

# FIRE LINK

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## President's Perspective

by Jack Taylor, President

I write this particular article with a heavy heart. Over the weekend, Kansas suffered its fifth line of duty death in as many months. Details are limited at this point and still too painful for some to read it here. Suffice it to say that Firefighter Glaser, 33 years of age and a six-year fire service veteran, exemplified the best in us all and risked his life to save the lives of victims reported to be in the structure. As in many of these cases, he leaves behind a wife and two young children. I did not have the pleasure of knowing Firefighter Glaser, but we are inextricably linked as part of the family of the fire service and I am deeply saddened by the loss of another one of our heroes.

Just two days before, the Fire Chief from Greenwood County, Kansas which borders my county to the south died after a serious illness. Chief Wiggins was one of the first area Chiefs I met when I moved to Emporia and I always enjoyed visiting with him. He was a great guy and active in our State Fire Chiefs organization. Again, I feel the sadness of the loss of a Fire Chief and a personal friend.

Over the weekend, at the Nebraska Fire School, I sat in on part of the "Taking Care of Our Own" class and listened to Melissa's story. Melissa is the widow of a Firefighter who was trapped in a structural collapse during a residential fire in 2007. Her story reflected the impact on the survivors of our fallen firefighters. One cannot listen to such a story and not be touched by the effects of her loss.

Finally, one of my own Firefighters is having surgery on this Wednesday to remove a cancerous lung. Where the cancer came from is anyone's guess. So many variables to consider that would impact on the cause for his cancer. In

this case, we expect a positive outcome and look forward to his recovery.

What is my point with all of this? I know you all have stories similar to these, but it has really hit home with me this last week. We all need to refocus our efforts for our own health and safety as well as our firefighters. Apply the 16 Life Safety Initiatives to the best of your ability. Don't wait for the annual safety week, make every day a safety day. Take advantage of the multitude of materials available from the IAFC to assist in life safety training and education. Because of the nature of our profession, we will still have tragedies occur in spite of our very best efforts as in the case of Firefighter Glaser. However, that should not deter us from making every possible effort to prevent them from happening again.

In one of our local stores the other day, I passed a weathered and gruff looking older gentleman in the aisle and as we acknowledged each other I asked the typical question, "How are you?"

His response was, "Every day is a gift!" Count the blessings of each day and cherish your relationships with your family, friends and your fire service family. In closing, I thank you for the opportunity to represent you as your President this last year. How much more fun can one guy be allowed to have? I enjoyed the opportunity to travel to the various states and meet great people while talking about the Division and FRGPO. We had some interesting challenges come up during the year and we met those head on and made the appropriate decisions. I hope that, other than my absence from the North Dakota conference, I have fulfilled your expectations as President. I have been truly honored and I appreciate the

hard work of our Board of Directors as we completed the old strategic plan and developed a new one to guide us into the future.

I look forward to the conference in Colorado Springs as Chief John Mullin takes the reins as your incoming President. Chief Mullin is an outstanding individual and I have appreciated his friendship and support. I am excited about things to come for our Division! Congratulations to Chief Sandy Schiess as she advances to the position of 1st Vice President and to Chief Chris Riley as he runs unopposed for 2nd Vice President in Colorado Springs. And many thanks to our International Director, Chief Richard Carrizzo, whom I have reached out to on many occasions for advice and guidance. Your counsel has been priceless to me.

Mike Merwick, thank you for your assistance in keeping me on track this year. Mike is the guy in the background who keeps this machine oiled and gets little recognition for his efforts.

PLEASE BE SAFE!!! ♦



### Calendar of Events

**MVD Annual Conference**  
July 7-9, 2010  
Colorado Springs, CO

**FRI-Chicago**  
August 23-28, 2010

**Kansas Annual Conference**  
October 21-24, 2010  
Topeka, KS

## *Schiess Appointed MVD 2nd Vice President*

Chief Bob Pottberg of Fort Osage Fire and 2nd Vice President of the Missouri Valley Division resigned his position to retire and go into private business. The Missouri Valley Division THANKS Bob for his longtime leadership and support of the Fire Service and the Missouri Valley Division — we will miss him.

As a result of Bob's resignation President Taylor appointed Chief Sandy Schiess of Independence, MO to the position of 2nd Vice President and her appointment was confirmed by the MVD Board. As a result of her appointment, Chief Chris Riley of Pueblo, CO will run unopposed for the position of 2nd VP of the MVD at the Colorado Springs Conference. Congratulations to Sandy and Chris for accepting these leadership positions in the Missouri Valley Division.

❖

## *Maltaverne is New Rapid City Fire Chief*

**R**APID CITY, S.D. (AP) — Rapid City has a new fire chief.

The City Council this week confirmed the appointment of Mike Maltaverne, who takes the place of former chief Mark Rohlifing.

Rohlifing took a job as the fire chief of the Milwaukee Fire Department.

Maltaverne says his vision is to have an even more proactive department that not only reacts to emergencies, but also anticipates risks and problems within the city.

Maltaverne has worked for the department for 20 years, most recently as assistant chief. ❖

## **Omaha Fire Department Welcomes Donation**

by Andrew McCawley

**O**maha, NE (KPTM)—Omaha firefighters put their lives in danger every day, but a new piece of equipment is making their jobs much safer.

"Our goal is to have the continuity of a first class, triple a plus fire department that has the technology for the future," says Omaha Mayor Jim Suttle.

That future looks much safer after today's donation of 250 Scott Electronic Management Systems (SEMS). The electronic transmitters are part of the breathing system worn by all firefighters.

"It's a device that when you are motionless for 30 seconds or put on the alarm mode it makes an audible noise that alerts the firefighters on the outside that there is somebody in danger," says Daniel Stolinski with the Omaha Fire Department.

The tone will alert other firefighters that someone is down and help can be sent in.

A laptop computer also monitors the air supplies of the firefighters, so a commander outside can tell a firefighter to get out of the building if their air is running low.

The device was made possible by a \$300,000 donation from the Omaha

Firefighter and Police Appreciation Foundation.

"It's a gift that will guarantee the personal safety and well being in dangerous and volatile times and it's being made possible only through the generosity of hundreds of donors that have made a gift to the Firefighter and Police Appreciation Foundation," says Jerry Hoberman, co-founder of Omaha Firefighter and Police Appreciation Foundation.

During any given day, 250 Omaha firefighters are on duty, and all of them will be wearing the new device.

A piece of technology that should keep our heroes safe.

"We're talking about going back to April 23rd, 1996, when we lost John Goessling in a fire and I believe today if we had would have had this piece of equipment, I think we would have had a different outcome on that day when we lost Johnny," says Omaha Fire Chief Michael McDonnell.

Omaha Firefighter and Police Appreciation Day is coming up. It's June 10th. There are several activities throughout the Omaha area. The goal is to raise up to \$750,000 to help buy more safety equipment. ❖

## **Gov. Ritter Congratulates Latest FEMA Regional Administrator Robin Finegan**

**G**ov. Bill Ritter praised President Obama's appointment of Robin Finegan as FEMA Regional Administrator for Region VIII, which encompasses Colorado, Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, Utah and Wyoming.

"FEMA's Rocky Mountain Region is fortunate to have a leader such as Robin who brings a strong background in crisis management and consulting," said Gov. Ritter. "Robin has worked with communi-

ties, businesses and with survivors of Hurricane Katrina and she will be a valuable asset to this community during any time of need."

Finegan has more than 20 years of experience in crisis management and community preparedness, much of it in Colorado. Her work in disaster mental health, public information, and survivor services has earned her numerous awards and recognitions. ❖



**\$325 registration  
fee extended to  
6/15/10**



# Taking Leadership to the Peak

## Missouri Valley Fire Chief's Conference 2010

# July 7-9, 2010

### **Booked Speakers:**

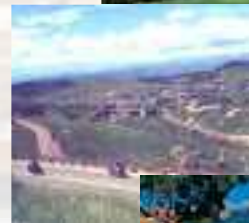
- Kelvin J. Cochran, US Fire Administrator
- Timothy Sendelback, Editor, Fire Rescue Magazine
- Dave Barr, Author and Vietnam Veteran

### **Activities:**

- Golf at one of the nation's oldest golf courses
- Motorcycle Poker Run
- Family package to area attractions

### **Hotel Information:**

Crowne Plaza – [cpcoloradosprings.com](http://cpcoloradosprings.com)  
Conference rate at \$129.00 per night



# 2010 Missouri Valley Fire Chiefs Conference

## Registration Form

Full name (First, MI, Last, Suffix) \_\_\_\_\_

FD/Organization Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address ( home or  work) \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Daytime phone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Fax (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_ Date of birth \_\_\_\_\_

- first time attendee  state officer  new member  life member  IAFC member # \_\_\_\_\_  
 Include my information on the participant roster.  Do not include my information on the participant roster.  
 Special Accommodations \_\_\_\_\_

**FEES**

**Full Conference Package** (includes workshops, Thursday and Friday evening social events, breakfast and lunch on Thursday and Friday for registrant only)

	By May 15	After May 15	Day of event
<input type="checkbox"/> IAFC member .....	\$325	\$350	\$375
<input type="checkbox"/> Nonmember .....	\$350	\$375	\$400
<input type="checkbox"/> IAFC life member .....	\$125	\$125	\$150
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Family Dinner Events Package</b>	\$65/person # of tickets _____		
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Thursday Family Package</b>	\$40/adult \$25/child # adults _____ # children _____		
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Golf Package</b>	\$80/person # of tickets _____ \$19 club rental yes/no		
	Tee Time preference: <input type="checkbox"/> early morning <input type="checkbox"/> mid-morning		
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Motorcycle Poker Run</b>	\$35/person # of tickets _____		

**TOTAL DUE \$** \_\_\_\_\_

**PAYMENT**

- Checks:** make checks payable to **Colorado State Fire Chiefs Association**
- Credit Card:** (Visa or MC only) Name on card: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Card number: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Card type \_\_\_\_\_ Expiration date: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Security code: \_\_\_\_\_ Total \$: \_\_\_\_\_

**Mail your completed registration to:**  
 Lt. JJ Halsey, Colorado Springs Fire Department  
 375 Printers Parkway  
 Colorado Springs, CO 80910  
[jhalsey@springsgov.com](mailto:jhalsey@springsgov.com)

# Three Critical Areas That Can Assist Your Agency in being Pro-Active and Productive

By Chief Gary E. Curmode

## Strategic Plan

This document is created on an annual basis, usually approved on or before the upcoming year. It presents, along with mission/vision/historical information, the short term goals (Four years or less) as well as the long term goals (Five to ten years) of a department. Additionally, the document outlines other ongoing District activities which may correlate with its accreditation requirements. The process integrates the personal goals of the Fire Chief prescribed by his or her boss, with specific accreditation agency criteria spelled out in a series of categories/performance indicators. Other inputs are received from senior personnel at semi-annual or annual retreats as well as floor staff resulting from discussions with Division or Battalion Chiefs. All of the goals hope to be achieved in the following calendar year.

## Standards of Response Coverage

This operational text, sometimes called Standards of Cover (SOC), can be defined in simplistic terms as the level of service

that a fire agency should be committed to provide to its constituents. It consists of the following elements:

(1) An analysis of the risks/hazards of a specific fire response zone and the probability of occurrence of these events.

(2) The determination of the distribution of assets (Location of fire stations) to mitigate these risks.

(3) An analysis of the concentration/assignment of human and physical resources to respond to and mitigate the risks/hazards of the fire response zone in question, and

(4) The determination of response times (In minutes) from unit notification to arrival on-scene.

Each year, the fire department should make significant progress on elements 1, 2, and 3, outlined above. It is important to continue developing cooperative agreements with relevant City and County agencies to refine the timely, accurate, and relevant data streams required to reliably determine its response times. Several meetings may have to be conducted involving staff from your department and

Division of Information and Operations (DIO) personnel to insure that various information systems "talk to one another".

## Risk/Hazard Plan

This concept is an integral part of the standards of response coverage process. It consists of developing fire response zones based upon population demographics which define urban, suburban, and rural categories. It is based upon an analysis of risks to human beings (Loss of life) and/or property (Dollar loss/economic impact). This data is correlated with the type of occupancy, i.e., residential, commercial, manufacturing, chemical storage, etc. Also, the probability of occurrence is factored into the process resulting in a loss/probability matrix. The resulting information is utilized to create the response time/distribution/concentration parameters used in the SOC document. As a result of the construction of new fire stations, a new document may have to be created each year. ❖

## *Total cost of fire up 86 percent from 1980 NFPA report details full impact of fire*

May 7, 2010 – The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) released a new report today, Total Cost of Fire in the United States, which finds that in 2007, after adjusting for inflation, the core total cost of fire has increased by 86 percent since 1980.

The complete total cost of fire for 2007 is estimated at \$347 billion, making up approximately 2.5 percent of the U.S. gross domestic product (GDP).

The complete total cost of fire is defined as the sum of economic loss (e.g., property damage, business interruption), human loss (e.g., lives lost, medical treat-

ment, pain and suffering), and the cost of provisions to prevent or mitigate the cost of fire (e.g., fire departments, insurance, and fire protection equipment and construction).

Other key findings from the report:

- Although the core total cost of fire increased, the economic loss due to fire decreased by 13 percent since 1980, totaling at \$18.6 billion.
- The total cost of direct property damages, reported or unreported, totaled at \$16.6 billion. This figure represents 90 percent of the economic loss. The other 10 percent represents indirect

losses, such as business interruption.

- Human losses are estimated at \$42.5 billion.

For fact sheets on the total cost of fire, please visit [www.nfpa.org/research](http://www.nfpa.org/research).

NFPA has been a worldwide leader in providing fire, electrical, building, and life safety to the public since 1896. The mission of the international nonprofit organization is to reduce the worldwide burden of fire and other hazards on the quality of life by providing and advocating consensus codes and standards, research, training, and education. Visit NFPA's Web site at [www.nfpa.org](http://www.nfpa.org). ❖

*News from Colorado*

# *The Carrousel and Comfort Zone Theory*

by Chief John Bales

Leave it to a four year old to emphasize the comfort zone theory. On a recent trip to Southern California, it was my four-year-old granddaughter who presented one of the best explanations of individual comfort zones and how we go beyond those boundaries of the comfort zone. It was explained quite simply by the 55-year-old King Arthur Carrousel at Disneyland. The carrousel has been around for many years. It consists of 72 colorfully painted horses, each with their own name and special identity. The ride is simple. It lasts 2 minutes and 18 seconds and continually travels in a counter clockwise motion. The carrousel is recognized by the youngest visitor as a standard ride in most amusement parks and one they are drawn to ride over and over again. It provides a certain comfort zone for the young visitor based on their recognition of it and their knowing exactly what to expect on every ride.

While the park offers a wide variety of adventurous rides and attractions, the carrousel continues to draw one of the largest crowds. Other attractions are new to the first timer and there is an anxiety of the unknown which takes the rider a bit out of the comfort zone. However, once a new attraction has been mastered, even by the youngest visitor, a new comfort zone emerges.

The comfort zone is a behavioral state within which a person operates in

an anxiety-neutral condition, using a limited set of behaviors to deliver a steady level of performance, usually without a sense of risk.

One's comfort zone refers to the set of environments and behaviors with which one is comfortable. A person's personality can be described by his or her comfort zones. Successful organizations are made up of persons who routinely step outside their comfort zones, to accomplish what they wish, change the direction of the organization and deal with uncomfortable issues. Like inertia, a person who has established a comfort zone in a particular axis of his or her life, will tend to stay within that zone without stepping outside of it. To step outside a person's comfort zone, they must experiment with new and different responses to issues that occur within their environment.

Fire service training deals with the comfort zone in terms of performance management or development. The objective of the trainer or manager is to cause the person to enter the optimum performance zone for a sufficient period of time so that new skills and performance can be achieved and become embedded. The same reasoning is used with goal setting: change the anxiety level and the performance will change.

The comfort zone is our living, work, and social environments that we have

grown accustomed too. As demonstrated in Disneyland, young people are very adaptable; they can adjust to changing comfort zones with ease.

There are changes that are made in the fire service business daily. Many of the changes come from sources not within our control such as financial, legislative or political. To align our goals and objectives with the change we must be willing to move into a new comfort zone by:

- Imagining the change we want
- Building an expectation of the change
- Mentally and emotionally, prepare ourselves for the change by anticipating what it will be like.

For some people, problems, suffering, and resistance to change are their comfort zones. They find fault in always complaining and finding fault with just about everything. Daily crisis, making bad decisions, accidents, trivial problems and confrontation is a workplace comfort zone that is unhealthy will limit progress. With economic and demographic changes occurring all around us; it may be time to explore a new comfort zone. It may be time for us to move off of the carrousel and try the adventure of a new ride establishing a new comfort zone in the way we deliver services and conduct business in the future. ❖

## **New Members**

### **A BIG WELCOME TO OUR NEWEST MEMBERS**

A/C Vincent Burns - Colorado Springs, CO  
 B/C Dennis Jones - Craig, CO  
 Div. Chief David Quiantana - Denver, CO  
 B/C Wayne Degesualdo - Centennial, CO  
 Chief James Sestrich - Denver, CO  
 Dep. Chief Greg Champlin - Denver, CO  
 Chief Jeff DeGraffenried - Olathe, KS  
 Chief John Kilpatrick - Golden, CO  
 Michael Hartman - Muscantine, AL  
 A/C Mark Carrick - Independence, MO

B/C K.C. Hume - Craig, CO  
 Dep. Chief Michael Murphy - Lakewood, CO  
 Chief Charles Boyer - Festus, MO  
 Chief Ron Bateman - Milliken, CO  
 DC Steve Maddock - Denver, CO  
 DC David Frank - Denver, CO  
 DC Todd Bower - Denver, CO  
 B/C Andy Wood - Springfield, MO  
 Fire Chief - New Century, KS  
 Chief Justin Adams - Boone, IA  
 Chief Mark Whitesell - Bennington, KS

Chief Ken Koch - St. Peters, MO  
 Chief Karl McNorton - Topeka, KS  
 B/C Stuart Sunderland - Denver, CO  
 A/C John Cary - Downs, KS  
 Chief Robert Creed - Moberly, MO  
 B/C Brian Platz - Iowa City, IA  
 Chief Stephen Reid - Cedar Rapids, IA  
 A/C Craig Duke - Kansas City, KS  
 B/C Steven Kuhlmann - Emporia, KS

# *Curmode to Run for MVD 2nd VP in 2011*

by Chief Gary E. Curmode

My name is Gary Curmode, Fire Chief, Sedgwick County Fire District #1, Kansas. I am announcing my intention to run for 2nd Vice-President of the Missouri Valley in 2011.

I have been a member of the IAFC and the Kansas State Fire Chiefs Association since 1993. Additionally, I have been a member of the Kansas Professional Fire Chiefs since 1995, including President for the past seven years. I attended my first Missouri Valley Conference in Grand Junction, Colorado, in 1996 and have been active since then.

My fire service career has been as a Wichita, Ks, fire division chief, retiring after 23 years in 1995, then appointed to fire chief of Sedgwick County Fire District #1 for the past 15 years. During this time I was a training officer with a professional volunteer dept, also.

Since 1995, I have been a member of the Sedgwick County Fire Chiefs Association, serving one year as President. From 1981-1987, I served on the State of Kansas SERC committee on training, including instructor and qualified courses approval of same. For sev-

eral years, I was an instructor for Kansas Fire and Rescue Institute, University of Kansas.

Other committees I am serving on or have worked on:

1. Mentoring Chair/Committee Missouri Valley.
2. South Central Region/DHS/Ks 2006-present. (Chair 2006-2007).
3. Firefighter Safety Study Act Committee-USFA, 1990-1998. (This committee was formed after the KC, Missouri, explosion that killed 6 ffs at a worksite under construction.)
4. In the past seven years, I have attended the Strategic Planning Session for the Missouri Valley.
5. Attended the Congressional Seminars and dinner the past five years.
6. Attended and testified at the State Capitol in Kansas.
7. Commissioner for Career Depts for the Commission on Professional Credentialing.
8. Team Leader and Peer Assessor for Commission on Professional Excellence.

My platform will be to support the Missouri Valley Strategic Plan, support the goals of the IAFC, increase membership, support increased safety for the Missouri Valley, and increase professionalism of our fire officers and the number of accredited fire depts. I pledge to assist the President and the 1st Vice-President to the best of my ability.

My qualifications include serving at ranks up to and including fire chief. I have FF 1/2/3, Instructor 1/2, EMT for 35 years, Chief Fire Officer, Chief Medical Officer, Incident Safety Officer, Health and Safety Officer. I am a graduate of Wichita State University with a Masters in Public Administration. In 1991, I graduated from the NFA's Executive Fire Officer program. In June, 2006, I graduated from the John F Kennedy School of Government, Senior Executives in Local and State Government, Harvard Fellow.

Thanks for your time and consideration. ❖

## **News from Iowa**

by Don Cox

**C**ongratulations to Larry Squiers who retired from the Marshalltown Fire Department after serving his community and his fire fighters for over thirty (30) years.

In April, preceding the Iowa Association of professional Fire Chiefs' Conference, we successfully held a pre-conference Leadership seminar that was well attended with approximately 100 Chief Officers from around the State. Dennis Rubin was initially scheduled but had other last minute commitments to tend to in our nation's capital. Not to be disappointed, Chief Rubin arranged for Retire Fire Chief Alan Brunacini to hold our attention on Value Added Leadership. We would like to thank the Missouri Valley Fire Chiefs' Association for making the conference possible with the leadership stipend that

was awarded to Iowa.

The 2010 Iowa Legislative Session ended without the Home Builders Association stripping away rights for municipalities to enact residential sprinkler requirements. During this next year it appears the battle will be fought at the local level although the Iowa Fire Chiefs are trying to establish some common ground with home builders, realtors and Habitat for Humanity representatives who continue to resist the installation of residential sprinklers.

A few Iowa HOG riders (we will allow other bikes, too — even the Iowa City Chief who rides a BMW) may make the road trip to Colorado Springs in July. If you are interesting in meeting up with us on the trail to the Peak, contact me and we will see what we can coordinate with other states. (don.cox@wdm-ia.com) ❖

## *News from Missouri*

by John Van Gorkum

**T**he Missouri Association of Fire Chiefs held their 2010 Winter Seminar and annual meeting at Big Cedar Lodge near Branson, Missouri on February 25 through 27. Chief Jeff Johnson and Howard Cross made presentations on Chief Officer and Company Officer Leadership. The Seminar had a total of 106 attendees with 22 Company Officers attending the seminar. During the annual membership meeting the following officers were elected. Chief Jimmy Sebree, President; Chief Ernie Rhodes, Vice President; Chief Mike Ballman, Secretary; and Chief Rick Friedman, Director Region C. We wish the new slate of Officers our best wishes and know that they have good things in store for the Association. ❖

## Missouri Valley Division

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Lincoln, NE 68501

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The Missouri Valley Division is dedicated to supporting professional development of all chiefs in its division through educational, leadership, and networking opportunities, while serving as a liaison between State Chiefs' organizations and the International Association of Fire Chiefs.

# Why Should I be Certified as an Incident Safety Officer and/or Health and Safety Officer?

by Chief Gary E. Curmode

Professionalism has been and is still a goal sought by the members of the Fire Service. But, it has only been within the last 33 years that a system has evolved to produce national standards for the fire service. There are now standards set for: Incident Safety Officer; and, Health and Safety Officer. First of all, it provides recognition that your organization and/or individuals have demonstrated proficiency and an ability to do the job in accordance with nationally recognized peer-developed standards. It gives us a benchmark for all levels of the fire profession no matter whether professional volunteer; professional career; or professional combination departments. Your achievement is recognized

across the board of the fire service. Additionally, by having members certified to national consensus standards, the credibility and confidence in your fire service organization is enhanced in the community.

In this day and age, every department competes for a "piece of the pie" for resources that are critical and necessary to run an efficient organization. A higher number of certified members of your organization should help the Fire Chief in his/her justification of their department during budget time! It also aids in professional credibility during promotions. An individual must believe in it, and must do it for themselves first and foremost.

Safety is paramount in all emergency organizations. We play like we practice, we must walk the talk! Additional cognitive knowledge we gain in the safety realm is augmented by the real life skills attained in training and the actual alarms that we respond to each and every day. It takes the combination of all of this to be "the best we can be."

Keep it safe! ❖