

IFA VOICE



You know you're a Firefighter if - -

Indiana Firefighters Association

Established in 1917 By Firefighters For Firefighters

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2018 IFA OFFICERS



Kevin Price named THFD firefighter of the year



Firefighter Kevin Price received the Firefighter of the Year Award on Wednesday night during the 13th annual Terre Haute Firefighters recognition and commendation dinner sponsored by First Financial Bank.

Firefighter Bram Sanders was named Paramedic of the Year.

Capt. Jason Kane received the Fire Chief's Exceptional Service Award.

The event celebrates and honors members of the Terre Haute Fire Department for service to the community in 2017. Civilians who provided exceptional support or service to the department's efforts also were recognized.

Fire Chief Pascal Arnes, Decatur Township Fire Department, was guest speaker for the event, held at the Hulman Memorial Student Union at Indiana State University. Jon Swaner, WTHI-TV10, served as master of ceremonies.

Introductory remarks were provided by Terre Haute Mayor Duke A. Bennett; Norman L. Lowery, president and CEO, First Financial Corp.; and Terre Haute Fire Chief Jeffery Fisher.

4 reasons you shouldn't become a firefighter

1. YOU'RE ONLY IN IT FOR THE WAGES.

Too many future firefighters get mesmerized by the dollar signs. Salaries for firefighters vary greatly around the United States and it is important to get paid a fair wage for the work you perform. In some regions, firefighters are barely paid minimum wage and could possibly qualify for food stamps. In other areas, firefighters are paid very competitive salaries that allow them to live comfortably (I didn't say extravagantly — just comfortably), if they make wise financial decisions over the course of their career.

Salaries can and do change, based on a number of reasons — most of which are out of your control. What may be a low salary at the start of your career may change for the better over time, or it may change for the worse.

Don't do this career to get rich. If you're all about the money, find a higher-paying career.

2. YOU'RE ONLY IN IT FOR THE BENEFITS.

Many consider becoming a firefighter for the retirement and health care benefits. Anyone who has had their finger on this checker has seen that pension costs and health care costs continue to skyrocket every year, sometimes at the rate of 10 percent or more per year.

Many cities, counties and states have had to drastically modify their benefits packages so that they can continue to pay their employees without going bankrupt. Most communities are not swimming in revenue. With employee wages and benefits typically making up over 90 percent of a fire department's operating costs, there is not a lot of wiggle room when the expenditures are exceeding the revenues.

Many firefighters have to pay more out of pocket to keep their current benefits, especially if they also want to keep their salaries intact, not to mention getting raises in the future. In short, realize that benefits can and will change, and often not for the better.

Do what you can to ensure you are part of the solution, not the problem. That means don't complain about your department reducing the benefits when you know the costs are rising, especially if you don't want to pay more out of pocket for them.



3. YOU'RE ONLY IN IT FOR THE SCHEDULE.

Firefighters typically work 10, 24-hour shifts per month in some form. There are a number of different schedules that can and may change over the course of your career. No one schedule is better than the other.

When I got hired 20 years ago, we were on the 3/4 schedule: work a day, off a day, work a day, off a day, work a day and off four days. Some departments work a day and get two days off. Other departments work two days in a row and get four days off.

They all usually average the same number of hours that most firefighters typically work, which seems to be about 56 hours per week. I honestly didn't care what schedule I worked when I got hired because I just wanted to be a firefighter.

It's funny when I talk to firefighters around the country and we get on the subject of schedules. Some think we're crazy for doing two days on, four days off when they are working one day on, two days off. Or, they are working 10-hour and 14-hour shifts as some East Coast departments do. When I ask our personnel about those schedules, some think those firefighters are crazy.

Realize that the "great" schedule you have when you get hired may change for the better or worse. And you may not have a choice in your schedule, because the fire chief typically has the right to alter schedules to best meet the needs of the department.

4. YOU'RE ONLY IN IT TO FIGHT FIRE AND SAVE LIVES.

I hate to be the evil person who bursts your bubble, but the average firefighter may only see fire once a month, and may never grab someone from the clutches of death.

In most fire departments, emergency medical service responses make up over 70 percent of the dispatched calls. Of those medical events, the overwhelming majority only require basic life support or EMT-level skills, if even that.

In most fire departments, fires make up less than 10 percent of the calls. Actual working fires may even make up less than 5 percent. Ask most firefighters who have been on the job for at least five years and I'll bet the majority have never rescued anyone at a fire.

If you're getting into this line of work to fight fire and save lives, you're going to be disappointed and possibly unhappy with your choice of occupation. Seriously, I have seen it happen when firefighters with a year or two on the job say how unhappy they are

because their department doesn't fight that much fire and because they have yet to save anyone's life.

Didn't they do their homework or research? Or were they too focused on the sexy image of what firefighters do that is often portrayed in the movies or on TV? Were they too focused on the dollar signs and the 10 working days a month?

While it is true that we do save many lives directly and indirectly through aggressive fire prevention and public education efforts, we typically don't get to see the fruits of our labor.

Please remember that these are just my opinions, and as everyone knows, opinions are a dime a dozen.

Ultimately, if you choose to get into the fire service for reasons other than the aforementioned four, there is a great chance that you will have a long and successful career and that you are happy with the choice you made.

To Officers and Members of the IFA

State Representative Earl Harris Jr from House District 2 has sponsored House Resolution No 31.

Mr Harris can always be counted on to support the active and retired Firefighters and Police Officers and we thank him for his continued support.

His letter to Brian Bosma as follows:

I respectfully request that the topic of police and firefighters pension benefits such as those addressed in House Resolution No 31 be assigned to the appropriate interim study committee during the 2018 interim. Police officers and firefighters do incredible work in our communities and deserve to have benefits that appropriately match their contributions.

The specific issues I encourage the Legislative Council to include in this assignment are outlined in House Resolution No 31.

I am listing them below for your convenience.

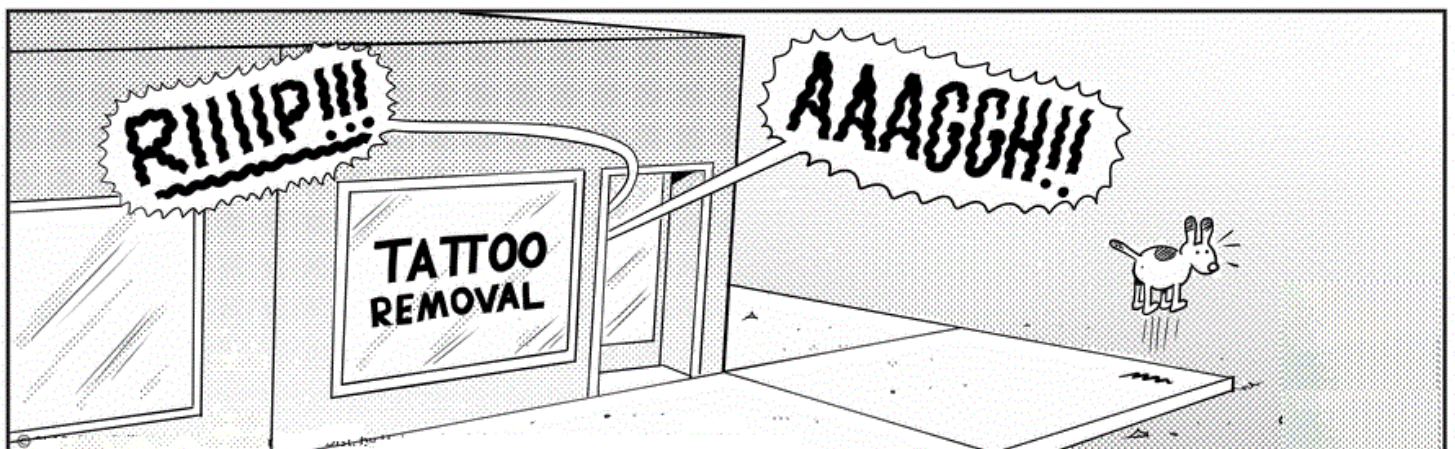
** The study of an increase in lump sum benefits (increase to \$18,000.00 from \$12,000.00)

** The study of an increase in special death benefit (Increase to \$150,000.00 from \$50,000.00)

** The study of the advisability of maintain a 3% cap on the cost of living adjustments as provided by the 1977 Fund.

At this time I would like to express our sympathy to the families of George Kepchar, Ted Piatck, Tarrm Hamler, Greg Greenlaw whom recently passed away, they will be truly missed.

Sincerely
Jay Massa
Director



10 rules for American flag etiquette on fire apparatus



1. Only one flag is authorized to fly on a fire truck.
2. The American flag should never be draped over the hood, top, sides, or back of a vehicle.
3. When the flag is displayed on a vehicle, the staff shall be fixed firmly to the chassis or clamped to the right fender.
4. Displaying a torn or tattered flag is not permitted.
5. The flag may only be displayed at night if it's illuminated by light.
6. If the flag is flying in a parade with other flags, ensure the flag is positioned to marchers' right.
7. If a flag is displayed on a float in a parade, it must be displayed by a staff.
8. The flag should not be subject to harsh weather conditions so, unless you have an all-weather flag, it's improper to display your flag during rain, snow and wind storms.
9. The flag should not be placed with something attached to it and it should not be touching the ground.
10. If a flag is hung between two aerial rigs, it should be suspended vertically with the union to the north in an east and west street or to the east in a north and south street.
Keep these points in mind to ensure our nation's flag, a living symbol, is never disrespected and always displayed properly.

How the 1942 Cocoanut Grove fire changed fire safety

The fast-moving Cocoanut Grove fire killed nearly 500 and changed fire safety and burn treatment as we know it

Quickly after the Japanese attack on the American naval fleet anchored in Pearl Harbor, Americans prepared for fighting on a global scale. The war ultimately brought far ranging and unprecedented social, economic and technological change on a scale that no one could have then predicted. The wartime awareness that people you knew might be killed very soon meant making the most of the time you had to share. That was the case in Boston on a Saturday evening late in November

with a crowd expecting an evening of entertainment and fun with family and friends.

But those expectations would not be fulfilled. Instead, a nightclub fire would change not only their lives, it would impact the very future of fire and life safety for buildings.

The burn victims of the fire that evening at the Cocoanut Grove paid the greatest price for society's failure to enforce minimum safety requirements.

MASSACHUSETTS GENERAL EMS RESPONSE

Official List of Night Club Dead and Injured—Page 8

Rain Today
Boston and vicinity—Rain today
Temperature, 45 to 50; 45 to 50
Wind, light to 10; 10 to 15
Sun sets, 4:52 A. M.; 11:11 P. M.
Full moon on 11-27-42
THE BOSTON HERALD LATE CITY EDITION
NOV. 30, 1942—FORTY PAGES ***** THREE CENTS

BUS BOY'S MATCH SET BLAZE, COCOANUT GROVE DEATHS 440, 289 IDENTIFIED, 181 INJURED

*Entire Families Wiped Out in Holocaust,
Bereaved Kin Throng Hospitals, Morgues*

But they also served as test patients for the medical treatment of severe burns, and what was learned would help many future military personnel burned in both accidents and combat. This new medical knowledge also would be used to treat the civilian burn victims of the **Hartford Circus Fire** almost two years later.

That night, Dr. Oliver Cope of Massachusetts General Hospital, having just participated in a research project on burn treatment, would have the opportunity to test the new methods on the Cocoanut Grove fire victims.

war disaster plan. That night and through their long treatment and recovery, the burn victims received penicillin, a relatively new drug at the time, to fight wound infection

BOX 1521 FIRE ALARM

"It's the Cocoanut Grove and it's going like hell!"

These were the words shouted by a Boston police officer from a radio-equipped patrol car as it passed the dooryard of the firehouse where Ladder 15 and its crew were moving to answer a third alarm for Box 1521.

The date was Nov. 28, 1942. The time was 10:23 p.m., and by a twist of fate, the Boston Fire Department had responded to a car fire near Box 1541 about 15 minutes earlier, roughly three blocks from the Cocoanut Grove.

The firefighters of Engine 22 and Ladder 13 found a vehicle fire on Stuart Street. While picking up after extinguishing the minor car fire, a civilian ran to them and told 22's captain, John Glynn, of a fire at the Cocoanut Grove. The officer quickly ordered the apparatus to respond to check out the report.

INSIDE THE COCOANUT GROVE

From outside, the Cocoanut Grove looked inconsequential. The structure was originally built as a garage and later housed a film distribution business. But the Cocoanut Grove was now an overcrowded nightclub where no one present expected anything but fun, much less a fire.

However, around 10:15 p.m., a fire broke out in the crowded Melody Lounge in the basement. The fire quickly developed spreading fire, heat and smoke vertically to the foyer upstairs and across the ceiling into the main dining area. The fierce flames then raced horizontally through a passageway and into the Broadway Lounge. The fire's deadly path covered approximately 225 feet and involved two levels of the building, from end to end, in about five minutes.

On the outside, the quick arriving firefighters found heavy smoke pushing from the building as patrons and employees fled. At 10:20 p.m., Boston's Fire Alarm Office received Box 1521 for Church and Winchester Streets (pulled by a civilian bystander).

The fire chief on scene ordered his aide to skip the second alarm and go straight to a third alarm, via fire alarm telegraph, from Box 1521. This order transmitted at 10:23 p.m. was followed quickly by a fourth alarm at 10:24 p.m. and a fifth alarm at 11:02 p.m.

FIREFIGHTERS ROSE AND ESTES

Riding the tailboard of Engine 22, Boston firefighters Johnny Rose and Bill Estes were eyewitnesses to the scene of horror and death in the doorway of the Grove's Broadway Lounge. The firefighters reacted quickly, connected to a hydrant, and advanced a line, as pump operator Joe McNeil charged the line to feed their nozzle.

The two firefighters faced a plug of humans jammed in the exit with flames spitting over their heads. The roaring fire was in search of the necessary oxygen needed to sustain its combustion and it was in the same path as the means of escape.

With no chance of helping the burning victims by pulling them out, Rose and Estes tipped their nozzle upward into the flame-path to cool the heat. As the stream struck the ceiling and broke into droplets of spray, the water provided at least some protection to those jammed in the exit.

The narrow and congested streets around the Grove clogged with fire apparatus, police cars and ambulances.

The fire, although extinguished in short order, took a great toll in lives. Although rescue and body recovery operations began immediately near the exits, firefighters would find greater horrors deep inside the building. Patrons who had exited collapsed in the street and stacks of bodies, both living and dead, piled up by the exits.

The final death count established by the investigating commission was 490 dead and 166 injured. The number of injured was tallied by counting those treated at a hospital and later released. Many more patrons were injured and did not seek hospitalization. As the years went by, 492 fatalities were recognized.

SAFETY LESSONS LEARNED FROM COCOANUT GROVE

After a thorough investigation of the fire, officials focused on improving safety in similar venues by reclassifying restaurants and nightclubs as places of public assembly thereby mandating more stringent regulations. Automatic fire sprinkler system requirements were included, depending on occupant load and building configuration.

Regulations for emergency exit doors were changed to ensure that all exit doors swing outward. Illuminated exit signage and emergency lighting was required. Requirements for widely separated means of egress for higher occupancy loads and minimum exit widths were established. More attention was given to flame spread and smoke development.

Another important change involved revolving doors. Such doors would be required to have the individual leaves collapse and fold backward or out of the way to permit passage on both sides of the hinge or alternatively to have conventional doors on both or either side of revolving doors depending on occupant load.

Around the fire service today, you hear the phrase, "expect fire" and you might wonder what that really means. Don't we always expect fire? Clearly civilians tend not to expect fire, but firefighter should and must expect fire and always expect the fire to be the worst.



Dear IFA Officers and Members,

The Terre Haute Fire Department Commendations dinner was held on February 28th, 2018. Sponsored by First Financial Bank at ISU Student Union. Both Judy and I were able to attend this year.

The guest speaker was Fire Chief Pascal Arnes of Decatur Township Fire Department.

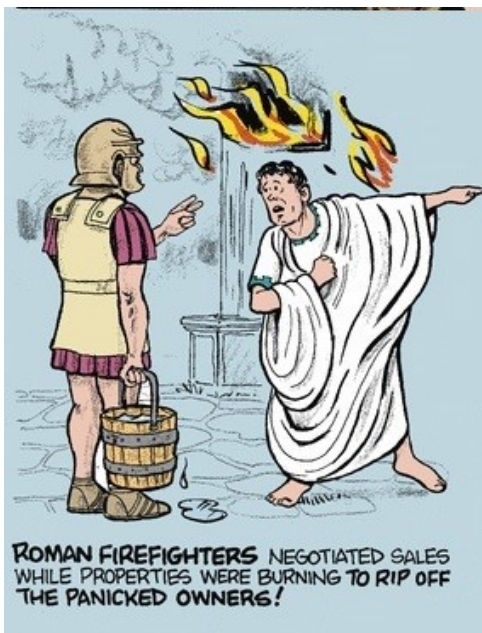
Terre Haute Fire Department Firefighter of the year was awarded to Kevin Price, and Paramedic of the year was awarded to Bram Sanders. Hats off to both of these men as they have earned their awards.

Many firefighters and civilians received numerous awards, too many to mention at this time.

Congratulations to each one.

Congratulations to the Terre Haute Fire Prevention Bureau for being named Fire Prevention Division of the year by The Fire Inspectors Association of Indiana. The banquet was held in South Bend, Indiana. Norm Loudermilk, Matt Holbert, Billy Roberts, and Josh Cottrell accepted this award. Great job fellas!

On Saturday, May 5th, 2018 the Terre Haute Fire Department Local 758, will host their 7th annual Chili Cook Off at 5pm. This event is held annually to support our annual Toy Drive, the 14th and Chestnut Community Center, and the St. Ann's Clinic. Last year we were able to help over 230 children receive Christmas gifts through the efforts of our Toy Drive.



If you are interested in having a team for the Chili Cook Off please contact Charlie Karr at 812-230-1430.

Sincerely, Warren Butch Krcy

District Director IFA

E-mail b.krcy@aol.com

ELKHART COUNTY, Ind. -- Nearly two dozen firefighters and paramedics in Elkhart County spent their weekend training to respond to what we all hope won't happen here in Michiana.

"We're an organization that provides film-quality makeup and scenario training, along with tactical combat casualty care, tactical emergency casualty care to fire, EMS, and law enforcement across the community," said Shawn Miller, the owner of Moulage Medic and a deputy fire chief with the Concord Fire Department.

A simulation of a mass shooting made the inside and outside of the department on County Road 18 look like the site of a major emergency situation over the weekend.

"We just want to up our scale and be ready to actually handle something like this with the minimal amount of equipment that we would have in this type of situation," said Concord Fire Chief Richard Rochford.

The situation being simulated was a mass shooting, or something similar.

It requires first responders to save lives by getting the injured out safely and quickly.

"We get out and we run drills," Miller said. "We get their heart rate up; give them the experience of what it would be like in an adrenaline situation to where now they have to go in and they have to perform IVs, they have to perform tourniquets, they have to perform airways; low light levels; things that they may not do on a daily basis because we work in the back of an ambulance or in a well-lit house or somewhere of that nature."

The training is taxing and tough to watch at points.

The preparation – which includes spraying dummies and actors with fake blood – is real enough to make you queasy.

But each pretend life saved at these trainings could mean a real one will be down the road.

"We are taking this serious," Rochford said. "And we are going to be there; we're going to do everything we can; we're going to give 100 percent into the operations of whatever that incident's going to be."

Moulage Medic was founded by Miller about six years ago.

The company is based in Goshen and trains first responders across the country.

This weekend, 22 firefighters and paramedics completed the 16 hours of training at the Concord Fire Department, earning a 4-year certification.

ACTUAL AUSTRALIAN COURT DOCKET 12659 ---

CASE OF THE PREGNANT LADY

A lady about 8 months pregnant got on a bus. She noticed the man opposite her was smiling at her. She immediately moved to another seat. This time the smile turned into a grin, so she moved again.. The man seemed more amused. When on the fourth move, the man burst out laughing, she complained to the driver and he had the man arrested. The case came up in court. The judge asked the man (about 20 years old) what he had to say for himself.

The man replied, 'Well your Honour, it was like this: when the lady got on the bus, I couldn't help but notice her condition. She sat down under a sign that said, 'The Double Mint Twins are coming' and I grinned. Then she moved and sat under a sign that said,

'Logan's Liniment will reduce the swelling,' and I had to smile. Then she placed herself under a deodorant sign that said, 'William's Big Stick Did the Trick,' and I could hardly contain myself. But, Your Honour, when she moved the fourth time and sat under a sign that said,

'Goodyear Rubber could have prevented this Accident!'... I just lost it.'

'CASE DISMISSED!!'



NEW YORK — AN FDNY lieutenant immortalized in a photo at Ground Zero has filed a complaint against the head of the fraternal group representing black firefighters, sources told the Daily News.

Lt. Daniel McWilliams, who is white, filed the equal employment opportunity complaint after he appeared as part of the ceremonial unit at a memorial service Nov. 19.

(From l.) Brooklyn firefighters George Johnson, Dan McWilliams and Billy Eisengrein raise a flag at the remains of the World Trade Center on Sept. 11, 2001 in this memorable photo. (Photo/Thomas Franklin/The Record via AP)

McWilliams was one of two white members of the six-person ceremonial crew that day. He did not participate in the service, sources said, and later complained about Vulcan President Regina Wilson.

It was not clear what McWilliams and Wilson

did or said to prompt the disagreement.

The FDNY confirmed that a complaint had been filed but would not discuss it further.

"The matter is under investigation," said Jim Long, a FDNY spokesman.

Wilson, meanwhile, said she has yet to be interviewed by FDNY investigators and was not aware of the complaint. "I'm unaware of any complaint made against me. I have not been contacted by anyone in the Fire Department," said Wilson, the first woman to head the society. "But if this does get brought to my attention I would be more than happy to discuss what really occurred with the FDNY," she added.

McWilliams, a 27-year veteran, is assigned to Ladder 103 in East New York.

The 51-year-old lieutenant could not be reached for comment Thursday at the firehouse or his home on Long Island.

Hours after the Sept. 11, 2001 terror attack at the Twin Towers, McWilliams took an American flag from a yacht docked at the Hudson River and, with firefighters George Johnson and Billy Eisengrein, ran it up a flagpole at Ground Zero.

A photographer captured the moment, and the enduring image is now considered one of the iconic images in U.S. history.

It appeared on the cover of Newsweek, a commemorative coin and a U.S. stamp.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency raised about \$10 million through the stamp.

The Vulcan Society has been pushing for a more diversified FDNY.

In 2014, the department agreed to pay \$98 million to settle a lawsuit charging discrimination against blacks and Hispanics applying to become firefighters.

It also agreed to revamp its hiring practices, and in November the department said a record number — 46,305 — took the test to become a firefighter. A majority of them — 26,018, or 56% — were people of color.

Wilson at the time noted that despite a \$10 million recruitment campaign far too many people who signed up for the test ultimately did not take it.

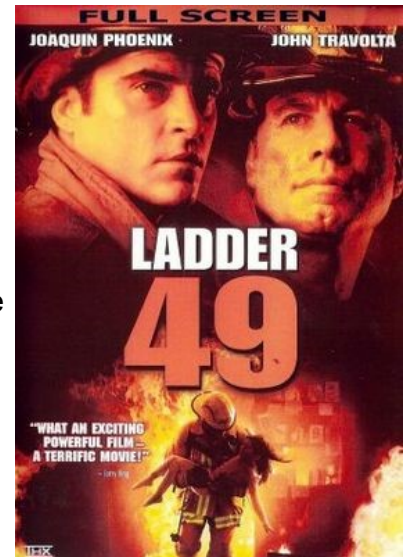
The 6 best firefighting movies of all time

Can you guess No. 1? (Spoiler alert: It's not 'Backdraft')

It's up for debate whether the "best firefighting movie" has actually been made yet. The Hollywood take on firefighters' lives shows a much different picture than what a true firefighter deals with day in and day out. Nonetheless, we're going to take a stab at naming the best. We just have to remind ourselves these aren't training videos – they're pure entertainment. Here's our list of the six best firefighting movies of all time.

6. Ladder 49

"**Ladder 49**" details the life of rookie firefighter Jack Morrison as he rises through the ranks in his department. His personal dilemmas unfold as he becomes trapped in the worst blaze of his career. FireRescue1 contributor **Jason Zigmont** offers commentary about the movie from a firefighting and technical perspective: "The technical advisors did a good job with the scenes. I was impressed to hear a PAR check."

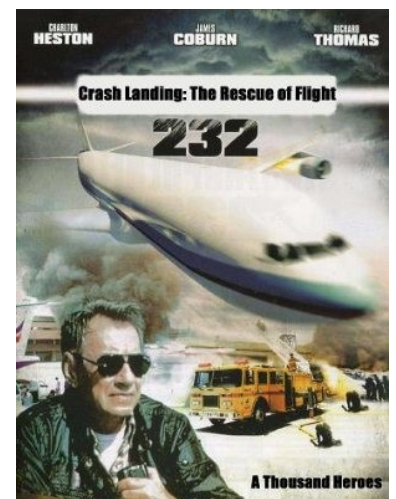


5. Fire! Trapped on the 37th Floor

Even for a **TV movie**, this one gets our vote. The movie is based on true events that occurred in May 1988 when the Los Angeles First Interstate Bank building caught fire. At the time it was the tallest building in the city. Smoke alarms were not working properly, which allowed the fire to grow until it was uncontrollable.

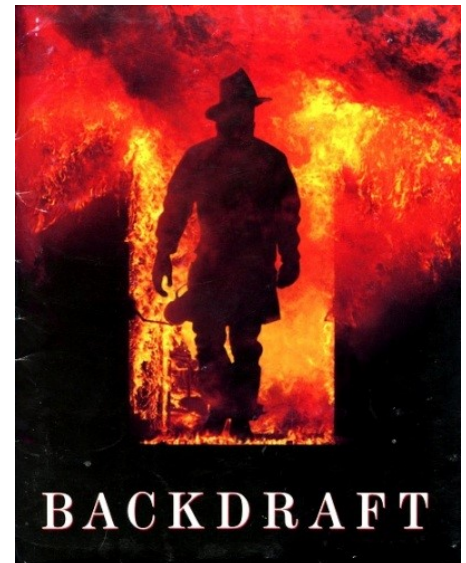
4. Crash Landing: The Rescue of Flight 232

Another movie based on a true story, "**The Rescue of Flight 232**" is based on United Airlines Flight 232 from Denver to Chicago. The flight crashed during an emergency landing in 1989. Even though the focus isn't entirely on firefighters responding to the situation, the perspective from the ground rescue workers is noteworthy.



3. Backdraft

We'd be remiss not to include "**Backdraft**." You may be surprised it doesn't rank higher on the list, but because people constantly ask if a firefighter's job is like "Backdraft," it gets docked a few points. "You go, we go."

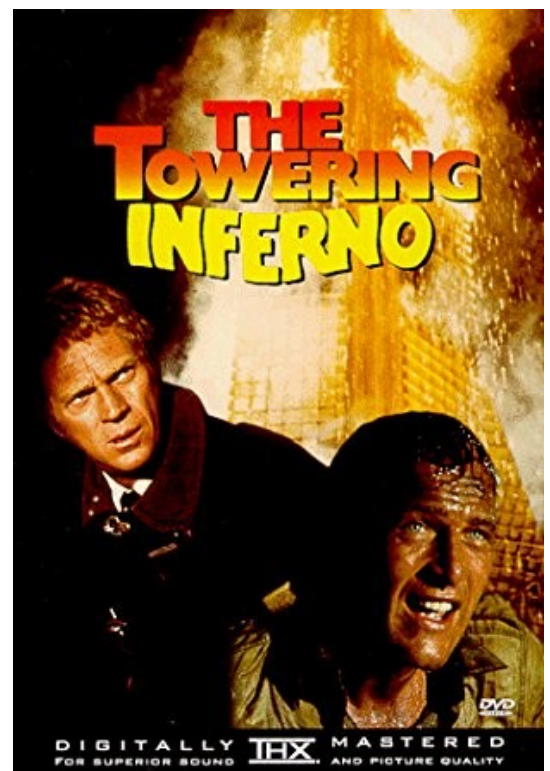


2. Hellfighters

This is a movie about **Chance Buckman**, head of an oil-field firefighting outfit, and his professional and personal ebbs and flows. Full disclosure: You'll either love this movie or hate it. In fact, when the movie first came out, Roger Ebert said it was a "slow moving, talkative, badly plotted bore." But we think it's a pretty great fire-based movie. John Wayne, who plays Buckman, will always get our vote.

1. The Towering Inferno

"**The Towering Inferno**," in our opinion, is the best firefighting/disaster movie out there (even if it's the most unrealistic fire movie on the list). Steve McQueen ... Paul Newman ... Faye Dunaway. Need we say more? How did we do? Are we missing your favorite firefighting film? What movie do you think should earn the No. 1 spot?



SOUTH BEND — Construction on Fire Station No. 9 is planned to begin in the late spring or early summer of 2018.

South Bend Fire Department Chief Steve Cox told River Park residents the construction timeline Thursday night at a meeting of River Park Neighborhood Association. The group met at the River Park Branch of the St. Joseph County Public Library.

Cox said he expects demolition of the properties at the southeast corner of Mishawaka Avenue and 21st Street — the new site for the station — to be done by Jan. 21. Those who attended the meeting got a glimpse of how the station will look as they viewed drawings provided by the architectural firm Epoch Architecture and Planning.

One resident, Teri Joy, said she liked what she saw, but she did have some concerns about traffic in an area. The fire department will need to handle traffic from Adams High School and Indiana University South Bend. "I'm very pleased with the way it looks," she said. "I still am questioning will they be able to get out, especially when they have heavy traffic patterns."

The new structure will be two stories tall and have three bays for fire engines and ambulances. Cox said the new building will allow the department to adequately hold modern trucks and ambulances, a feat that cannot now be done in the 1926 station.

The bigger bays mean the department will be able to locate an ambulance at the new station.

The new structure will have living quarters that will accommodate male and female firefighters. No women served as firefighters when the River Park station was built, and the department has currently has several women firefighters. The building will include a fitness room.

Cox said it will take between nine and 12 months to complete the project, but the timetable will depend on weather and the current demand for construction workers in the area because of all the building projects locally.

"We're hoping (to start in) April but I can't guarantee that because of constructions concerns," he said. "Can the contractor mobilize by then? We hope so, but it may actually be June before we can start."

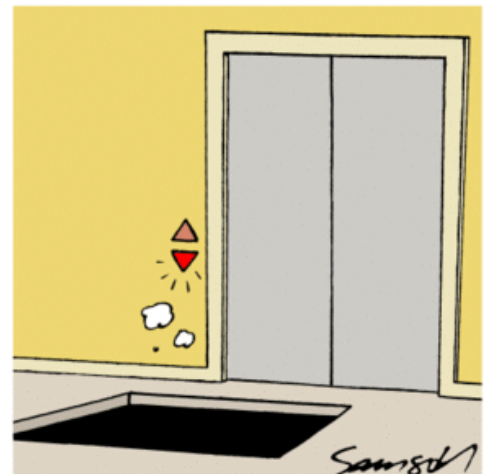
Cox revealed the city will try to sell the old fire station building, and several people have expressed interest. The building is on the register of historic buildings.

The new station originally was planned for a site inside Potawatomi Park. Community opposition, however, resulted in that plan being scrapped.

Cox said the east side needed a new station because the current facility wasn't large enough to house modern fire apparatus. Also, he said bringing an ambulance to the new station will reduce response times for emergency runs.

He also noted that the city's water rescue boat is housed at the Central Fire Station on South

He also noted that the city's water rescue boat is housed at the Central Fire Station on South Michigan Street, even though the rescue boat is launched into the St. Joseph River from the boat launch at nearby Veterans Memorial Park.



Hello My Brothers and Sisters,

I'm sitting at home watching a serious Blizzard (The first one this winter for Columbus), on the first day of spring. As the saying goes if you don't like the weather in Indiana give it a few minutes and it will change.

So I want to mention a couple of things. FIRST, is what every firefighter needs to know, a upcoming investigative report on **DIFFERENCE IN SMOKE DETECTOR ALARMS. Odds are you will not be contacted. But should you or your department have questions regarding this subject' you need to know the following.** The two types of detectors are **Ionization** and **Photo Electric**. *Ionization alarms fail to operate in early stage smoldering fires!!* **PHOTO ELECTRIC DO.**

It goes with out saying Fire Fatalities occur in much higher numbers with victims succumbing to inhaling smoke and dangerous gases released in early stages as they are sleeping.

Any of you who have read this news letter have most likely noticed my interest in this subject. So I won't go into the long winded report. But the media interest is WHY ARE FIRE DEPARTMENTS GIVING OUT IONIZATION ALARMS (AS ONE REPORTER ASKED ARE FD's PASSING FALSE SECURITY ALARMS) .

Ramifications from this could give any FD big or small, a serious black eye. So take it from this old firefighter, if your department hasn't considered the differences in these two types of detectors , you owe it to those you serve to get a understanding of the detectors, especially those you give away. And while your at it check your own residence. After all "The life you save might be your own."

If I can be of assistance to any of you in this matter, just give me a call. 812 447-0356.

OK so another subject A BIG SHOUT OUT TO MEMBERS OF COUMBUS CITY FIREFIGHTERS AND BARTHOLOMEW COUNTY VOLUNTEER DEPARTMENTS FOR A OUTSTANDING JOB COMBATING A MASSIVE FIRE AT CARPET MANIA ON 10th STREET. PLEASE NOTE PHOTOS.. A full report will be forth coming.

Lastly I invite any of you if you are in the Columbus area feel free to drop by.

Yours in the FIRE SERVICE,
Roger Johnson
Past IFA President



Carpet Mania Fire

Submitted by Roger Johnson

YOU KNOW YOU'RE A FIREFIGHTER IF ...

"If you can tell the difference between a siren on an engine and one on the ambulance.

"If your entire wardrobe consists of station T-shirts.

"You drain your garden hose the same way you drain an 1 ½-inch line.

"You're asked directions to a yard sale and you give her cross streets and hydrant locations.

"You make a point of driving past a fire station when in a new town.

"If you wear a backpack and wiggle around thinking your SCBA is on and don't want the PASS alarm going off.

"You still have the structure fire smell after the second shower

"You're checking for fire hazards at work, home and anywhere you spend time.

"If you've ever said, "Luke I am your father" while wearing an SCBA.

"You know what the 'Q' is.

"If you're using 10 codes on the wife and kids on a regular basis.

"If you have ever heated the same meal in the microwave three times or more.

"You acknowledge people off duty like you would do to dispatch.

"You correct your friends when they say, 'Oh, look a fire truck,' and you reply with: 'That's not a truck. That's an engine.

"You care more about what the fire station and fire engine look like than your house and car.

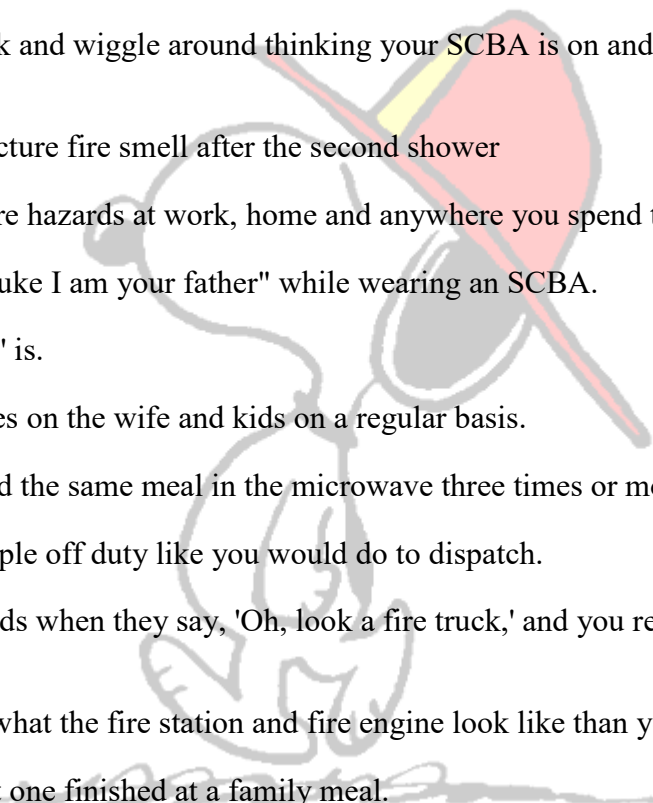
"You're always the first one finished at a family meal.

"If you look for two exits out of every room and check for sprinklers and alarms in hotel rooms.

"You look at the extrication cut points when you are buying a vehicle.

"If you measure ground distance by the number of hoses needed to cover it.

"You forget you have a first name.





FIREFIGHTER FREE SPEECH

What Fire Departments Can And Can't Do To Restrict Free Speech

Free speech is a fundamental right for all U.S. citizens. But while the right to free speech sounds simple, it is far from it. The issue becomes much more complex when the government (city/county/state) is also an employer—as is the case in most fire departments.

Understanding some foundational concepts behind free speech and public employees can help firefighters avoid saying or writing something that could get them into trouble. These concepts also form the foundation for legally defensible department policy.

What constitutes “speech”?

Social media tends to dominate headlines about firefighter free speech issues. In fact, however, “speech” is a broad term that applies to many forms of expression, including:

- Talking to the media
- Posting to a website
- “Liking” or sharing content
- Making a commercial or a video
- Campaigning for an elected official
- Endorsing a product

When does the First Amendment protect firefighter speech?

For most of us, the idea that our speech can be lawfully restricted feels wrong—after all, doesn't the First Amendment protect speech? The answer lies in the dichotomy of the government as a *sovereign* versus the government as an *employer*.

The sovereign's ability to regulate content is subject to the highest level of judicial scrutiny, requiring a compelling government interest to regulate the speech (which is rarely found). The government as employer, however, may regulate the time, place and manner of speech, and thus be subject to a lower level of judicial scrutiny. Also, First Amendment protection only applies if you're speaking as private citizen.

Put simply: You cannot be jailed in the U.S. for complaining about your department's overtime policy. But if you're viewed as a department spokesperson, your department may be able to legally fire you. The "free" in "free speech" means free from government interference—not free from consequences.

So if I'm speaking as a private citizen, I'm free to say whatever I want?

Not exactly. In *Pickering v. Board of Education*, the U.S. Supreme Court recognized that public-sector employees have First Amendment rights. But it did not rule that such rights are absolute. Rather, it adopted the rather nebulous "Pickering Balance Test." The test has two parts:

1. Is the firefighter speaking as a private citizen on a matter of public concern?
2. Does the firefighter's interest in "commenting upon matters of public concern" outweigh the "interests of the State, as an employer, in promoting the efficiency of the public services it performs through its employees"?

The first part of *Pickering* is not that hard. Determining what constitutes "a matter of public concern" is not always obvious, but in general this has proven to be a low bar to meet. Whether an employee is speaking as a private citizen is a bit more complicated, but still is a straightforward analysis looking at all the factors surrounding how the statement was made.

The second part of the *Pickering* test is more complex, and therefore it's much more difficult to predict the outcome. How do we balance employer interests against employee interests? The "interests of the employer" can refer to internal interests—such as the detrimental impact on working relationships or on an employee's ability to perform his/her job—or external interests, such as the disruptive consequences of intense media coverage or the impact on department recruitment effects.

Courts have held that when employee speech causes *actual harm or disruption to the mission and functions of a public employer*, the employee can lose First Amendment protections, even if speaking on a matter of public concern as a private citizen. What types of speech qualify? One example is polarizing speech indicating a public employee harbors great animosity or hatred toward certain people or groups. When the speech is so hostile the public may question whether the employee is capable of delivering a service to all members of the community, the stage is set for an "actual harm or disruption" finding.

Speech that threatens violence, encourages others to commit violence, threatens to withhold services or encourages others to withhold services from members of the public also sets the stage for a finding of "actual harm or disruption."

Does being on- or off-duty make a difference?

It can! The seminal case here is from 2006, *Garcetti v. Ceballos*, in which the court found the *Pickering* test was inapplicable to speech made in one's capacity as a public employee. It ruled: "When public employees make statements pursuant to their official duties, they are not speaking as citizens for First Amendment purposes, and the Constitution does not insulate their communications from employer discipline."

Courts have since struggled with this onerous decision and a few cases have begun to whittle away at the ruling, focusing less on whether the speech was made on- or off-duty and more on the *Pickering* test. Bottom line: Whether the speech was made on- or off-duty is less important than whether it can be shown to cause actual harm or disruption.

Note: Whistleblower statutes may provide some additional protection, but they vary widely across the country.

The takeaways

The country is littered with ex-public-sector employees who thought they could post whatever content they wanted on the internet without ramification, only to find out their employer did not feel the same way. These employees then run the First Amendment protection up the flagpole, only to find it is not there to protect them—*because the government's interest (as an employer) in regulating their speech outweighed their interest in that free speech.*

So remember:

- Speech can take many forms.
- Departments can restrict what firefighters can say when the firefighter is not speaking as a private citizen.
- When you're on-duty, chances are no First Amendment protection will apply to what you say.
- Whether on- or off-duty, when you speak in such a way that you are viewed as being a spokesperson for the department, you will have no First Amendment protection.
- When you speak as a private citizen on a matter of public concern AND your interest in speaking outweighs the interests of department in regulating your speech, you will have First Amendment protection.

In all fire department free speech cases, very little is black and white. Sound department policies are a must—as is the exercise of common sense and individual discipline. Even law professors who study First Amendment issues for a living cannot agree beforehand how a certain case will be decided. So, the best advice is to play it safe!



ENDING WELL

I've had something brewing in my mind for a number of years. It's time I try to verbalize it and deal with it. It is all about ending a career well. Let's get to it: I was watching the movie Engine 49 again. I've watched it several times, always noticing something new. This time was no different. The main character had begun his career as a firefighter. He was eager, and quick to share how much he loved his job. Later, toward the end, he is not the same. Experiences, loss and many other things had soured him to the job. His battalion chief asks him the question, "Do you still love your job as you did in the beginning."

The statement allowed me to think of the many outstanding firefighters I've been privileged to meet and reflect upon those who did not end well. Somewhere along the line they had lost their love for the job. For whatever reason, the thrill was no longer there and they were left to retire in bitterness against the fire department or personnel there of. I was saddened to see such a great career end in such disappointment.

I was talking about such matters to my chief and announced my disappointment and sorrow about it all. He understood as he has seen it as well. I asked, "Why do you think it happens?" His answer was that some firefighters love their jobs so much that they don't know how to leave it, then quoted a New York City firefighter who said, "You have to hate your job in order to leave it." I'm not sure I agree with that, but it might give a partial understanding of the problem.

So, how do we end well? How do we end our career with the same appreciation of the fire service that we began with? How do we insure that we end with the same love of service that we had in the beginning? I don't have a final answer, but here is what I'm thinking at the moment:

Maintain DILIGENCE throughout our career: Be careful not to fall into the trap of laziness but give constant effort to protect and accomplish the career you have undertaken.

Be FAITHFUL to your calling as a firefighter: be careful to observe your duty and performance of your obligations; be loyal.

Live a life of HONESTY: Be fair in your dealings with your fire department, chiefs, officers and other firefighters; treat them fairly; treat them like you want to be treated.

Continue to be INDUSTRIOUS your entire career: Make a constant effort to be the best firefighter you can be; give steady attention to your duties and be productive in your labor.

Be a person of INTEGRITY: Behave in accordance with the strict code of values held by other firefighters.

Maybe if we apply these five traits, we will end well. That is my prayer for you.

Blessings!

John A. Lefler,
Chaplain

LAST ALARM

<i>Richard Busfield</i>	<i>South Bend FD</i>
<i>Donald L Deckard</i>	<i>Bloomington FD</i>
<i>Jack VanHorn</i>	<i>Terre Haute FD</i>
<i>George Kepchar</i>	<i>Gary FD</i>
<i>Ted Piatek</i>	<i>Gary FD</i>
<i>Tarrm Hamler</i>	<i>Gary FD</i>
<i>Gregg Greenlaw</i>	<i>Gary FD</i>
<i>Jim Wall</i>	<i>Evansville FD</i>



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FIREFIGHTERS

because even cops need heroes