Fire Service Based EMS is under attack in ways that we have never seen before. Private companies and financial investment groups are seeing dollar signs for themselves in the future of EMS. Private ambulance companies would like to take over Fire Service based EMS now, more than ever, because they will soon have the ability to collect additional funds and be profitable in places like Los Angeles.

Recent legislation and anticipated nationalized medical coverage will provide private fire agencies and private ambulance companies with the ability to collect fees for services rendered. Not only are the "privates" fighting for the transportation money, but they are also fighting for the first responder fees. These fees will soon be paid to whoever responds, whether they transport or not. Additionally, UFLAC and CPF recently secured legislation in California will soon more than triple the amount of federal reimbursement for Medicaid enrolled patients.

What has UFLAC done to defend against the attack on Fire Service Based EMS? UFLAC President Pat McDoser is also Vice President of the 8th District of the California Professional Firefighters. Together with CPF, we recently opposed and halted legislation which would have severely hurt the Fire Service by negatively impacting our right to provide EMS. Specifically, AB-210 would have opened the door for Private Ambulance companies to takeover EMS in cities like Los Angeles because they would have weakened our "201 rights" under the law.

201 rights are so-called because of the section in the regulation where they are contained. They "grandfather" the rights of EMS providers like the LAFD -- meaning the County can’t put the service out to the lowest bidder -- because we have continually provided EMS here in our jurisdiction since prior to the law’s enactment on January 1, 1980. We maintain these rights unless we knowingly give them away or they are taken away by the passage of a new law. We have won the battle to protect our 201 rights so far, but the war is not over. You can be sure that private ambulance companies will lobby hard and dump millions of dollars into passing legislation that will make it easier for them to take us over at the cost of hundreds, perhaps thousands, of firefighter jobs in California.

An outstanding video was recently distributed to every LAFD Fire Station by Fire Chief Cumming. The video was produced by LACoFD and features Deputy Chief Mike Metro in a lecture (which is summarized on Page 10) titled "Fire Based EMS Under Attack." This video is a must watch for all municipal firefighters and it may change your views towards Fire Based EMS. Please note that the video is a year old so it contains outdated information about CPF endorsing AB-210. CPF initially endorsed this bill before it was amended to include the language that threatened our 201 rights.

Fire Based EMS is Under Attack

The Los Angeles Firefighter

Official Publication of United Firefighters of Los Angeles City — Local 112, IAFF, AFL-CIO-CLC

www.uflac.org

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LAFD Mourns the Passing of Two Active Duty Members

We are deeply saddened by the sudden and tragic death of two Active Duty members in two months. These deaths serve as a reminder to all of us to live each day to the fullest. The Fire Department is a close knit family and when a Fire Department member passes their family becomes our family.

As this is going to press we learned of the death of Firefighter III Stephenie Glas. We will have a tribute for her in the September / October issue. (JC Memorial Pictures on Page 2)

Jerald (JC) Coates, Fire Inspector

Stephenie Glas, Firefighter III
It is with a heavy heart that we announce the passing of a highly respected member of the Los Angeles Fire Department.

Fire Inspector Jerald Lewis Coates left us suddenly on Sunday afternoon, May 20, 2012, while off-duty and in the comfort of his own home. He was an active-duty, 25-year veteran of the Department, having been appointed to the LAFD in 1987.

In his nearly three decades of service to the people of Los Angeles, the 59 year-old Coates held a variety of demanding assignments.

In 2001, following 14 years of distinguished service at the rank of Firefighter, he promoted to Inspector. Within the Fire Prevention Bureau, he expertly addressed the special permitting and hazards of underground tanks, before being assigned to the Brush Clearance Unit in 2010.

As a member of this small team of 13 inspectors, Coates helped supervise brush clearance issues among nearly 180,000 targeted parcels citywide. Jerald enjoyed educating the community about the dangers of wildfire, and was routinely lauded by residents for his fair handling of difficult situations. By all accounts, he took great pride in personalized public service.

We kindly ask you to keep Inspector Jerald L. Coates and his loved-ones in your thoughts and prayers. He is survived by his longtime life partner, Donailah and his 25 year-old son, Ryan.

By Matthew Spence
Spokesman,
LAFD

In Memory of Jerald L. Coates

In Loving Memory...

Jerald (JC) Coates
Firefighter / Inspector

Active Duty - Brush Clearance Unit
Appointed to LAFD: 1987
Born: 1953
Died: May 20, 2012

The officers and members of United Firefighters of Los Angeles City, Local 112, IAFF, AFL-CIO-CLC extends our heartfelt condolences to the family and many friends of Brother JC Coates
May he rest in peace…

Photos By Adam VanGerpen, Editor
City Council Adopts LA Fire Budget

LAFD Budget
After weeks of testimony, debate and intense lobbying by UFLAC and others, the City Council has adopted an LA Fire budget for 2012/2013. From UFLAC’s perspective, the results of all that effort are a mixed bag.

We did hold the line against further service cuts for the coming year. In fact we actually got a few things back and secured a new source of funding that ought to pay for more restorations later in the fiscal year. More importantly, an amendment that directs the LA Fire to develop a 5-year restoration plan was unanimously adopted by the Council. This simple development holds real promise for the future... that is if labor and management don’t blow a golden opportunity.

Our new budget represents an increase of $41 million, with the annual cost of the LAFD going from $472 million in 2011/2012 to $513 million in the coming year. Keep in mind though, that the dollar increase is only partly to fund the first pay raises at the new dispatch facility, goes to needed infrastructure restorations. Much of the money isn’t enough. Moreover, Local 112 has already filed an Unfair Labor Practice charge with the City’s Employee Relations Board regarding the unilateral implementation of new work schedules for both the ambulances and the EMS District offices. We were never given the opportunity to bargain over these changes, and our desire is to convert all of these positions back into full-time emergency responders, just as they were before budget cuts took them.

It’s really just that simple. We at UFLAC want everything back and we’re fighting for it. We want all the resources and all the positions that have been cut since 2008. And that includes Fire Prevention Bureau positions and LAFD civilian support staff as well.

Does Management Want Resource Restoration?
The question is though: does management want these things too? The budget battle we just went through was another example of how difficult it is to succeed with the City Council when labor and management aren’t on the same page. It’s been this way for three years now: Local 112 has fought alone for your staffing and safety, while everything we’ve said on the subject has been refuted by the Fire Chief and his spokesmen. It’s been painfully obvious throughout that the Chief...three Chiefs in a row actually...have done the Mayor’s bidding on the budget to your detriment.

But now with their directive on a 5-year plan, the City Council has given new marching orders to the Fire Chief. They’ve made it clear that they want to restore the LAFD...and that they want labor and management to come together on this. Unfortunately, we begin those discussions from starting points that are miles apart.

During the budget deliberations in Council chambers the Chief was asked by the Committee if he would restore more resources if he was given more money. Rather than answer with a simple “yes”, he indicated instead that he would NOT reopen 24-hour fire companies and ambulances. He said that he would prefer part-time resources that are only on-line at the time of day when our call load is the highest and when the City’s traffic is the worst.

During more recent talks with us about LA Fire “needs”, the Fire Chief, his top staff and representatives of the Chief Officer’s Association elaborated more. They made it clear that they consider additional 24-hour Battalion and Division Offices and the restoration of all Emergency Incident Technicians to be the top two staffing priorities for the LA Fire. According to them, field-assigned Chiefs no longer have the time to accomplish all their administrative duties and to properly supervise their subordinates. As they put it, “the guys in the firehouse really want the Chief to come around each day just to sit down with them to tell them what’s going on”. They acknowledge that firefighter safety has been compromised by staffing shortages at fires and other emergencies, but insist that the solution is less about restoring fire companies than it is about having an EIT for every Chief.

I personally see our organizational needs and the order of our priorities quite differently. But that’s my point here: we’re not going to get anywhere until labor and management can agree on a plan to restore the LA Fire and then fight it for together. If we continue to publicly disagree, it will only ensure that the Council will find some other City department to restore first. We must reach consensus very soon, and that will require both sides to be reasonable and to give a little. And everyone involved needs to put safety and public service above everything else...certainly above our own egos and sensibilities.

5 Year Restoration Plan
The budget amendment that calls for a 5-year restoration plan was UFLAC’s doing. No one helped us achieve it and it wouldn’t have happened without our dogged persistence about staffing cuts these past three years. We got no help from man.

Speaking at Jerald “JC” Coates Memorial Public Safety Priority
But I want to be clear about something: The public’s safety and yours have been our only concerns as Local 112 has waged a three year battle to restore LA Fire services. That will not change...now or ever. As I see it, the Council’s action last month is only a tiny “open crack in the door” toward getting things fixed. But the door is beginning to creak open just a little and light is starting to shine in. Local 112 is going to keep pounding and pushing until we get all the way inside. Our fight, just as it has been from the start, is to restore all 150 full-time LA Fire emergency responders, to protect the working conditions of the world’s best dispatchers, to re-staff our decimated and often neglected Fire Prevention Bureau, and to rebuild the LA Fire to full strength. I hope that we are joined in the battle now by the men and women on the LA Fire who wear the gold badges. We could certainly use the help and we would gladly welcome it.
Congratulation to Pension Commissioner

San Francisco IAFF Local 798

San Francisco IAFF Local 798: Our active members are entitled to the professional(s), our very healthy funded pension system (and why our members are entitled to the benefits they receive.

We currently have had our own active members from Locals 112 and 798 with a retired UFLAC member walking the Frisco wharf during a few hour break while their cruise ship was in port. Our retired member had a bad fall and was in need of hospitalization. When the San Francisco FD rolled out one of their board members, Brother Shon Buford was on the call and noticed the LAFD t-shirt. He asked if the member was active and knew our executive board. When Local 798 was aware that the travel plans were changing and they were going to miss the ship, they immediately without reservation secured room and board for our Local 112 member and his family! No questions asked, no bills sent requesting reimbursement, just took care of it like family.

We (UFLAC) often do the same thing to others, and we will continue to do the same because the reciprocation from other IAFF Local’s across the country is there at a moment’s notice. It is all about relationships! In addition to the overwhelming support of helping hands, we exchange ideas, negotiating strategies, and try not to reinvent the wheel over difficult union matters.

We do not agree to any date until you put the深圳 into consideration. Often times a unilateral date is given. When you get notified that you will be interrogated (not to be confused with the word interviewed) by the LAFD Professional Standards Division (PSD), immediately secure some sort of representation. Do not wait until the morning of to call for a representative.

We will either be a subject or a witness. Do not have your guard down because you are ‘just a witness’ though. Witnesses have been turned into subjects in the past (not often, but it has happened). You are entitled to schedule the interrogation with your busy representative’s calendar into consideration. Often times a unilateral date is given. Do not agree to any date until you talk to your representative.

The department has a job to do, and it is never the intention of the local to play games or hinder a necessary discipline function. However, the union is in place to assure your rights are not violated. Once you get notified you will be interrogated, per our Letter of Agreement (LOA) you have 7 days to SCHEDULE the interrogation, not complete it (Emphasis Added).

If you are ever compelled to make a statement or answer questions in violation of your right to representation, demand that it be recorded (record it yourself and get a witness you trust) and read the following into the record at the beginning and after each question asked of you:

“I am making this statement involuntarily, in compliance with a direct order made under penalty of sanction and/or termination. In compelling my statement without representation, you are in violation of the California Government Code, Sections 3250 through 3262 (Firefighter Bill of Rights), and are subject to civil penalties prescribed by law. I do not waive any of my rights under this law, including this law’s procedural contract, and any other local, state, or federal law, or my right to remain silent under the 5th and 14th Amendments of the United States Constitution.”

Tip: Never be talked out of waiving your rights, always invoke your rights!

Sincere Condolences

Our Sincere Condolences go out to the family and friends of Brother Jerald (JC) Coates, who passed away off duty. Brother JC was an excellent Inspector, friend, and father. Brother JC will be missed by many. His funeral service was a great tribute to him and an excellent celebration of his life.

On another sad note, right before this edition was going to the press, we suffered the loss of one of our Sisters, Stephanie Glas off duty. Sister Glas was an active and competent Firefighter from Fire Station 93 “B” Platoon who was beginning to get involved with the Local. Please keep her family and co-workers in your prayers at this time. Our next UFLAC newspaper will have a section dedicated to the loss of Sister Glas.

**UFLAC Vists with Albuquerque Member in LA Hospital**

Albuquerque, New Mexico

Brother Jerald Coates

We were approached by the leadership from the New Mexico State Firefighters union asking to assist one of their members in need, Brother Vincent Cordova. Brother Vincent was going to be in Los Angeles for an extended period of time due to a very rare and complicated surgery. Without reservation your Local (UFLAC) was there at St. Vincent’s Hospital giving assistance, supplies, and reassurance to the family during his stay. Brother Vincent’s recovery and turnaround time was unbelievable and truly a miracle.

Frank Lima and Tony Gamboa visit Vincent Cordova

Frank Lima

The five members of Albuquerque, NM Local 244 who were one million shy of winning the $640 million Mega Millions jackpot are putting the $10,000 they did win toward a fund to help fellow member Vincent Cordova, who was recently diagnosed with a very rare, but serious type of brain tumor.

“Since the news of their donation went nationwide, we have gotten an incredible influx of donations to our Firefighter Survivors Fund,” says Local 244 President Diego Arencón. “It means a lot to know that people will do whatever they can and contribute to our brother. I can’t tell you how proud we are.”

The fund was created to help Cordova offset any expenses not covered by his health insurance. The local plans to keep the fund open to help other first responders when they are no longer able to work.

Vincent Cordova, 24, developed a tumor condition called Jugal Foramen Schwannoma. Causing a real threat to his future health, his doctors recommended that he undergo a three-day surgery to remove it. He has since had the procedure and is slowly recovering. Updates on his condition are on his blog.

Make donations via PayPal on the local’s website or send checks to:

IAFF Local 244 Firefighter Survivors Fund
C/O Vincent Cordova
P.O. Box 25602
Albuquerque, NM 87125

Reprinted from www.iaff.org

**LAFRA President John Jacobson, Frank Lima, Pat McOsker**
Taking Care of Our Own

Pensions

Congratulations to Ruben Navarro on his retirement as our active duty pension commissioner. Commissioner Navarro’s term is for 5 years and as an organization we look forward to working with him.

Transfers

We are still receiving calls from members wondering why another member was granted a transfer and the vacancy was never published. We continue to remind ESF to publish all vacancies. There are several grievances in the hopper based on vacancy publication and the most senior member not getting the assignment. Your union and ESF are trying to work together so this doesn’t happen anymore.

Memorial

We recently attended the memorial for Brother Jerald “JC” Coates. When you attend a Fire Department Memorial you are reminded just how much we take care of our own. I know that the family of JC Coates will always be taken care of and will continue to be part of our LAFD family.

Wellness

Just a reminder... We take care of others and let’s not forget to take care of ourselves. Make sure sometime throughout the day that you take time to get your exercise in!

Corporate Power Grab

We know that a CORPORATE POWER GRAB Initiative will be on the November ballot and that anti-union supporters of it have already launched an aggressive campaign. UFLAC is joining with CPW and locals across the state to defeat this Initiative that could potential wipe out all the benefits and protections we have fought so hard to get. We are going to need the help of the membership to defeat this Initiative.

MDA

MDA had another successful year. Thank you to all of those who attended and make this event such a success. It is always great to see how much effort in put into this worthy cause for Jerry’s kids.

LAFD Hosts S.A.F.E.R Meeting

On Thursday, May 17, 2012, the Los Angeles Fire Department hosted the S.A.F.E.R. (Southern Area Fire Engineering Research) meeting at Frank Hotchkins Memorial Training Center. Represented at this meeting were private, city, county, state, and federal fire agencies and a variety of manufacturers and vendors of fire related equipment.

There are 3 components at each meeting –

- Program – Presented by Fire Department officers and other experts in their fields on current topics affecting the Fire Service.
- Round Table – Introduction and open discussion by all members. It’s your time to request or present information on various equipment or safety issues from other agencies, manufacturers, or vendors. Your problem/solution may be valuable to someone else.
- Vendor Display – Showcased the latest equipment and apparatus.

The presenter for this month’s meeting was Barbara Brenner. Barbara is the Loss Prevention Manager for the City of Sacramento, Human Resources Department, Risk Management Division. She has worked closely with the Sacramento Fire Department since 2006. Ms. Brenner has been an occupational safety professional for 20 years and has a M.S. in Health and Safety from the University of Southern California. Her presentation was titled “Respiratory Protection – Hot or Not” and it covered the Sacramento Fire Department’s evaluation of exposure to the post-extinguishment work environment and collaboration with Cal OSHA Consultation on a newly adopted overhaul standard.

Ms. Brenner provided the group with insightful information relative to the post-extinguishment hazards that our members are frequently exposed to. She went further to describe the measure that the Sacramento Fire Department (SFD) has taken to reduce these exposures. SFD recently instituted a Overhaul Standard Operational Guidelines (SOG’s). These SOG’s view overhauls much like hazardous material incidents, with the creation of “Hot”, “Warm”, and “Cold” work environments. Members are required to use appropriate respiratory protection to operate in each of these identified environments. Respiratory protection would include the Self Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA), Air Purifying Respiratory (APR), N-95 mask, and the P-100 mask. The P-100 will be specifically used in asbestos containing environment. Hot work environments are considered those atmospheres that pose an immediate threat to life. Usually flames and/or smoke and other harmful gases are present. The respiratory protection required for this environment will be the SCBA. Warm work environments are those that contain dust, mist, vapors or gases in excess of OSHA’s permissible exposure limits. The recommended respiratory protection for this environment would be the SCBA and N-95 mask.

Other important measures taken by the SFD include –

- Purging the environment with an electric blower. The area should be purged for a minimum of 15 minutes prior any overhaul operation.
- Focus on areas with direct fire involvement. Utilize the Thermal Imaging Camera as a tool for finding hot spots, possible sources for rekindle.
- Rotate crews so that no one spends an excessive amount of time working in an SCBA.
- When possible release those companies that have used (3) air bottles (starting from initial response).

The money raised from this event is going towards research and a cure.

We recently attended the meeting at Frank Hotchkins Memorial you are recommended just how much we take care of our own. I know the family of JC Coates will always be taken care of and will continue to be part of our LAFD family.

By Darnell Wade, LAFD Risk Management

By Tony Gamboa, Director

Director’s Report

Engineer Vince Mena

FF Patrick Kitratnee, A/O Mike Perea, Erin, Tony Gamboa

The FireWatch System is a fully self contained, remotely monitored system designed to detect the unwanted presence of fire and smoke by monitoring environmental changes associated with combustion. Housed in a hardened custom designed Pelican case, the system contains all the components needed to set up and distribute a temporary fire monitoring system. The FireWatch System detects and transmits the presence of smoke, heat, and fire sprinkler activation. Rekindles can be detected and extinguished in their early stages. The system will notify a central station to alert the local dispatch center in the event of system activation. The unit communicates via an AT&T cellular data channel which provides two-way communication. This two-way communication also allows responsible technicians to remotely service and upgrade units in the field.

The presentation offered by Ms. Brenner, provides an additional reminder of the hazards that these environment presents to our members. We have to limit our exposure to these environments. This can be accomplished with the use of appropriate respiratory devices, purging the area with blowers prior to entry, establishing an overhaul rotation and with the creation of Rehab. Our members do and extemporary job, post extinguishment, with the removal of overhaul debris. However, let us never overlook the toxic environments that these conditions present and treat them like the hazardous material incidents they are.
In its tenth year, the Z Awards for ExZellence, founded by Councilman Dennis P. Zine, recognizes individuals for their ongoing dedication, commitment, and “exzellence” in their respective fields and for their outstanding contributions in the areas of law enforcement, emergency services, public safety, and community advocacy.

Council District Three honored personnel from the Los Angeles Police Department, the Los Angeles City Fire Department, the Los Angeles County Sheriff’s Department, the California Highway Patrol, and the Los Angeles County Department of Probation. And for the first time in Z Awards history, a CitiZen Award was presented to Dennis McCarthy, an individual who has made an enduring impression on the San Fernando Valley through his celebration of unsung heroes in his columns featured in the Daily News, ABC7 News Anchor David Ono presented the awards to the recipients.

At this year’s award ceremony, the Los Angeles City Fire Department’s own Captain Alfred Hernandez was one of the honorees.

In 1954, the International Association of Firefighters selected the Muscular Dystrophy Association (MDA) as its charity of choice and pledged to join MDA’s quest to fight muscular dystrophy, “until a cure is found”. On April 23rd, 24th, and 25th, UFLAC 112 members joined this quest and hit the streets to participate in our 7th Annual Fill the Boot drive. In three days, our brothers and sisters were able to raise $134,897 for MDA. Thanks to your loyal support of this effort, UFLAC 112 has raised just over $1 million since 2006. Firefighters collected donations from passing motorists and pedestrians at 24 locations throughout the City of Los Angeles. The funds raised will be used to provide health care and support services to 6,000 families in Southern California supported by the MDA.

Fill the Boot dollars help MDA maintain a network of clinics open and staffed with specialists focused on caring for someone with a neuromuscular disease. Locally, MDA partners with UCLA and Children's Hospital Los Angeles to provide clinic services to families.

Through our participation in Fill the Boot, UFLAC 112 members also ensure that youngsters with neuromuscular diseases get to experience, “the best week of the year” at MDA Summer Camp. Last year, several UFLAC 112 members were able to travel to MDA Summer Camp and spend the day having fun at this special camp. It was hard to tell who had more fun, the campers – or the firefighters!

Finally, and most importantly, your efforts fund research towards treatments and cures of these devastating diseases. Thanks to your continued support, MDA was able to spend $39 million on research in 2011 alone. Clinical trials are being conducted for Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy, Spinal Muscular Atrophy and ALS, or Lou Gehrig’s disease because of funds collected through the Fill the Boot program.

Battalion 18 members deserve special recognition for once again having the number one raising battalion department wide collecting and impressive $26,027. We’re proud to be a part of this long standing fire service tradition and looking forward to continuing to partner with MDA in the fight against neuromuscular diseases.

www.mda.org

Photos By Adam VanGerpen and Juan Guerra, EPN
EAP Corner

Elder Care Resources

By Nancy Mraz, EAP

Referrals for elder care have always been available through the EAP, however I felt that we needed to expand our resources in this area. In consultation with an expert, Sharon Miller, CEAP, CADAAC, in this field we have prepared a booklet on general information for anyone finding themselves responsible for an aging family member.

As we take on the care for someone in advancing years their needs may become quite complicated and the services available can also be confusing. The good news is that there is a lot of help available and we have put together an “Eldercare Resource File”.

Contained in this packet we have a list of phone numbers that cover services such as low cost transportation for seniors, free legal counseling for the elderly of L.A. County, crisis intervention numbers where elder abuse is suspected, and many other services geared to the needs of the elderly. There is also a list you can use to record the location of important documents that the family may need access to such as marriage certificates, naturalization papers, health directives, insurance policies, etc.

We have provided a daily log a caregiver can use to track how a patient is doing throughout their day. This log has been put together by the Alzheimer’s Association and is recommended as an important adjunct to doctor’s visits. The patients’ doctor may see them briefly and will only see a brief “snapshot” of how this person is doing, so a daily log becomes a valuable tool for the physician to accurately evaluate how a patient is functioning on a daily basis.

One of the common concerns for aging family members is staying in their homes as long as it is safe. The packet contains a checklist for making sure we anticipate and take care of any potential hazards in the home. Also in the packet is a fact sheet on general questions regarding Durable Powers of Attorney and Reversible Living Trusts. This may answer your questions on what sort of legal documents you need, and is not meant to take the place of contacting an attorney to discuss your specific legal needs. There is also a fact sheet on end of life decision making. As we watch someone we love decline the sadness and grief may be as much as we feel we can deal with, however there are legal and caregiver issues that also must be addressed and this fact sheet may

CPF Daniel A. Terry Scholarship

The Daniel A. Terry Scholar- ship provides higher education financial assistance to the children of California’s fallen firefighters. Daniel A. Terry served as president of California Professional Firefighters, the largest statewide firefighter organization in California and founder of the California Fire Foundation. For more than three decades, Mr. Terry devoted himself to building a better life for firefighters. His commitment and leadership led to groundbreaking protection for firefighters and their families. Mr. Terry also conceived and led the successful effort to construct a lasting tribute to California’s fallen first responders - the California Firefighters Memorial in Sacramento’s Capitol Park.

To be eligible for the Daniel A. Terry Scholarship, an applicant must be the natural or legally adopted child of a California firefighter who died in the line of duty and whose name appears or is approved to appear on the California Firefighters Memorial Wall. Applicants must also be under 27 years of age at the application closing date and must possess a high school diploma or equivalent, or be in the final year of high school.

Each scholarship award amount is $2,000.

Click here to download the 2012 application. The application deadline is July 17th, 2012.

Hope For Firefighters

Fire Stations from all over the City teamed up with local business sponsors for the 15th Annual Hope For Firefighters. Each sponsor team joined with a Fire Station food booth to assist the men and women of LAFD prepare and serve their specialty food or drink.

This one day event is one of the largest in North America and always brings out a large crowd. All proceeds from the event benefit the Los Angeles Firemen’s Relief Association’s - Widow, Orphans, and Disabled Firemen’s Fund.

Corporate Teams also participate in the “Firefighter Muster Games”. Featured in the muster games was the Bucket Brigade, the Firefighter Suit-Up Competition, and the Old-Fashion Hose Pulling Contest. Prized and trophies were awarded to the top performers of the Firefighter Muster Games and to the LAFD Culinary Campion.

This is an annual event you do not want to miss. If you have never been make you to save the date for next year. For additional information go to: www.lafra.org

Photos By Valerie Lawrence and Erika VanGerpen
LAKE VIEW TERRACE - Los Angeles Firefighters safely rescued a horse that was stuck in water and mud near Hansen Dam Aquatic Center.

At 5 p.m., a swift and carefully coordinated rescue ensued near 11798 Foothill Boulevard, where a large horse was in water with half of its body covered, and unable to exit on its own due to three of his legs being stuck in the mud below.

Over 40 firefighters, under the command of Battalion Chief Jack Wise, worked from the ground and air to rescue the animal, approximately 10 of which entered the water, concentrating efforts on keeping the horse’s head above water during the rescue operation. Firefighters utilized 4x4 vehicles, carriers, back boards that float, and two-line rope systems. The Dart Team, a unique group including a veterinarian, responded tremendously fast and tranquilized the horse with a sedative while firefighters used manpower and rope systems to safely bring him to the shoreline. Then in a coordinated effort, a harness was placed around the weakened horse, and a LAFD helicopter lifted the him to dry land at a near by baseball field.

Recent rains beautify many areas of Los Angeles, but firefighters warn people not to ride horses in areas you can’t walk. River beds become especially wet, and there are unforeseen hazards lurking under the water. Just six inches of water is enough to knock a person off their feet.

Animal rescues not only save the animal in danger but stops owners and bystanders from endangering themselves in a feudal effort to save the animal.

Chief Wise stated, “Not only did our firefighters do an outstanding job, but we want to thank the LA City Lifeguards from the Aquatic Center, General Services Police and others that assisted prior to our arrival.”

Submitted by Erik Scott, Spokesman
Los Angeles Fire Department

Photos By Juan Guerra, Mike Meadows, David DeMulle, and Adam VanGerpen
EMS Section: America’s Fire Service Based EMS
A Critical Juncture

By Mike Metro,
Los Angeles County Fire Deputy Chief

Fire service-based EMS is at a critical juncture; understanding the issue before us and the best next steps are important for all in the fire service to consider.

AMR has approached the city management of Los Angeles, Dallas and Cincinnati, offering to take over the fire-based EMS transport system in an effort to save those cities money. In their proposal to the city of Dallas, they stated that they can deliver EMS transport services more efficiently than the Dallas Fire Department.

The American Ambulance Association (AAA) has very aggressively pushed an agenda that states fire station fixed-deployed models aren’t efficient for the EMS mission, but their System Status deployment model is. Additionally, they published the latest version of the book EMS, Structures for Quality, Best Practices in Designing, Managing and Contracting for Emergency Ambulance Service. In this book, they describe public-safety models of ambulance transport as “laissez faire or in house” and their private-for-profit model is characterized as “contracted, high performance.”

Though a great guide for developing quality EMS systems, this same book discusses strategies for defending against a move into their market by public-safety or to move against public-safety for increased market share. Additionally, the AAA has lead a very strategic process since 1994 to move their providers from a low-performing industry to a very high-performing EMS provider. Thus, private, for-profit ambulance providers have developed into a competitor of America’s fire service-based EMS mission.

On May 4, 2010, meetings were held in Sacramento to discuss whether fire departments had the grandfathered rights to provide EMS service in their own jurisdictions or if they had to compete competitively for the right to provide those services. The San Joaquin County EMS Agency gave EMS-dispatching rights to AMR and took them away from Stockton Fire, thus allowing AMR to collect伟大 funding from the state of California.

The San Joaquin County EMS Agency revoked the ability of the City of Stockton Fire Department to provide ALS/paramedic services effective September 1, 2010, because they wouldn’t sign a contract that would give up their rights to provide administrative oversight to their EMS mission. This contract inferred that if a fire engine had a paramedic on board, the EMS agency could direct that resource to emergencies as they saw it, as well as giving up the 1797.201 rights by contract.

Quite frankly, these types of aggressive and at times inflammatory moves should not surprise us. Most for-profit, private ambulance companies are publicly traded entities with a responsibility to their stockholders to increase profit. Since ambulance billing rates are generally capped by local ordinances, their next best option to make more money is to expand their market share. The fire service holds a large part of that market share, so we are their targets. Again, don’t be surprised. It happens in corporate America all the time and we don’t give it a second thought.

So what do we do? Some say we should go to war. A wise person once stated that those who live in glass houses should never throw stones at an opponent. The fire service has been under attack for our pensions and compensation packages. Make no mistake; an unscrupulous competitor will make these types of things a major issue in the media.

What must do is first realize that we are in a competition and rise up and be the best competitors we can be by developing the best EMS delivery systems possible. Cities across the nation are in dire straits financially. This fact is driving them to consider options that they never would have considered five years ago. Would the city of Dallas have even considered AMR’s offer back then? I think not; yet today, they’re compelled to consider it.

The questions we must be able to articulate and strive to excel at are some of the same things we would look at when finding a new or used automobile mechanic for our personal cars:

• Cost
• Skills
• Customer service
• Innovation
• Professionalism

Are we cheaper than the private? No, we’re not. The better question is are we cost effective? Is a cross-trained firefighter/paramedic able to handle all-risk emergencies such as fires, EMS, hazmat and heavy rescue? Absolutely! Can you articulate that to your city or district administrators? When you staff a fire service-based EMS ambulance with cross-trained firefighter/paramedics and place them on the first- alarm structure assignment, do you really think not you’re idea of staffing credit? Absolutely! In fact, you may even be a full one or two classification rates higher for this staffing, with a commensurate reduction in certain fire-insurance rates. What is that value to your community? This is truly added value and cost efficiencies.

In The Nordstrom’s Way, the author states that there are three pillars of retail success. They are quality, customer products and customer service. He goes on to say that you must nail at least two of them. Is Nordstrom’s cheaper? No, but they certainly have quality products and their customer service is second to none.

America’s fire service-based EMS systems must think the same way. We may not be cheaper, but our product and our customer service must be second to none. We may not be cheaper, but we are indeed cost efficient. How to clearly paint that picture to your local administrators will be different from system to system, but clearly paint it if you must! Make no mistake; we now have competitors who openly admit they will compete for fire-depart ment EMS market share now and in the future. Unfortunately, the practices and scrummarices for this very important competition began for the privates in 1994 when they began down the long road that brings them to this day—a competitor of the fire service.

Unfortunately, many in our industry didn’t see this coming. The referee now has blown the whistle and the game is on! This game is likely the most important one America’s fire service will face! Be competitors and be the best you can be.

In the words of John Wooden, don’t focus on the winning. Focus on the process that will allow you to be the best you can be and let the winning take care of itself.

Mike Metro is deputy fire chief of the Los Angeles County Fire Department and an EMS Section executive board member.

In Memory Of...

James A. Perry
Editor from 1969-2009
LAFFD Memorials

In the last two months we have had two active duty firefighter deaths. I was honored to take pictures for the family, friends, and co-workers of Jarold (IC) Coates. LAFFD did an outstanding job preparing for the Memorial and it was an outstanding tribute for an outstanding man.

As this issue is going to print we learned of the passing of Firefighter III Stephanie Glas. Stephanie has been a member of LAFD since 2005. She was an outstanding firefighter and very involved in her community. We will prepare a tribute to her in our September / October issue of The Los Angeles Firefighter. Active duty deaths serve as a reminder to us all to live each day to the fullest. They also show just how tight our fire department family is. We should all be involved in our community. We learned of the passing of Sister Stephenie Glas.

Appointed to LAFD: August 5, 2005
Born: August 15, 1974
Died: June 9, 2012

May she rest in peace…

By Harold Schaitberger, IAFF

A landmark fire service study on fire fighter safety and the deployment of resources has just been released. You can find our story about the report and the study here and here.

We held a meeting and press conference in Washington, D.C., to outline the salient points in this groundbreaking research. U.S. Fire Administrator Kelvin Cochran and IAFF President Jeff Johnson joined me to witness the release of the National Institute for Standards and Technology’s fire fighter safety and deployment study, funded by the Department of Homeland Security.

I would be remiss if I did not extend my appreciation to Lori Newcomb, the IAFF’s Assistant to the General President for Technical Assistance and Informatics Resources. She did a phenomenal job to help pull this landmark report together and I applaud her efforts.

One remarkable conclusion in the study shows that four- and five-person crews complete the 22 common and deadly fires in the country – those in single-family residences – provide quantitative data to fire chiefs and public officials responsible for determining safe staffing levels, station locations and appropriate funding for community and fire fighter safety. This study comes at a crucial time for the fire service. Public officials considering resource cuts cannot ignore the results of this unbiased study.

Social Media

If you are not already following Local 112 on Facebook log in now and Like Us at www.facebook.com/local112. You can also follow us on Twitter by searching for @UFLAC www.twitter.com/UFLAC.

In Loving Memory...

Stephanie Glas
Firefighter III
Active Duty - Fire Station 93 “B” Platoon
Born: August 15, 1974
Appointed to LAFD: August 5, 2005
Died: June 9, 2012

The offices and members of United Firefighters of Los Angeles City, Local 112, IAFF, AFL-CIO-CLC extends our heartfelt condolences to the family and friends of Sister Stephanie Glas. May she rest in peace…