



# Colorado State Fire Chiefs' Association Member Update

June 15, 2007

## Auditors Report Reveals Abysmal Enforcement of Fire and Life Safety in Schools by State Agency Fire Chiefs Continue to Express Concerns

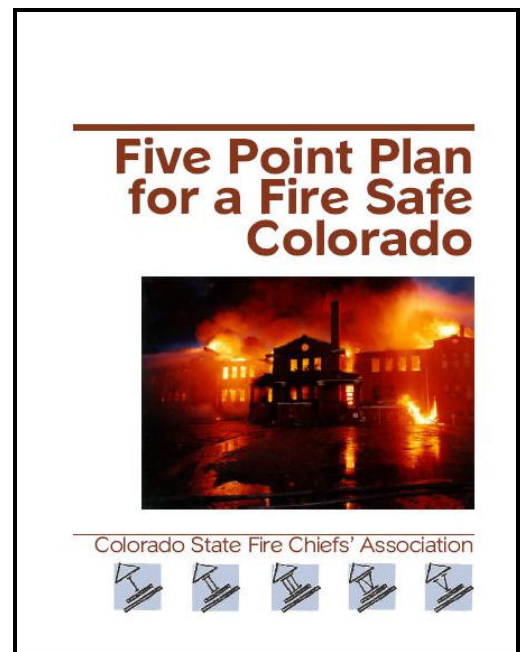
**CENTENNIAL**, June 13, 2007 – For years the Colorado State Fire Chiefs' Association (CSFCA) has repeatedly sounded the alarm that there was little or no enforcement of building and life safety codes in the construction or remodel of public schools in Colorado by the State Division of Oil and Public Safety. According to CSFCA President Douglas Forsman, "We have long maintained that this lax oversight was putting our children at risk," adding, "it is only by luck and chance that we haven't lost a child due to a fire or structural collapse in a school."

Thus, the report released Monday by the State Auditor's Office, which found the Division's record of enforcement nothing short of abysmal, comes as no surprise to the fire chiefs. Since publication of its "Five Point Plan for a Fire Safe Colorado" in 1997, the CSFCA has sought to transfer this function from the Division of Oil and Public Safety to the Division of Fire Safety in the Department of Public Safety.

The fire chiefs believe the enforcement of building and fire codes in public schools is a life safety function, best regulated by an office whose mission is life safety. The CSFCA has also long maintained that the authority to conduct plan reviews and inspections of public schools should be delegated to local authorities that have qualified building and fire inspectors. "It is the local fire department that will be called when the school is on fire," says Chief Forsman, "and we will be the ones held to answer if a child loses his or her life. It only makes sense that we should be the ones ensuring that the schools in our jurisdictions are safe." According to Forsman, "The state should be involved only in adopting the codes and standards, and enforcing them in areas of the state where there are no qualified local inspectors."

The CSFCA made two recent attempts in the legislature to address this issue, but our concerns were largely ignored.

In 2005, the CSFCA sought to transfer all of the public safety programs, which included school safety, boiler inspections, carnivals and amusement parks, and explosives from the Department of Labor and



Since 1997, the CSFCA has sought to transfer the public safety programs of the Department of Labor to the Department of Public Safety in the interest of administrative efficiency and program effectiveness.

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## Division of Oil & Public Safety Audit Report

(continued from page 1)

Employment to the Department of Public Safety. A bill (SB05-236) sponsored by Senator Tom Wiens and then-Representative Tom Plant, among others, to do this ran into significant opposition from the Division of Oil and Public Safety and its constituents. While the emphasis was on the school safety program, it was felt that all of the public safety programs belonged in a public safety agency and the resources to do the job effectively were scattered between the programs.

Despite overwhelming evidence that the Division was doing little to fulfill its statutory duties with respect to schools, the bill was killed in its first committee hearing following testimony from the Division Director, Dick Piper, that all required inspections were getting done and no changes were needed.

The list of issues cited by the fire chiefs was lengthy, and mirrors those found by the State Auditor's Office. It included examples of:

- Certificates of Occupancy issued before construction was complete and fire and life safety systems were operational
- Exit doors that were hung backwards, meaning they could trap students inside in the event of fire
- Required fire-rated doors not installed, or installed incorrectly
- Fire detection and alarm systems inadequately designed or inadequately installed
- Unprotected penetrations in fire walls, which would allow a means for rapid fire spread

The list went on, but of significant concern were the countless examples of Certificates of Occupancy being issued by the Division without a single inspection performed by state or local officials. The practice was to allow the contractor to hire their own inspectors, which is tantamount to allowing the "fox to guard the henhouse."

Making matters worse, the years of neglect by the Division have created the situation where we

now have countless public school buildings in the state that were not built to code, and there is little opportunity to correct problems once a Certificate of Occupancy is issued.

During the 2006 legislative session, the CSFCA supported by groups representing fire marshals and building officials, renewed its efforts to pass legislation to correct this problem. "In order to increase our likelihood of success," relates Forsman, "this time we narrowed our focus specifically on the issue of school safety." House Bill 06-1158 by then-Representative Paul Weissmann and Senator Ron Tupa sought to transfer the school safety program from the Division of Oil and Public Safety to the Division of Fire Safety and allow delegation of enforcement to local officials.

Like its predecessor bill, HB06-1158 ran into obstacles from the beginning, when it was assigned to three different committees in the House, presumably on the belief that it would not make it through all three. When it did, the Division was willing to come to the table and concede there were issues, but Director Piper blamed it on the lack of resources to do the job. While the CSFCA agrees the resources were insufficient, it suggested that the resources were available within state government, particularly if certain enforcement activities were to be delegated to local authorities. The CSFCA also maintained that the primary problem was cultural – that the primary mission of the Department of Labor and Employment was not public safety – and thus the emphasis was not directed towards this.

However, when the CSFCA was told that then-Governor Owens would not sign a bill that transferred the entire school safety program and allowed for delegation, it was faced with the decision to agree to a compromise or lose the bill entirely.

The compromise position was that the program would remain the responsibility of the Division of Oil and Public Safety, but the

### Division of Oil & Public Safety Audit Report continued . . .

authority for the enforcement of fire codes would be given to the Division of Fire Safety. The delegation to local authorities was left to the individual school districts to decide. They could have either the state perform the function or their local building and fire officials. But, if they opted for state oversight, the proposal would require the Division of Oil and Public Safety to refer plans to local fire departments for fire safety review and comment.

According to Forsman, "It would be a better situation than existed at the time, so we agreed to the compromise." HB06-1558 was subsequently enacted into law with an effective date of July 1, 2006. However, since enactment of the Bill, very little has been done to actually implement its provisions. The Bill requires the Division of Oil and Public Safety to do rule-making to implement it, and nearly a year later, we are still waiting for this to occur.

While the report of the State Auditor confirms what the CSFCA has been saying all along, "The real issue," according to Forsman, "is that problems still exist, and little is still being done to address them." He suggests that, "It is time that we adequately resource this program and turn it over to people whose primary mission is public safety."

Chief Forsman adds that, while the record of the Division of Oil and Public Safety speaks for itself, there are several jurisdictions in the state, including his (Union Colony Fire Rescue Authority in Greeley), "That enjoy a very good relationship with their school district and they work together to resolve fire and life safety issues at the local level."

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Note: To access a copy of the Report of the State Auditor on the Public Safety Programs of the Division of Oil and Public Safety go to: [www.colofirechiefs.org/news10.htm](http://www.colofirechiefs.org/news10.htm). Other related materials can also be accessed from this page.

### Scathing Report on New School Inspections

By April M. Washington, Rocky Mountain News  
June 12, 2007

The state is doing an abysmal job inspecting school construction projects for building code and safety violations, potentially putting students at risk, an audit released Monday found.

The Division of Oil and Public Safety has one person to review building plans and one to conduct inspections for about 150 public school construction projects annually.

State auditors found that in a number of cases the division issued certificates of occupancy - giving schools a green light to open new buildings - without conducting final inspections.

Don Mares, executive director of the Department of Labor and Employment, which oversees Oil and Public Safety, called the audit's findings unacceptable.

"This (audit) will not go on the shelf," he said. "We will come up with a plan to address it in a systemic way."

Auditors would not give a reporter the names of the schools, saying the problem lay with the state's building inspection process, not the schools.

A review of 10 completed school construction projects found that none of the schools received all of their required inspections.

Dick Piper, director of the division, blamed part of the problem on a lack of resources. Piper contends that newly constructed schools are safe.

Most local governments and schools conduct building inspections of all construction projects, he said.

"It's not as though thorough attention isn't being paid to safety by the folks overseeing the projects," he said.

### Scathing Report on New School Inspections continued . . .

Nevertheless, Piper said he was concerned by some findings.

"The one that's most disturbing is that fact that we issued certificates of occupancy for no justifiable reason," he said. "The excuse was that most were issued last summer when we got hit with a barrage of requests from schools because they wanted to get them open."

The division, which also inspects oil storage tanks and carnival rides, charges schools very low inspection fees. Some suggested the fees be raised.

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### Fire District Settles Suit; Debt Likely to Go Unpaid

By Mike Wiggins, Grand Junction Daily Sentinel  
June 12, 2007

The Grand Junction Rural Fire Protection District has settled its lawsuit against two accountants who worked for the district when millions of taxpayer dollars were funneled to a New York Internet company, effectively ending a three-year effort to recoup the botched investment.

Rita E. Harvey of Denver will pay the district about \$14,000, which will cover the cost of filing the suit, according to Larry Beckner, an attorney for the fire district, and Steve Grant, president of the district's board of directors. The settlement covers both Harvey and Michael Baron, a Rochester, N.Y., accountant who also was named in the suit.

Mesa County Chief District Judge David Bottger last month dismissed the lawsuit with prejudice, meaning the fire district cannot file another suit.

"I think, realistically, this is the end," Beckner said Monday.

The fire district began investing public money in 2001 in a company that later became known as e.NVIZION. The investments, which totaled \$3.24 million, were made at the

recommendation of then-board secretary Rob Dixon, who had owned stock in e.NVIZION.

Once the investments became public knowledge in 2004, the fire district attempted to retrieve the money and has since received back all but about \$1 million.

The district filed suit last year against former board members Tery Dixon, who is not related to Rob Dixon, Steve Gsell and Steve Ward, alleging they had misappropriated funds, breached their fiduciary duty and were negligent for allowing the district's funds to be invested in ways that went against a law dictating how public money can be invested.

Bottger, however, dismissed Tery Dixon as a defendant last fall, ruling she was immune from liability because she was a public employee. Based on that ruling, the fire district dismissed Gsell and Ward from the suit.

Bottger also ordered the district to pay Dixon and Gsell's legal fees, which totaled more than \$14,000.

Rob Dixon was not named in the suit because he filed for bankruptcy and has no assets.

That left Harvey and Baron, who performed some accounting work for the district. Their attorneys negotiated for months with attorneys for the fire district to try to reach a settlement, court documents show.

"When we have the opportunity to at least get reimbursed for the costs the district was out, we felt that was a prudent decision," Grant said.

Joseph Cohen, a Littleton attorney representing Harvey, declined to comment Monday. Salt Lake City attorney Heidi Goebel, who represents Baron, could not be reached for comment.

Fire district officials say the lawsuit was likely their last attempt to recover the \$1 million owed to the district. Beckner said the district owns a deed of trust on a piece of property in

## Fire District Settles Suit

continued . . .

New York but expressed skepticism that the district would make any money off it, saying the property has a "minimal" amount of equity in it. The property was deeded to the district by a private individual as collateral, Beckner said.

The fire district considered filing a federal lawsuit designed to pursue organized crime but ultimately decided against it because of the complexity and costs associated with such an action.

A Mesa County grand jury investigated the issue for several months but declined to indict anyone.

"We tried every way that we could — against e.NVIZION, against (e.NVIZION attorney) Rick Bruno, against (former e.NVIZION chief executive officer) Randy Phillips, against the two accountants, against the prior board members, and we came to a dead end in all regards, except for the Colorado accountant (Harvey) who signed off on the audits but never performed the audits," Grant said.

"The board has done everything we believe is prudent to try to recoup these fees. I feel we've done the best we can."

The loss of the money likely will affect the district's ability to make timely payments to the City of Grand Junction. The district, which encompasses portions of Orchard Mesa and the Redlands and areas north of the city, collects tax money and gives it to the city twice a year in exchange for fire and emergency medical services.

The payment the district made to the city in January was only a partial one, with the balance paid in April or May, Grant said. The district's payment in July will also be a partial one, he said.

"At some point in the future, our delinquency is going to get bigger," Grant said.

## Safety Stand Down 2007: Are You "Ready to Respond?"

**Fairfax, Va., June 14, 2007** – With only two days until the third annual Safety Stand Down kicks off, the IAFC wants to know—is your department "ready to respond?"

Departments across the United States and Canada, as well as internationally, are preparing for the Stand Down by planning schedules and discussing questions and concerns that department members may have. Advance planning will aid in conducting an educational, successful and efficient Stand Down for all.



Whether you are still unsure of your department's schedule or your schedule is completely planned out, we encourage you to visit [www.iafc.org/standdown](http://www.iafc.org/standdown) for helpful materials, including sample schedules and activities. These materials will give you not only ideas for activities, but also resources for health and wellness, a chief's guide to planning and outreach, safety reports and a media guide.

If you have not yet signed up, there is still time. Visit [www.iafc.org/standdown](http://www.iafc.org/standdown) to add your department to the mailing list. By adding your department to the list, it will let the IAFC know of your interest in the Stand Down and allow you to receive updates and information as soon as it is available.

If your department chose to send out a press release to the local media, we would like to remind you that reporters will most likely contact you for comment about your Stand Down. It would be helpful to have something prepared in advance for these inquiries so that you are not put on the spot.

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## FIRE SERVICE-BASED EMS ADVOCATES

### COALITION STRESSES IMPORTANCE OF FIRE SERVICE-BASED EMS Report Highlights Critical Role of the Fire Service

(Washington, DC) – Fire departments are best equipped to deliver emergency medical service, according to a new white paper. *Prehospital 911 Emergency Medical Response: The Role of the United States Fire Service in Delivery and Coordination* was prepared by top EMS physicians from three different regions of the United States. The 13-page report describes fire service-based EMS and the time-critical role of the fire service in providing emergency medical care.

It is critical that policy makers understand the importance of having emergency medical services provided through the fire service. Fire service-based EMS is prehospital emergency 9-1-1 medical response provided by the nation's firefighter EMTs and paramedics. Due to the training, expertise, and equipment of fire service-based EMS responders, they are capable of simultaneously securing a scene, mitigating the hazard, and triaging, extricating, treating, decontaminating (if necessary), and transporting the patients who have been injured to an appropriate medical facility. Time efficiency is a key component of the best designed EMS systems. There is no service more capable of rapid multi-faceted response than a fire service-based EMS system.

"The fire service has a proud heritage of providing EMS services in local communities across America," said Chief Dennis Compton. "What this white paper represents is an awareness that EMS begins the second a 9-1-1 call is placed and highly skilled and trained emergency medical personnel from local fire departments are dispatched to the scene to provide the first level of care to victims."

The paper is intended to help organizations as they continue efforts to educate local, state and federal officials about the role of fire-service based EMS. The paper underscores the importance of the Assistance to Firefighters Grant and SAFER programs in training and equipping fire service-based EMS and the role of the Federal Interagency Committee on Emergency Medical Services (FICEMS) in establishing federal EMS policies.

The Coalition has also produced a video, "*Fire Service-Based EMS: The Right Response*," to complement the new white paper. It features a number of highly respected fire service-based EMS advocates who share their views about the important role of fire service-based EMS in local communities. The experts include Dr. Franklin Pratt, Medical Director, Los Angeles County Fire Department; Dr. Eugene Nagle, Miami Fire Department; Chief William "Shorty" Bryson, City of Miami Fire Department; and Chief Dennis Compton, International Fire Service Training Association.

The report was written by Dr. Franklin D. Pratt, Medical Director, Los Angeles County Fire Department; Dr. Steven Katz, Associate Medical Director, Palm Beach County Fire Rescue; and Dr. Paul Pepe, Riggs Family Chair in Emergency Medicine at Southwest Medical Center.

Members of the Fire Service-Based EMS Advocates Steering Committee include the Congressional Fire Services Institute, International Association of Fire Chiefs, International Association of Fire Fighters, National Fire Protection Association and the National Volunteer Fire Council.

A copy of the report is available on the website of each coalition steering committee member organization. Videos can be obtained by submitting a request to the Congressional Fire Services Institute at [update@cfsi.org](mailto:update@cfsi.org).

### Safety Stand Down 2007

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Let them know what you did, how many members participated, how the time that you were active went and overall how you feel that the Stand Down will benefit your department as a whole and as individual members.

Media coverage is beneficial for your department to gain the crucial support of the community. Please take a few minutes to plan your media response.

The IAFC is looking forward to receiving feedback on your Stand Down. Please tell us how you spent your day or the week, what activities you did, the response from your department members and community and overall how you feel that participating in the Stand Down was beneficial to you. Please send your stories and photos to [onscene@iafc.org](mailto:onscene@iafc.org).

Good luck and thank you for participating in the Stand Down. Without you, this event would not be possible.

Note: Additional reference materials may be obtained from the CSFCA website at: [www.colofirechiefs.org/resources-ffsafety.htm](http://www.colofirechiefs.org/resources-ffsafety.htm).

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### County Working to Put Fire Question on Ballot

Ann E. Wibbenmeyer, Leadville Herald  
June 14, 2007

Lake County has started the process of putting a public-improvement district for the purpose of fire protection on the ballot for this November.

This would give the county authority over the fire department.

At a meeting on May 30, the board of county commissioners voted to reject the city proposal for future fire department management. Setting up a district for fire protection, either by a special district or through a county improvement district, was one of the conditions of the city's proposal.

The proposal also had a six-member board that had one elected official from the city and one from the county and four citizens.

Commissioner Carl Schaefer said he opposed this board setup because it left the board open to a split vote.

Commissioner Mike Hickman opposed the proposed board because "it allows a nonelected committee to make decisions on how county funds are spent - the responsibility of the commissioners," he said.

The city drafted its proposal in response to a proposal from the county that had only city and county elected officials, with the final say-so resting with the county, and the city having a fixed amount to contribute to the budget.

Colorado statutes say that a city can manage a fire department, but a county cannot unless a county sets up a public-improvement district for the purpose of fire protection.

The commissioners asked the community if they should pursue this in a vote in 2005. The question lost by very little. In 2006 the community voted down a special district for fire protection that would have had a separate elected board run the department. This vote wasn't as close.

The county has been trying to find a way to have more authority over spending in the fire department since it pays 70 percent of the bill under the current intergovernmental agreement with the city.

Hickman pointed out that if the IGA is terminated, and the city no longer provides fire protection for the county, the sheriff can become a fire warden. He would respond to fire calls in the unincorporated county and bill for those service.

"One way or another, fire protection will continue," he said.

### Public Improvement District

continued . . .

"It is going take an election to get on the ballot to say yes or no, the county can have a fire department," said Hickman. A selling point for this district, he added, is that no tax increase is attached to the formation, since the county is already paying the bill.

The commissioners agreed that there should not be two departments in the county, and felt the city should be a part of the county public-improvement district for fire protection.

"I don't want to see a second fire department, but I'm not going to be held up by bandits telling me, 'you don't get any authority over spending money you were elected to do,' " said Hickman

At a meeting on June 8, city council members Betty Benson and Scott Marcella said that the direction of city council was that they would support a district, either a county improvement or a special one.

Voters will not be convinced to vote for the district if the city and county can't agree, said Marcella.

The group did agree that a plan needed to be in place no matter how the election ended. They worked on points for a new IGA that would finish 2007 and could continue in the future if the district fails.

A proposal for both groups to take to their respective boards could have a five-member board: two city council (one being the Mayor), two BOCC members and the sheriff, an elected official under no authority of the commissioners that could be a fire warden anyway.

Hickman asked that this group would be in charge of making the final selection of a new fire chief, ensuring the county's part in this process.

The final budget for the fire department would be approved by each respective board, but the spending up to that budget would rest with the five-member board.

The funding of the city would also be phased out over a five-year period, dropping five percent for four years and ten percent the fifth year.

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### Bodane Offered Chief Position

Brighton Standard Blade  
June 7, 2007

The Greater Brighton Fire Protection District agreed during a special meeting Wednesday night to conditionally offer its open fire chief position to Mark Bodane, the long-time chief of the Carol Stream, Ill. Fire Department.



Bodane first started working with fire departments at the age of 16 and has spent most of his career with the Carol Stream, Ill. Fire Department. He has served as their fire chief for the past 16 years where he has guided the department through a gradual change from mostly volunteer firefighters to a largely, paid staff.

Board member Cindy Lippman said the offer is contingent on "the district and Bodane negotiating a mutually agreeable employment contract."

He was one of four finalists competing for the job after an extensive search by a department-hired consulting firm.

Former Chief Robert Parker retired earlier this year.

There was no immediate timeframe on when the district hoped to complete contract negotiations.

Note: Please join the Colorado State Fire Chiefs' Association in welcoming Chief Bodane to Colorado.

## Introduction to National Fire Incident Reporting System (NFIRS) Course

Hosted by: Morgan Community College

This 2-day National Fire Academy course provides students the tools necessary to successfully implement the National Fire Incident Reporting System (NFIRS) 5.0 in their respective jurisdictions and to achieve uniformity in their incident and activity reporting. Students will be provided detailed instruction on the NFIRS 5.0 coding structure and rationale, comprehensive information on the NFIRS 5.0 modules, and strategies to promote, implement, support and manage the NFIRS 5.0 system.

Participants will also be introduced to the federal client tool (FCT) and web-based reporting.

At a local level, the NFIRS data can be used to: describe a community's fire problem; support budget requests; improve decision-making for allocation of resources; assist in planning for future fire protection; help identify opportunities for scheduling emergency activities; evaluate code enforcement programs and identify target audiences for public fire education programs. This course is designed for individuals interested in basic NFIRS training. It meets the State of Colorado Fire Incident Reporting System training requirements for departments that have received either a CSFS grants or a FEMA Fire Act Grant. It is also beneficial to those departments seeking those grants as well.

**Dates:** Sat & Sun, June 23 - 24, 2007

**Times:** 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM (Sat)  
9:00 AM - 3:00 PM (Sun)

**Location:** Fort Morgan Community College  
920 Barlow Road  
Fort Morgan, CO 80701

**Cost:** There is no fee for participation.

**To Register:** Contact Marlinda Acevedo, CFIRS Program Manager, Colorado Division of Fire Safety at [marlinda.acevedo@cdps.state.co.us](mailto:marlinda.acevedo@cdps.state.co.us) or 720-852-6743.

## NIOSH Firefighter Fatality Investigation and Prevention Program Releases New Report

June 13, 2007 – The NIOSH Fire Fighter Fatality Investigation and Prevention Program has recently released the following Fire Fighter Fatality Investigation Report:

### Volunteer Fire Fighter Dies After Being Struck by a Shackle on a Recoiling Tow Rope – South Dakota (F2006-22)

#### Summary

On April 8, 2006, a 38-year-old male volunteer fire fighter (the victim) was struck by a shackle on a recoiling tow rope and died three days later. The fire department was dispatched to a controlled burn that had escaped its boundaries. Fire fighters arrived on the scene, extinguished the fire, and started departing the scene. An engine was being driven out of a soybean field when it became stuck in the mud.

An attempt was made to tow the engine from the field using a tractor, tow rope and screw-type shackles on either end of the tow rope attached to the tractor and engine. With the victim sitting in the driver's seat of the engine and another fire fighter sitting in the passenger's seat, a farmer started moving the tractor forward.

When tension was applied to the tow rope, the shackle on the tractor failed and the tow rope with it's shackle attached recoiled toward the engine. The shackle smashed through the windshield, struck the victim in the forehead and then proceeded out through the back window.

Other fire fighters, standing in the area, witnessed the incident and ran to the aid of the victim and called for Emergency Medical Services (EMS). The victim was transported by ambulance to the local hospital and then was air lifted to a metropolitan trauma center. The victim died three days later on

## **Firefighter Fatality Investigation Report** continued . . .

April 11, 2006, due to the injuries he sustained in the incident.

NIOSH investigators concluded that, to minimize the risk of similar occurrences, fire departments should:

- utilize a heavy towing service for apparatus and revise standard operating guidelines (SOGs) accordingly
- develop and implement SOGs and safe work practices for the selection and proper use of tow ropes and shackles, and for other rigging fixtures to prevent loading beyond their structural capacity
- ensure that fire fighters and/or other onlookers are removed from the hazard area when towing operations are performed in the event of rigging failure
- ensure that apparatus used at an incident scene is positioned in a safe location.

For a copy of the complete report, go to: [www.cdc.gov/niosh/fire/reports/face200622.html](http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/fire/reports/face200622.html).

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## **CSB Issues Case Study on Fatal Partridge-Raleigh Oilfield Explosion in Mississippi; Recommends OSHA Program to Inspect Oil and Gas Production Facilities**

Jackson, Mississippi, June 12, 2007 - In a case study report released today on a fatal explosion and fire last year at a Smith County oilfield, the U.S. Chemical Safety Board (CSB) found that unsafe work practices were the cause of the accident and recommended increased Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) inspections of the region's oil and gas production facilities.

The report also called on the Mississippi Oil and Gas Board to identify, and refer to OSHA, potentially unsafe health and safety conditions observed during field inspections of well sites and drilling operations.

At around 8:30 a.m. on Monday, June 5, 2006, loud explosions and a fire were reported at the Partridge-Raleigh oilfield in Raleigh, Mississippi. Three contractors died and one contractor suffered serious injuries. The contractors, all employees of Stringer's Oilfield Services, were completing piping connections between tanks when welding sparks ignited flammable vapor venting from one of the tanks.

Partridge-Raleigh earlier contracted with Stringer's Oilfield Services to relocate three oil production tanks located on the Partridge property. Four tanks were arranged in a straight line approximately four feet apart where the workers were to perform the tank connection. The tanks ranged from 15 to 20 feet tall and 12.5 feet in diameter. The tank contents included flammable hydrocarbons, ethyl benzene, xylene, toluene, and naphthalene fumes.

On the day of the accident, two Stringer's workers and a foreman had climbed on top of the tanks and placed a ladder between two tanks to serve as a makeshift scaffold. A welder attached his safety harness to the top of one of the tanks and positioned himself on a ladder. To connect the piping to the two tanks, the welder had to weld a pipe fitting onto the side of one tank before attaching a short length of pipe to the fitting and to a nearby, open-ended pipe on an adjacent tank.

Almost immediately after the welder started welding, flammable hydrocarbon vapor venting from the open-ended pipe ignited. Welding sparks ignited flammable vapor escaping from the open-ended pipe about four feet from the contractors' welding activity.

The fire flashed back into the tank on which the two workers were holding the ladder and also quickly flashed back into the third tank. The pressure from the burning vapor inside the two tanks caused the tops to blow off. The workers were thrown by the force of the explosion, which resulted in blunt force trauma and fatal injuries. The welder suffered a broken ankle and hip, but survived since he was wearing a safety harness that prevented him from falling to the ground.

The investigation found that unsafe work practices directly contributed to the severity of this accident. The ladder placed between the tanks should not have been used as a makeshift work platform and the open pipe on the adjacent tank was not capped, or otherwise isolated with a closed valve to prevent flammable vapor from accumulating near the area where the welding was to be done.

Additionally, while not a cause of the accident, the welder inserted a lit oxy-acetylene welding torch into the tank's hatch and then into an open nozzle on the opposite side of the tank to verify that all flammable vapor was removed from the tank instead of using a flammable gas detector.

Lead Investigator Johnnie Banks said, 'While recognized to be dangerous, this practice is common in oil field operations and even has a name--flashing.' He added, 'Neither Stringer's nor Partridge-Raleigh required hot work permits to perform welding on the tanks.'

The fatality rate of the oil and gas extraction industry is over eight and a half times higher than the average for all industries in the United States. CSB Chairman Carolyn W. Merritt said, 'Lives cannot be an acceptable added cost of providing fuel to American consumers.'

CSB found that Stringer's lacked hot work safety procedures and did not implement available guidelines from the American Petroleum Institute (API) 2009 standard, 'Safe Welding, Cutting, and Hot Work Practices in the Petroleum and Petrochemical Industries' in preparing and conducting the welding operation on the day of the incident. In addition, Stringer's and Partridge Raleigh did not adhere to OSHA requirements addressing safe welding practices.

The CSB recommended that Stringer's Oilfield Services management develop and implement written procedures to ensure safe work practices during hot work, tank cleaning, and work from elevated locations. The CSB also recommended that Partridge Raleigh management establish written health and safety performance standards and performance metrics such as those found in the API Recommended Practice for Occupational Safety for Onshore Oil and Gas Production Operations - API RP-74.

CSB recommended the Mississippi State Oil & Gas Board (MSOGB) establish a program to identify and refer to the federal OSHA potentially unsafe health and safety conditions observed during Board field inspections of well sites and drilling operations. The program should include a written referral procedure and the training of field inspectors. MSOGB has the primary task to enforce compliance with its rules related to spill control and containment; housekeeping, such as grass control; and access to, and egress from, tanks.

The CSB also recommended that OSHA Jackson, Mississippi Area Office implement a Local Emphasis Program to inspect companies in the oil and gas production and extraction sector. Chairman Merritt said, 'No worker should have to suffer injury or death to make a living. It is the responsibility of the owners to protect their employees from the hazards of the work to be performed.' She added, 'While it is the responsibility of the company to comply with OSHA

standards, without effective enforcement, too many companies may simply ignore these life saving protective standards.'

OSHA had not inspected Partridge-Raleigh or Stringer's in the three years prior to the explosion or conducted a planned inspection at any of the nearly 6000 oil fields in Mississippi in the preceding five years. Inspections were conducted resulting from employee complaints or accidents. Following the explosion, OSHA cited Stringer's for 13 serious safety violations.

The CSB is an independent federal agency charged with investigating industrial chemical accidents. The agency's board members are appointed by the president and confirmed by the Senate. CSB investigations look into all aspects of chemical accidents, including physical causes such as equipment failure as well as inadequacies in regulations, industry standards, and safety management systems.

The Board does not issue citations or fines but does make safety recommendations to plants, industry organizations, labor groups, and regulatory agencies such as OSHA and EPA. Visit our website, [www.csb.gov](http://www.csb.gov).

For more information, go to the Partridge-Raleigh Investigation Information Page at: [http://www.csb.gov/index.cfm?folder=completed\\_investigations&page=info&INV\\_ID=61](http://www.csb.gov/index.cfm?folder=completed_investigations&page=info&INV_ID=61)

For a copy of the case study, go to: [http://www.csb.gov/completed\\_investigations/docs/PartridgeRaleighCaseStudyFINAL.pdf](http://www.csb.gov/completed_investigations/docs/PartridgeRaleighCaseStudyFINAL.pdf)

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## National Fire Academy Course Vacancies

There are vacancies in the following two courses in the Management and Information Curriculum at the National Fire Academy. Applications are currently being accepted. The application period will close June 30, 2007.

NFIRS Program Management (R491)

08/19/2007 - 08/24/2007

11/25/2007 - 11/30/2007

02/24/2008 - 02/29/2008

NFIRS Standards of Cover (R492)

12/02/2007 - 12/07/2007

These are both **new** 6-day offerings.

For additional information and to obtain an application refer to the following sites:

Planning and Information Management Curriculum:  
[www.usfa.dhs.gov/applications/nfacsd/display.jsp](http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/applications/nfacsd/display.jsp)

NFA Applications:  
[www.usfa.dhs.gov/nfa/about/attend/apply.shtm](http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/nfa/about/attend/apply.shtm)

## COLORADO STATE FIRE CHIEFS' ASSOCIATION

### 2007 Corporate Sponsors

#### Corporate Sponsor

#### Sponsorship Level

#### **American Safety Associates of Colorado**

Basic

Established in 1975 - "specializing in firefighters protective clothing with a personal touch." Bunker gear manufactured in Colorado. Dealer for Cairnes and MSA helmets. Woman owned-small business.

#### **AXA Advisors & Public Safety Financial Group**

Silver

The Public Safety Financial Group/AXA Advisors is a team of dedicated individuals who provide comprehensive financial consulting services for public safety individuals and departments. Our team focuses on understanding your situation, including your specific department's benefits, therefore allowing us to build a customized strategy for you and your family. We offer extensive financial services including investments, insurance, individual and group retirement plans, business succession planning, and estate planning. Our goal is to empower our public safety clients to make informed financial decisions over the course of their lives.

#### **COCAT**

Bronze

At COCAT, we specialize in the unexpected. As the leading provider of property restoration services, COCAT excels at comprehensive and effective disaster recovery solutions. With over 25 years of experience, COCAT has successfully restored thousands of residential, commercial, and industrial properties. Our team of certified specialists delivers the highest levels of quality, service, and workmanship in all facets of residential, commercial, and industrial property damage restoration. You can count on COCAT to get the job done - right.

#### **Collins, Cockrel and Cole, P.C.**

Basic

Collins Cockrel and Cole continues, as it has for over 25 years, to provide a wide range of legal services to local governments throughout Colorado. The Firm serves as general counsel to over 140 Colorado Special Districts and Municipalities, dealing with all transactional matters, related litigation and intergovernmental relationships.

#### **CPS Human Resources**

Basic

CPS provides a full range of employment testing and selection services to the fire service including entry and promotional written exams, recruitment and assessment centers.

#### **Emergency Services Consulting inc. (ESCi)**

Bronze

Emergency Services Consulting inc. (ESCi) is a national firm providing specialized, high quality fire, police, communications, and EMS consulting services to organizations throughout the United States and Canada. Since 1976, ESCi has been meeting the needs of emergency services agencies providing consulting services to municipalities, districts, nonprofit organizations, and the industrial and commercial community.

#### **Fire and Police Pension Association**

Basic

The Fire and Police Pension Association of Colorado was established January 1, 1980 and administers a statewide multiple employer public employee retirement system providing defined benefit plan coverage as well as death and disability coverage for police officers and firefighters throughout the State of Colorado. FPPA also administers the assets of affiliated local government pension plans, volunteer firefighter plans, and deferred comp plans for firefighters and police officers throughout the state.

#### **Gregory & Associates, Inc.**

Gold

Gregory & Associates, Inc. provides employee benefits for groups. We also offer financial services such as financial planning and retirement planning. We have provided services for the Special District Association (SDA) since 1984. We are currently offering a product for the new Length of Service Program (LOSAP), which was enacted by the Colorado Legislature in February, 2007. We have been in the financial industry in Colorado since 1969.

#### **Intrado**

Gold + Sponsor of  
10 Volunteer FD's

For over a quarter of a century, Intrado has pioneered improvements to the 9-1-1 network, helping to enhance the quality of emergency response in the United States. Intrado helps telecommunications service providers and public safety agencies save lives by transforming emergency communications services.

**Corporate Sponsor****Sponsorship Level****Kroenke Sports Enterprises**

Basic

Kroenke Sports Enterprises is the Rocky Mountain West's leading provider of live sports and entertainment events. Kroenke Sports Enterprises is the home of the Denver Nuggets, Colorado Avalanche, Colorado Crush, Colorado Mammoth, Colorado Rapids, NDP Lacrosse, and Pepsi Center.

**Max Fire Apparatus, Inc**Bronze + Sponsor of  
5 Volunteer FD's

Max Fire Apparatus, representing Rosenbauer and Braun Ambulances, provides departments in Colorado and Wyoming with products that have innovative design, superior manufacturing and proven technology. Our EVT certified technicians are committed to serving the needs of our customers at our full service maintenance facility or on-site with our fully equipped mobile service vehicles.

**Motorola, Inc.**

Bronze

Delivering critical information seamlessly to the fingertips of first responders when and where they need it - across agencies, borders, networks, devices.

**National Fire Protection Association (NFPA)**

Basic

Established in 1896, NFPA serves as the world's leading advocate of fire prevention and is an authoritative source on public safety. In fact, NFPA's 300 codes and standards influence every building, process, service, design, and installation in the United States, as well as many of those used in other countries.

**Pinnacol Assurance**

Basic

We are Colorado's leading Workers' Compensation company. We support our customers with the finest in accident prevention programs, quick and accurate claims management, and valuable Return-to-Work programs. It's all just part of what makes us the most trusted Workers' Compensation company in the state.

**Public Safety Solutions**

Basic

Public Safety Solutions provides fire department and ambulance service problem solving.

**Summit Emergency Equipment**

Banner Advertiser

Summit Emergency Equipment answers the call to the fire and EMS communities, representing the most sought after names in the industry. We can also assist your department with emergency vehicle parts and service for any make of fire apparatus or ambulance.

**Super Vac Manufacturing Co., Inc.**

Gold

Super Vac manufactures fans, trucks, and light towers in Loveland, CO. We also have a complete refurb and repair facility for all fire service vehicles.

**T. Charles Wilson Insurance Service**

Banner Advertiser

Provider of Property, Liability, Malpractice, Directors & Officers, Workers Compensation, Accident and Sickness, Group Life and other insurance products to fire districts and other special districts and private businesses.

**VFIS of Colorado**

Gold

VFIS of Colorado, insuring non-profit emergency service organizations since 1982 and the recognized "Standard of Excellence" that is built upon a foundation of trust. VFIS offers a progressive portfolio of insurance coverages, including property and casualty, accident and sickness, group life insurance, group long term disability, and volunteer pension plans. VFIS of Colorado offers education and training programs, and risk management resources, as an added value service.

**Wheatland Fire Equipment**

Banner Advertiser

Since 1983, we have been in the fire equipment distribution business. We are committed to giving our customers the best customer service with our knowledge, experience and integrity. Our customers deserve the best and safest equipment on the market, so we only sell premium personal protective equipment. We also have a mobile service center and technician able to do Scott service, TNT service, compressor service, fit-testing, hydrostatic testing, and more.

# COLORADO STATE FIRE CHIEFS' ASSOCIATION

## Board of Directors – 2007

### President

Douglas Forsman, Fire Chief  
Union Colony Fire Rescue Authority  
919 7th Street  
Greeley, CO 80631  
970-350-9500  
E-mail: dforsman@colofirechiefs.org

### Vice President

Dave Parmley, Fire Chief  
Lake Dillon Fire Rescue  
P.O. Box 4428  
Dillon, CO 80435  
970-513-4110  
E-Mail: dparmley@colofirechiefs.org

### Combination Fire Chiefs' Section

Bruce Mygatt, Fire Chief  
Boulder Rural Fire Protection District  
5075 Jay Road  
Bouder, CO 80301  
303-530-9575  
E-mail: bmygatt@colofirechiefs.org

### Secretary

Tom Montoya, Division Chief  
Longmont Fire Department  
225 Kimbark Street  
Longmont, CO 80501  
303-651-8424  
E-mail: tmontoya@colofirechiefs.org

### Treasurer

Andrew Marsh, Fire Chief  
Federal Heights Fire Department  
2400 W. 90th Avenue  
Federal Heights, CO 80260  
303-427-7209  
E-mail: amارش@colofirechiefs.org

### Fire Marshals Association of Colorado

Doug Hall, Fire Marshal  
Westminster Fire Department  
9110 Yates Street  
Westminster, CO 80031  
303-430-2400 x4500  
E-mail: dhall@colofirechiefs.org

### Northeast Region

Warren Jones, Fire Chief  
Evans Fire Department  
1100 37th Street  
Evans, CO 80620  
970-475-1108  
E-mail: wjones@colofirechiefs.org

### Northwest Region

Michael Morgan, Fire Chief  
Rifle Fire Protection District  
1850 Railroad Avenue  
Rifle, CO 81650  
970-625-1243  
E-mail: mmorgan@colofirechiefs.org

### Fire Training Officers Association

Kevin Milan, Division Chief  
Golden Fire Department  
911 10th Street  
Golden, CO 80401  
303-384-8094  
E-mail: kmilan@colofirechiefs.org

### San Luis Valley Region

Don Chapman, Fire Chief  
Alamosa County Fire Protection District  
902 Weber  
Alamosa, CO 81101  
719-589-2596 x 23  
E-mail: dchapman@colofirechiefs.org

### South Region

Chris Riley, Fire Chief  
Pueblo Fire Department  
1551 Bonforte Boulevard  
Pueblo, CO 81001  
719-553-2830  
E-mail: criley@colofirechiefs.org

### Fire & Life Safety Educators

Tracey Taylor, Safety Educator  
Parker Fire Protection District  
10235 Parkglenn Way  
Parker, CO 80138  
720-274-3709  
E-mail: ttaylor@colofirechiefs.org

### South Central Region

Dave Ury, Fire Chief  
Black Forest Fire Protection District  
11445 Teachout Road  
Colorado Springs, CO 80908  
719-495-4300  
E-mail: dury@colofirechiefs.org

### Southeast Region

Aaron Eveatt, Fire Chief  
La Junta Rural Fire Protection District  
601 Colorado Avenue/P.O. Box 1066  
La Junta, CO 81050  
719-384-2323  
E-mail: aeveatt@colofirechiefs.org

### Colorado Fire Mechanics Association

Chris Nelson  
Red, White & Blue Fire Prot. Dist.  
316 N. Main Street/P.O. Box 710  
Breckenridge, CO 80424  
970-453-2474  
E-mail: cnelson@colofirechiefs.org

### Southwest Region

Larry Behrens, Fire Chief  
Los Pinos Fire Protection District  
P.O. Box 319  
Ignacio, CO 81137  
970-563-9550  
E-mail: lbehrens@colofirechiefs.org

### West Region

Bob Pistor, Fire Chief  
Montrose Fire Protection District  
441 S. Uncompahgre Avenue  
Montrose, CO 81401  
970-249-9181  
E-mail: bpistor@colofirechiefs.org

### Denver Metro Fire Chiefs

John Bales, Fire Chief  
Golden Fire Department  
911 10th Street  
Golden, CO 80401  
303-384-8094  
E-mail: jbales@colofirechiefs.org



## PUBLIC SAFETY LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE

The Colorado Association of Chiefs of Police, County Sheriffs of Colorado, and the Colorado State Fire Chiefs have partnered with the Institute for Leadership and Organizational Performance at the University of Denver's Daniels College of Business to bring the knowledge and best practices of leadership, communication, and collaboration to the Public Safety Community. The Public Safety Leadership program is a dynamic and rigorous year-long experience that will transform participants as leaders and as individuals. Positions are limited and candidates must meet stringent qualifications criteria. Selections for the program are made annually with nominations maintained for review in subsequent years.

Program participants receive:

- > Access to some of the world's best resources in graduate level business education and U.S. Military academy leadership development
- > Increased visibility into areas of personal strength as a leader and insight into potential areas for growth
- > Exposure to best practices in a variety of subject matter areas to assist in dealing with business and operational situations
- > Tools to develop and maintain stronger peer relationships and information networks to help with current challenges and provide a solid foundation for career enhancement
- > Education to improve individual and organizational performance

This program will provide public safety executives with a strong foundation for becoming more effective both personally and professionally.

### Program Overview

Public safety executives deal with situations similar to command level staff in the military and chief executives officers in business. They need the same advanced educational opportunities in finance, communication, health, organizational science, negotiation, decision making, family and governance available to leaders in the military and the private sector. This program combines world-class speakers with leadership exercises, analytical assignments, strategic business cases, personal assessments, and challenging activities to provide a life-changing executive education experience.

### Program Structure

We recognize that time is a senior executive's most valuable resource; therefore this program is highly concentrated. It is designed as an 'immersion' program with sessions starting early in the morning each day and continuing through late evenings – taking advantage of every possible minute. Sessions compress the very best content and resources into the shortest amount of time possible; assignments are completed between sessions. The first three sessions will be held at locations in Colorado and the fourth session will be held in the sub-Artic - where participants will be challenged to demonstrate all they have learned.

#### Session One

##### **BUILDING YOUR PERSONAL TOOLBOX**

Management and Leadership Styles

Communication Preferences

Values and Ethics

August 12-15, 2007  
Florissant, Colorado

#### Session Two

##### **MAKING HUMAN CONNECTIONS**

Team Leadership

Collaboration

Social Capital and Networking

Mentoring and Coaching

November 11-14, 2007  
Colorado Springs, CO

#### Session Three

##### **DEVELOPING A STRATEGIC PERSPECTIVE**

Organizational Performance Metrics

Financial Analysis

Media Relations and Crisis Communications

February, 2008  
Aspen, Colorado

#### Session Four

##### **MAKING IT HAPPEN**

The Discipline of Execution

All Other Topics in Practice

5 days in April, 2008  
The Hudson Bay

## Faculty and Speakers

Program faculty represents the best in their respective fields. Educators from a number of the nation's leading education and research institutions will present during the four program segments. Other special presenters with world class credentials will also present in non-academic segments.

### Admissions and Commitments:

**The selection committee is made up of representatives from each of the associations. They will make the final determination on who participates in the program.**

- > Candidates should be the chief executive officer of their public safety organization and they apply in teams of three with other public safety executives in their community. Special circumstances will be considered by the admission committee.
- > Candidates must reasonably anticipate serving at least three more years in senior leadership positions in their organization
- > The program contains some rigorous activities, so participants must be in good physical health. Special accommodations will be made for any disabilities.
- > To avoid expending resources on participants not committed to finishing the program, participants are required to sign a written commitment to attend the four primary class segments. Provisions will be made for emergency communications access for program participants in the event of significant emergencies.

Please contact your association for application materials:

- > Paul Cooke, Executive Director, Colorado State Fire Chief's Association, 720.874.8116, paul@coloradofirechiefs.org
- > Don Christensen, Executive Director, County Sheriffs of Colorado, 720.344.2762, dchristensen@csoc.org
- > Karen Renshaw, Executive Director, Colorado Association of Chiefs of Police, 303.750.9764, CACP@Kareams.com

## Application Deadline is June 29, 2007

If you have questions about the program, please contact:

- > Kelsey Stansbury, Director of Executive Programs, Daniels College of Business, 303.871.2370, kstansbu@du.edu

This program is sponsored by the County Sheriffs of Colorado, The Colorado Association of Chief's of Police and the Colorado State Fire Chief's Association. Educational sponsorship is provided by the University of Denver, Daniels College of Business.





## PUBLIC SAFETY LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE

### Program Application

Thank you for your interest in participating in the Public Safety Leadership Institute. Please confirm that you meet the following criteria:

- You are in a senior leadership role for your public safety organization
  - You anticipate serving at least three more years in a senior leadership role for your organization
  - You are able and willing to commit to attending all four residential sessions of the program
  - You are in good physical health
  - You have a current U.S. Passport that will not expire within the year
  - You are applying with the two other leaders from your community
- Please include their names below:

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Please complete the following:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Agency or Jurisdiction: \_\_\_\_\_

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Work and Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Length of tenure with your current organization: \_\_\_\_\_ and in your current position: \_\_\_\_\_

Please describe the size of your organization in terms of # of employees: \_\_\_\_\_

Education - please check highest level attained:

- High School Graduate  Two-Year College  Four-Year College  Some Graduate Classes
- Master's degree  Doctoral Degree

Please attach a current resume, complete the questions on the other side and send your completed application to the appropriate association:

Paul Cooke, Colorado State Fire Chief's Association, Fax: 720.862.2181 or paul@colorado firechiefs.org

Don Christensen, County Sheriffs of Colorado, Fax: 720.344.6500 or dchristensen@csoc.org

Karen Renshaw, Colorado Association of Chiefs of Police, Fax 303.750.0085 or CACP@Kareams.com

