionalism and respect that this team exhibited performing their duties during this solemn event was truly an uplifting experience worthy of repeating within our own organization.

Hoping to organize an Honor Guard, we located an honor guard academy at the Florida State Fire College in Ocala, Florida. With the approval of our fire chief, our department enrolled two people to the course with the charge to bring back material to train and develop a twelve person Honor Guard.

After many hours of practicing all the functions performed by Honor Guards, we made our first public appearance on December 5, 2002 at a local Christmas parade. The day of the parade we learned that a federal firefighter from Ft. Rucker, Alabama was killed in a training accident. We called to offer our condolences and provide assistance in any way necessary. Ft. Rucker requested that the Honor Guard participate in the memorial.

Just several months since organizing, we participated in the Florida Honor Guard Competition at Fire East. We finished a not too shabby 4th place out of 11 teams. Even the judges were impressed that we had only been formed since November. We later competed in the National competition held in Indianapolis during the Fire Department Instructor Conference, where we finished in 3rd place. We

have participated at several community parades, funerals and events and are always ready to provide any assistance to any DoD agency that requests us at 850-623-7331 DSN 868-7331. The team members are:

Commander: Captain Stephen Volturo (Email: [Stephen.Volturo@cnet.navy.mil](mailto:Stephen.Volturo@cnet.navy.mil) )

Executive Officer: Captain Royce Johnson

Lt. Chris Bird

Lt. Guy Peters

FF Greg Snyder

FF Tony Fry

FF Jason Walker

FF Kevin Park

FF Troy Johnson

FF Chris Keeler

FF Len Agnello

FF Randy Ebbighausen



## In Search Of...

The Federal & Military Fire Service Section is calling for nominations for the following open board member positions: Chairperson, Department of the Army Representative, Department of the Air Force Representative, Bureau of Land Management Representative, Veterans Affairs Representative and Marine Corps Representative.

Nominations for the position will be accepted until close of business on July 7, 2003 at 1630 hours EST. Nominations may be submitted by either sending e-mail to:

[JEFFREY.PROPST@RRMC.AMRY.MIL](mailto:JEFFREY.PROPST@RRMC.AMRY.MIL) or mailed to the following address:

IAFC Headquarters  
ATT: IAFC Fed/Mil Section  
4025 Fair Ridge Drive  
Fairfax, VA 22033-2868

The Federal & Military Fire Service Section will mail out ballots by July 15, 2003. Ballots must be returned by midnight, August 8, 2003.

The winners will be announced at the IAFC FRI Conference in Dallas, Texas during the meeting of the Federal & Military Fire Service Section.

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## If You're Going To Play In Texas...

The DoD Fire & Emergency Services Training Conference will be 22-28 Aug 03 in Dallas Texas. All DoD activities will be in the Adams Mark Hotel. Navy Fire & Emergency Services will host a General Session meeting on Monday, 25 August and Tuesday, 26 August. The Navy/Marine Corps Awards Luncheon will be on Tuesday, 26 August. The DoD sessions and awards banquet are scheduled for Wednesday (27 Aug). We are working on a detailed Schedule of Events for Navy activities to be included in our next newsletter. Everyone who will be attending is encouraged to register for the conference and request lodging as soon as possible. In previous years the host hotel fills up early.

You can use this link for registration and lodging:

[www.iafc.org/conference.shtml#newsitem1061528400,54909](http://www.iafc.org/conference.shtml#newsitem1061528400,54909),

We are finalizing additional information on the conference and will provide the information to Fire Chiefs soon.

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## New Apparatus

Navy Lakehurst Fire Division

By Chief Daniel E. Lyon

Navy Lakehurst Fire Division recently took delivery of this new 2003 Chevy Tahoe Command Vehicle. This vehicle is equipped with custom conversion by Odyssey Automotive specialty to include a rear command center equipped with pull out command board, file drawer for building preplans, and storage areas for SCBA, gear and tools. This vehicle also has a Panasonic Tough-Book Computer with FD on scene software, Aloha, Cameo, and Marplot for mapping.



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The Navy Lakehurst Fire Department has just taken delivery of a "2003 Pierce 61' Sky Boom" mounted on a Pierce Enforcer chassis. The truck has a 1500 gpm waterous pump, 500 gallons of water, 30 gallons 3% class "A" foam with around-the-pump proportioner, 6kW PTO generator with 2 - 650W telescoping Magnafire lights, Back-up camera, Intercom system with headsets for all passengers, 1 - 4" discharge, 1000' 5" hose, 1.5" front discharge with 100' 1.75" hose.



## Assuring Our Apparatus Readiness Through Annual Performance Testing

With good weather in sight we turn our attention to assuring our apparatus readiness through annual performance testing. Chief Gary Wolff, President of Southeastern Testing Inc, submitted the following article. If you have recently received a Pierce pumper, his company performed the third party acceptance test.

### A fire service primer on annual apparatus pump testing By Chief Gary Wolff

Let's take a journey through N.F.P.A. 1911 and perform an annual pump service test. First thing required is to find what the pump did when it was built. This information can be found on a plate mounted on the pump panel. If you can't find the plate, look for the third party pump certification that came with the truck when it was delivered. This information will tell you what the no load governed speed is, the engine R.P.M. required for the 100%, 70% and 50% tests as well as the position the transfer valve needs to begin on a two-stage pump. With this information, we are ready to perform the test. But wait, what do we need to record during the test? Simple - back to the instruction manual. In the appendix of NFPA 1911, you will find a sample test form. See how easy this is. It's all laid out for you.

After meeting the site requirements, we begin the test. First we do the no-load governed speed check, probably the easiest test of all. Simply leave the transmission in neutral, the parking brake set and push the accelerator to the floor. Record what the tachometers reads and compare it against what is on the pump panel label. It should be fairly close to what's on the label. Next to perform is the vacuum test. This test I think scares a lot of people, especially the Chief. If the pump does not successfully pass this test, does the engine need to be taken out of service? This is a call you have to make. In all my years of testing apparatus, I have found many pumps that failed the vacuum test, but successfully passed the entire pumping portion. If the unit primes within the allowed time and meets all other requirements, I think you have to weigh the cost of repairing a slight leak in the valve, versus placing the unit out of service for something that could wait until later to be repaired. One item we need to perform a vacuum test is a test gauge, which reads in increments of 1 to 2 inches of mercury. This gauge should be attached to a hose and screwed into the test port on the pump panel marked suction or intake. It is much easier to read suction on a gauge of this type than the gauge mounted on the pump panel. You will also need a test gauge for the master gauge or pump discharge gauge. These two gauges should be calibrated for accuracy.

When performing the dry vacuum test, follow the instruction manual, section 303.3.1 and 3-3.3.2. Simply put, open all intake valves and cap them. Close all discharge valves and uncap them. Activate the primer until 22 inches of vacuum is on the test gauge. Release the primer and start your stopwatch. After 5 minutes, the vacuum should not drop more than 10 inches.

Next we move on to the actual pumping portion of the test. This is outlined in Section 3-3.4 of the manual. First we need hard suction hose twenty feet with the appropriate strainer. Then we need hose to run from the pump to the deluge gun(s). The biggest error made here is not using the proper amount of discharges and hose. I recommend no less than three discharges with 100' of 2-1/2" or 3" hose going to the deluge gun. Make sure you are using the proper size tip for each test. You will need a pitot gauge to get the proper flow. The best way to do this is with a water flow test kit that mounts on the end of the barrel of the deluge gun. Any of you who have ever tried to hold a hand-held pitot in a stream flowing 1500 GPM know how valuable these tests kits are.

Now we prime the pump. Follow the manufacturer's instructions. Generally, with all discharges closed, activate the primer and start the stopwatch. A 1250 GPM or less pump should prime within 30 seconds or less. A 1500 GPM or great pump should prime in 45 seconds or less. We now have a prime, so on to the next step. The first test is 20 minutes in duration and consists of flowing the capacity of the pump at 150 psi net pump pressure. Ready for some more fun! What is net pump pressure? Simply put it - it's the pressure the pump itself is developing. At draft, the pump is developing pressure not only on the discharge side but also on the intake side. How is this determined? In plain and simple language, 1 inch at vacuum equals 1/2 pound of pressure. So we you are reading 12 inches of vacuum or mercury, this converts to 6 lbs. pressure. This has to be added to the discharge pressure to get the 150 psi, which is our target discharge pressure flowing capacity. If we have 12" of vacuum, which converts to 6 lbs. of pressure, we only need 144 lbs. on our master gauge.  $144 + 6 = 150$  psi.

After performing this test, I like to perform the pressure control test. Again, this test is outlined in section 3-3.5. This tests the relief valve or governor for proper operation. It is tested at 150 psi, 90 psi and after the 50% test, 250 psi.

We move on to the 70% test. This test is conducted at 200 lbs. net pump pressure. Remember what net pump pressure is? This test is conducted for 10 minutes and follows the same parameters as the 100% capacity test. After this test, we take a break - just kidding!! We proceed to the 250 lb test. This is only 50% of the capacity of the pump. Depending on the rating of the pump, you may only need one or two hose lines to perform this test. Against, this is only for 10 minutes. Almost done!!

The last test is the water tank flow test. This test is comparing what the original rate of flow was when the truck was built. You should flow 80% of the capacity of the water tank before the pump starts to drop pressure. The procedure is outlined in section 3-3.7 of the standard. If the tank is rated at 500 gallons or more, you record the time before pressure drops and multiply it by 8.3. For example, if you have a 1000-gallon tank and it flows for 1 minute 50 seconds, the total flow is 913 gallons. This exceeds 80% of the capacity of the tank and means the apparatus passes the tank flow test. One minute 50 seconds equals 110 seconds.  $110 \times 8.3 = 913$ .

Having completed the annual pump service test, don't forget to file the results. The last 3 years of consecutive testing should be retained for future comparison and to validate performance.

Two suggestions: First train and utilize the same personnel to perform the tests. Second, Read NFPA 1911 thoroughly including the appendix.

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# Smart Practices

## Brass to Brass kiss your --- By Chief Richard Strasser

Teaching firefighters rhymes to assist in remembering emergency evacuation techniques while working in IDLH environments could well be eliminated in future training sessions. What started out as the simple task of rolling fire hose during a work detail, resulted in a U.S. Patent 6,257,750 being issued in July of 2001 to Richard T. Strasser and Roger J. Brown, both employed with the NAES Lakehurst New Jersey Fire Division. Glancing down while rolling hose, Rich's eye was caught by the red stripe woven into the hose and was struck with his idea - "If this red stripe could be lit somehow - think of how it might impact the Fire Service." After some brainstorming and much discussion among brother firefighters, Chief Strasser enlisted the help of fellow firefighter and personal friend Roger Brown. Together they refined the concept, set upon the task of research and development and created a product that could have a long lasting positive impact on firefighter safety.



It is estimated that about 37.5 percent of firefighter fatalities involve firefighters losing contact with the hose line and then running out of air. In most incidents the lifesaving hose line was only feet away. Moonlight hose, named as a tribute to Strasser's late father, James Mooney aka "MOON" himself a 25-year veteran of Bloomfield Fire Department, is an illuminating fire hose that assists a lost and disoriented firefighter to quickly locate the hose providing a lifeline to the outside. The illuminating fire hose also provides a means for the Firefighter Assistance and Search Team (FAST) to follow a light path and quickly locate a lost or trapped individual. Some of the environmental benefits of using side light fiber optic lighting systems within the outer jacket of the hose line include: it produces no heat, gas or electricity, it can have a variety of color changes options thus accommodating emergency communication by coded color changes, multiple fixtures per light source and virtually no maintenance. At the present time three prototypes are being developed and field-tested.



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## Name the Newsletter

### Name the Newsletter Contest

We are continuing to solicit inputs to name the Navy F&ES Newsletter. Please send your nomination for the newsletter name to the Navy F&ES Program Office (NLT 31 July 03). The Program Office will select five nominations. The five nominations will appear in the next newsletter, and Navy F&ES personnel will be able to vote for their favorite name for the Newsletter. Please send nominations to the Editor: [morganga@navfac.navy.mil](mailto:morganga@navfac.navy.mil)

To assist in the distribution of this and future editions of the newsletter, please make copies and leave at various fire station hangouts (kitchen table, watch office, station water closets) so that all will have a chance to read and contribute to future releases.

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## Thingamajig

Several excellent guesses were received as our readers attempted to identify the appliance attached to the fire hydrant. Those guesses included one from Assistant Chief Randy Hall, Naval Air Station Jacksonville, Louis M. Latendresse, GS-06, 90 CES/CEF, and Ron Kanterman, all had called that blue tube the "hydrant water hammer controller". Too which we reply..... close but NO



Tom Shand another one of our experienced readers wrote "As far as that contraption hooked up to the fire hydrant it looks like something used to supply water to a ball field with a small tap on the other side. After 33 years in the fire service I thought that I had seen just about all of the different water appliances, but apparently not!"

Your right Tom about not seeing it all but if you wanted to see this appliance it can be found at NAS Patuxent River at the crash station fire hydrant. It intrigued us as well so we asked for an explanation. It seems that sand was continually being found in the pumps of the crash trucks. Further investigation revealed that the hydrant in the picture was the only place that water was supplied from for these vehicles. The gang at public works designed this filtration appliance (the blue tube) and to date the problem has been eliminated.

Speaking of sand, we have reprinted the following:

## What an oyster can do with a grain of sand?

There once was an oyster  
Whose story I tell,  
Who found that some sand  
Had got into his shell.

It was only a grain,  
but it gave him great pain.  
For oysters have feelings  
Although they're so plain.

Now, did he berate  
the harsh workings of fate  
That had brought him  
To such a deplorable state?

Did he curse the government,  
Cry for election,  
And claim that the sea should  
Have given him protection?

'No,' he said to himself  
As he lay on a shell,  
Since I cannot remove it,  
I shall try to improve it.

Now the years have rolled around,  
As the years always do,  
And he came to his ultimate  
Destiny stew.

And the small grain of sand  
That had bothered him so  
Was a beautiful pearl  
All richly aglow.

Now the tale has a moral,  
for isn't it grand  
What an oyster can do  
With a morsel of sand?

What couldn't we do  
If we'd only begin  
With some of the things  
That get under our skin.

Please send nominations to the Editor: [morganga@navfac.navy.mil](mailto:morganga@navfac.navy.mil)

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