There’s a problem in the Fire Service

Four IFD firefighters disciplined

Indianapolis - Months after sorting through conflicting reports over punching, groping and urinating in public, the Indianapolis Fire Department is taking action against four of its own.

Under fire for a night of alleged rowdy behavior, including a "sucker punch," "groping" a female and "urinating" in public, four high-ranking city firefighters are now facing weeks without pay.

Sexual harassment alleged at Sacramento Metropolitan Fire District

By Chelsea Phua and Sam Stanton

Published: Sunday, Mar. 14, 2010 - 2:00 am | Page 3B

12 Firefighters Suspended For Hijinks In Rockville

Bruce Leshan • 3 days ago
Its bigger than any one case, or any one department
ANDERSON - Joe Piccinini created a hostile work environment at the Anderson Fire Protection District by misusing district property and funds, driving his pickup after drinking and harassing female workers in his 20 months as chief, a district report released Wednesday claims.

In the report, Anderson's former police chief, Neil Purcell, substantiated several allegations against the former fire district chief.

The report was made public Wednesday by court order after the Record Searchlight filed a state Public Records Act suit against the district.
A Firefighter's Date Causes Ruckus During A Sleepover At The Fire Station

Dave Statter  3 months ago

BURTONSVILLE, Md. (WUSA) -- 9NEWS NOW has learned a firefighter is suspended while an investigation is underway into a firehouse sleepover. The allegations involve a volunteer at the Burtonsville Volunteer Fire Department in Montgomery County, Maryland.

According to sources familiar with the investigation, the firefighter returned to the station at Briggs Chaney Road and Old Columbia Pike with his date following a Saturday night out. She spent the night.

Her presence in the firehouse became very...
City Fire Department criticized for enforcing dress code

October 29, 1999 | By Peter Hermann | Peter Hermann, SUN STAFF

A crackdown on dress codes and other rules infractions has the local fire department is overzealously enforcing trivial matters and ruining morale on the job.

Union officials, in their newsletter, criticized the policy that they say has increased the number of disciplinary cases that include minor traffic accidents.

"The department demands respect from you and then shows their appreciation by placing you on some of the most trumped up charges I have seen in my 25 years," wrote Rick Schulerberg, first vice president of Firefighters Local 734.
Fire Department Takes Disciplinary Action on Firefighters Involved in Diamond Billiards Incident

Date: November

Subject: Fire Department

Fire Chief Bill Van Helden and the Service Employees International Union Local 2424 have agreed to disciplinary actions for the firefighters involved with an incident at Diamond Billiards Sports Bar and Grill on September 25 following the funeral of a fellow firefighter. An email was sent from the manager's Office on Friday, September 26 alleging inappropriate behavior by at least one firefighter at the local establishment. He reportedly urinated on another firefighter in public view. The email also indicated that several firefighters were drinking alcohol while in uniform. Diamond Billiards is located at 1242 SW Pine Island Road.

Before a formal investigation could begin on the complaints, the firefighter who was accused of urinating on another firefighter resigned. Shane Rackliffe submitted his letter of resignation on October 1. A proposed disciplinary plan for the other firefighters involved also was accepted by the union. In the Memorandum of Understanding, the union agreed that based on the nature of the events, discipline was warranted for those firefighters who were present at Diamond Billiards on September 25. The agreement provided for 12 hours of suspension for 13 supervisory personnel, written reprimands for 11 engineers, and documented counseling for 18 other firefighters.
Report: Alcohol Played A Role In Fire Truck Accident

Last Update: 8/08/2007 1:31 am

Alcohol allegedly played a role in the firing of an assistant fire chief at the Crescent Springs/ Villa Hills fire department.

Officials say Frank Hicks caused $10,000 damage to a brand new $700,000 fire truck.

Villa Hills' Mayor Mike Sadouskas says the chief ordered firefighters not to move the truck until everyone was properly trained.

The chief's report says Hicks violated the department's drug and alcohol policy when he drank beer with a friend in the firehouse less than eight hours before moving the truck.

There was controversy a few years ago because the same department had a beer vending machine in the firehouse.
Noose Found At Fire Station

Baltimore (WJZ/AP) — There's outrage from civil rights leaders to the mayor's office over a disturbing discovery. For the second time this year, racially insensitive materials were left behind at a city firehouse.

Gigi Barnett has more on this local case.

Fire officials say a noose and a racially charged note were left at the firehouse by a fellow firefighter. Police tell Eyewitness News they are investigating this as a possible hate crime.

Pictures obtained by Eyewitness News show the noose attached to a note and left in a Baltimore City firehouse in the early morning hours.

The note reads, "We can't hang the cheaters but we can hang the failures." Now some in the department are demanding it be investigated as a hate crime.

"I think it's a symptom of a larger disease of racism in the Baltimore City Fire Department," said Vulcan Blazers president Henry Burns.

The note goes on to read "No EMT, no job," a reference, some believe, to an investigation into whether some firefighters cheated on promotional exams over the summer.

When asked how certain he was that a fellow firefighter left the noose, Chief William Goodwin responded, "About as certain as we are that when you hear the siren, somebody in our department's blowing it."

NAACP President "Doc" Cheatham is demanding city leaders neutralize what he calls a "culture of racism" within the department.

"We're saying mayor, president of City Council, councilmembers, you need to get busy on this issue,"
Boston fire lieutenant faces drunk-drive road rage charge

By Richard Weir  
Wednesday, February 17, 2010 - Added 1d 21h ago

A 25-year veteran Hub firefighter, who was in court yesterday facing charges for an alleged booze-fueled road-rage incident, had his license yanked in 1996 after also being arrested for drunken driving, according to prosecutors and state records.

Boston Fire Lt. Paul Souza, 50, of Braintree, pleaded not guilty yesterday in Quincy District Court to charges of drunken driving, malicious destruction of property and failure to stop stemming from a heated altercation with another driver in Braintree Friday.

This was not Souza's first brush with the law. In 1996 he was arrested for drunken driving but the charges were dismissed, said David Traub, spokesman for Norfolk District Attorney William R. Keating.
FORT PIERCE — A prank gone wrong has a St. Lucie County firefighter facing a voyeurism charge after he admitted to spying on a female paramedic intern as she showered at Station 15, arrest reports show.

Fort Pierce Police Department charged Carlos Alberto Marti, 36, of the 2000 block of 28th Avenue in Vero Beach, with misdemeanor voyeurism after he admitted to being in the ceiling looking down at the 19-year-old intern while she showered. Marti is out on $10,000 bail,
From: patriot <afxotica@xxxxxxxxx>
Date: 24 May 2007 21:05:26 -0700


Fire department veteran held on sex charges
Advertisement

Tribune staff report

May 24, 2007, 7:05 PM CDT

A veteran of the Chicago Fire Department was ordered held without bail Thursday for allegedly sexually assaulting two family members he was baby-sitting in 1998.

Stephen Panchesin, 54, of the 7600 block of West Ardmore Avenue, is accused of molesting the girls, who were 5- and 6-years-old when the incidents began, said Assistant Cook County State’s Atty. Kathleen Muldoon. The older girl had turned 7 by the time the incidents ended, Muldoon said.

Panchesin served as a field officer, the equivalent of a battalion chief, for the Emergency Management Service’s division within the Fire Department and oversaw several ambulance companies in the downtown area, said Chicago Fire Department Spokesman Larry Langford.

Muldoon said Panchesin admitted the assaults, which allegedly occurred at his home and at the girls’ home, and claimed that he was using cocaine at the time.

The girls told a relative about the attacks in April after they heard her talking about sexual assaults, Muldoon said.

Panchesin’s public defender, Lee Carson, objected to Panchesin being held without bail, citing his client’s 33 years of service as a firefighter.

After Panchesin’s arrest he was served with administrative charges of conduct unbecoming a member of the department and put on administrative leave, Langford said. He said there were no other allegations of misconduct in Panchesin’s record. Panchesin is paid about $114,000 a year and if he is convicted he will be fired, Langford said.
A Chicago firefighter has been charged with allegedly sexually assaulting children under the age of 10, authorities said early Wednesday.

Jose Moreno, 48, of Chicago, has been charged with three counts of predatory criminal sexual assault to a child, police News Affairs said.

Fire Media Affairs Director Larry Langford confirmed the department has specials investigating a number of these alleged incidents.
Note: 2 separate cases, 2 different defendants, 1 year apart!!!
FDNY Captain from Westbury Arrested for Fake Vicodin Prescription

By Patrick Kelton on Mar 2nd, 2010

A New York City Fire Department EMS captain from Westbury was arrested Monday night for forging a prescription two months ago, Nassau police said.

Faye Baughman, 47, attempted to fill a fraudulent prescription for Vicodin at Rite Aid on Post Avenue in Westbury on Jan. 2, police said. The pharmacy did not fill it.

Baughman arrested at her home and was found to have five white oval pills believed to be Vicodin on her, police said.

She was charged with possession of a forged instrument and criminal possession of a controlled substance. She will be arraigned at First District Court in...
FIRE CHIEF SUSPENDED, DEPARTMENT DISBANDED

By Brittany Woody

Hanceville residents are without a local volunteer fire department after Mayor Katie Whitley suspended Fire Chief Mike Watson Friday morning.

Volunteer firefighters said they resigned their service in support of Watson, whom they said was unfairly disciplined.

"There is no fire department anymore," Watson said. "The volunteers elected not to take any calls."

Concerned citizens and business owners, as well as Watson and others from the fire department, congregated in the parking lot of Hanceville's City Hall Friday afternoon to confront Whitley and address local media.

Whitley, however, was not on the premises.

"I never wanted to get up in the politics," Watson said. "I took this position because I care about this community and I wanted to serve the people as best I could."

Watson said he was not warned he may be suspended until Hanceville police officers came to pick him up at the fire station Friday morning to meet with the mayor.

"She didn't call me last week or this morning to ask me to meet with her, she just sent police officers to get me," Watson said.

Once Watson was in Whitley's office, she handed him a written disciplinary notice signed by city attorney Ed Coey. The notice declared Watson was suspended with pay for one week pending a hearing on whether his employment with the city would be terminated. The hearing is set for Sept. 21 at 9 a.m. and Hanceville City Councilman Hubert Jones said the meeting should be public.

"I'm quite sure it will be public, almost everything we do is public," he said. Jones said he was concerned about the suspension and wanted to see the disciplinary notice.
Cleveland firefighter faces felony charges; accused of stealing exam

By Damon Sims
April 16, 2009, 5:35AM

A veteran Cleveland firefighter faces three felony charges after being accused Wednesday of stealing an exam and distributing it to his comrades.


Prosecutors accuse Legeza of photographing the computer screen containing the exam questions, then using the images to create a disk of the questions and answers for the exam.

Developing a new test will cost the city $56,000, prosecutors said.

All Cleveland firefighters must be certified as emergency medical technicians. Being certified as a paramedic takes further training, since paramedics are allowed to administer drugs. Firefighters voluntarily take the tests and do not receive any additional pay from the city to work as paramedics.
A paramedic stole prescription medication from a 76-year-old man after responding to the Morgan Hill resident’s home for a medical emergency, according to police.

The victim, who lives on Warren Avenue, reported the possible theft to Morgan Hill police Nov. 29. Emergency authorities responded to the man’s home Nov. 23 when he called to request assistance after falling and injuring his shoulder, according to Sgt. Jerry Neumayer.

One of those responding was American Medical Response paramedic Paul Alexander, 46 of Morgan Hill, who helped transport the victim to the hospital by ambulance.

The next day, Alexander returned to the man’s home in uniform, and asked to inventory his prescribed medication because authorities lost the list, Neumayer said. Alexander briefly went into the man’s bathroom where the medication was stored, then left.

He returned to the victim’s home three more days over the next week while out of uniform.

On Nov. 29, the last day Alexander visited, the victim’s wife went to retrieve a dose of pain medication from the bathroom cabinet and found the pill bottle to be empty. According to the victim, Alexander had used his previous visits to the home to befriend the couple and use their bathroom each time to steal doses of the pain medication.

The victim told police that Alexander apologized to him Nov. 29 for taking the medicine, Neumayer said.
New York EMTs on Coffee Break Accused of Ignoring Pregnant Woman Who Died

Monday, December 21, 2009
Associated Press

NEW YORK — Mayor Michael Bloomberg on Monday blasted two emergency medical technicians accused of refusing to help a pregnant woman who had collapsed in the coffee shop where they were taking a break. The woman and her baby later died.

Bloomberg said refusing to help goes against human decency.

"There's no excuse whatsoever," he said.

The Fire Department is investigating the accusation, which centers on the Dec. 9 death of 25-year-old Eutisha Revee Rennix. The EMTs, who have not been identified, are accused of telling employees at the eatery in downtown Brooklyn to call 911 and then leaving when they were asked to help Rennix, an employee who had collapsed.

An ambulance was called, and Rennix was taken to Long Island College Hospital, where she died a short time later. Her baby girl was too premature to survive.

The Fire Department declined to comment further pending the outcome of the investigation. A message left for Rennix's mother was not immediately returned.

A spokesman for the EMT union said the situation with its resulting accusation was an "odd event," and that EMTs generally consider their jobs to be a 24-hour kind of thing.

"Our people tend to spring into action whether they're on duty, off duty, whatever they're doing," said Robert Ungar, spokesman for the Uniformed EMTs and Paramedics, FDNY.

The city's EMTs have a "very strong bond with the people of New York City that they serve," he said. "They view themselves as always being on duty."
Firefighter charged with shooting at bicyclist

JOSH BOATWRIGHT • JULY 27, 2009

ASHEVILLE — An Asheville firefighter charged with attempted first-degree murder after witnesses said he shot at a bicyclist, made his first appearance today in Buncombe County District Court.

Charles Alexander Diez, 42, apparently fired at the Asheville man after arguing with him about riding his bike on the busy road with his 3-year-old child in a bike seat behind him, Asheville Police Capt. Tim Splain said.

Diez's case is set to be heard on Aug. 17 in Buncombe County Superior Court.

Diez was driving his car off Interstate 40 at Exit 55 at about 11:24 a.m. Sunday when he saw Alan Ray Simons and his wife riding bikes up the road with Simons' 3-year-old son behind him in a bike seat, he said.

"He decided he needed to tell them he thought it was unsafe that they would do that and have their child out there in an area where they had a lot of traffic," Splain said.

Diez stopped his car and confronted Simons near 1360 Tunnel Road. When Simons began to walk away, Diez shot at him, Splain said.
Two Florida Firefighters Fired After Skipping Call

John Davis
Sarasota Herald Tribune (Florida)

Two city firefighters have lost their jobs after a lieutenant reportedly skipped an emergency medical call to coach a children’s soccer game.

Lt. Robert Combs resigned Thursday, the day after the North Port Fire Department said it found that he had violated several department policies by taking a ladder truck to the soccer match, skipping an emergency call and pressuring other firefighters to cover for him. The city said firefighter Frank Bellina was fired for aiding Combs in violating department policy. Bellina is expected to appeal the decision.

Investigation documents show that Combs, a 15-year veteran, was on duty at the fire station on North Port Boulevard Nov. 21 when he took a ladder truck about three miles south to the youth soccer complex on Glenallen Boulevard for a 10 a.m. match.

At 9:46 a.m., an emergency medical call came in.

Bellina, who has been with the department five years, informed Combs of the call and reportedly encouraged Combs to stay behind while he and firefighter Timothy Kirsch responded.

"I did not agree with the decision, but seeing as we were already out of our response area, did not have time to waste to run back to the soccer field from the parking lot to argue with the Lt. about going on the call," Kirsch wrote in an e-mail two days after the incident.
Firefighter Allegedly Attempted To Seduce Teen Girl

Engine Co. 255 firefighter Kendrick Bass has been arrested after allegedly attempting to sign a 14-year-old girl out of school to have sex with her. Bass met the young lady over a phone dating service, and showed up at her school in uniform on January 15th. There, he told the secretary that he was her uncle, but the secretary called the girl's grandmother, who said he was lying. Bass was arrested on Monday for endangering the welfare of a child, and has been suspended without pay. Which is all well and good, but can somebody please tell us what that girl was doing on a phone dating service?
Metro - cleveland.com
Breaking local news for Cleveland and Northeast Ohio

Breaking News, Crime, Medical

Cleveland paramedic caught using credit cards stolen from patient

By John C. Kuehner, The Plain Dealer
June 27, 2008, 5:23PM

A paramedic for the city was in jail Friday night after being caught on video using credit cards stolen from an 87-year-old patient, according to police.

Charges have not yet been filed against Tiffany Forte, 32, who has worked for the Cleveland Emergency Medical Services the last seven years.

Credit and debit cards were reported as stolen after the woman was taken to Euclid General Hospital on June 3. Forte was one of the paramedics on that call.
ALAWISUIT SWEEPSTAKES AT LAFD

Continued from page 1
Published on January 22, 2008 at 9:39pm

• Alicia Mathis in 2006 announced she had complained to the California Department of Fair Employment and Housing alleging gender discrimination, a hostile work environment, harassment and retaliation. Her wide-ranging complaint included claims that she was pulled off the female-recruitment project, retaliated against and kissed against her will by a firefighter. She recently filed a complaint — not a lawsuit — with the feds, as did d’Lisa Davies and Elena Mattox.
Manteno firefighter charged with indecent solicitation of child

MANTENO, ILL. (STNG) - A firefighter from Manteno has been charged with indecent solicitation of a child over the Internet after allegedly trying to arrange a sexual encounter with what he thought was a 13-year-old girl.

Michael P. Trost, 43, of Manteno, about 25 miles south of Chicago in Kankakee County, was charged with indecent solicitation of a child, traveling to meet a minor, and grooming, all felonies, according to a release from Crete police.

Trost -- a Manteno firefighter -- was ordered held on $200,000 bond by Will County Judge Richardson on Thursday, and is expected to appear in court June 22 for a preliminary hearing, according to the release.

Trost was arrested after a nearly two-month investigation in which Trost thought he was communicating online with a 13-year-old girl who in reality was a specially trained Crete police officer.
Pittsburgh firefighter, 2 others charged in drunken attack in South Side

By Jeremy Boren
PITTSBURGH TRIBUNE-REVIEW
Sunday, January 10, 2010

A Pittsburgh firefighter was among three men arrested early Saturday in what police say was a home invasion and assault that capped a night of drinking in the South Side.

Police accused firefighter Timothy P. Coyne, 23, and Brian A. Coyne Jr., 26, both of Keystone Street in Upper Lawrenceville, of assaulting Aaron Gilkey after he yelled at Brian Coyne for urinating on the front of his home about 3 a.m.

"It was very frightening. It certainly wasn't just a prank, and this was a very bad decision on their part," said Gilkey, a graduate student at Duquesne University, who works as a restaurant server.

Public Safety Director Michael Huss said Timothy Coyne, who is paid $53,712 a year, has been suspended without pay for 30 days pending a trial board hearing. Joe King, president of Firefighters Local No. 1, did not return a call seeking comment.

During a brief interview hours after the incident, Gilkey said he is "physically fine."

He said he was inside when he noticed the door opened.
Woman files lawsuit alleging sexual assault by firefighters

By Christina Jewett -- Bee Staff Writer
Published: Tuesday, Sep. 13, 2005 - 5:15 am
Last Modified: Monday, Aug. 21, 2006 - 2:31 pm

A photographer at the 2004 Porn Star Costume Ball thought she would be safe with two Sacramento firefighters who she said later sexually assaulted her on a fire engine, according to a lawsuit filed in Sacramento Superior Court.

The lawsuit, filed Sept. 2 against the city, the Fire Department and two firefighters, alleges negligent hiring, training and supervision, violation of civil rights and infliction of emotional distress. The woman, identified only as "Jane Doe" in the suit, says she also was a victim of defamation when someone observing the alleged assault said, "Firefighters have all the luck." On of the firefighters replied, "Yeah we do."

"This is like the firehouse gone wild," said Wendy York, the woman's attorney.
SAN FRANCISCO / Fire Dept. sued over alcohol usage / Firefighters, officers want action to stem 'notorious' abuse

March 18, 2005 | By Jaxon Van Derbekens, Chronicle Staff Writer

A group of 28 San Francisco firefighters sued the Fire Department on Thursday, complaining that on-the-job drinking was "frequent, open and notorious" and asking a judge to force department bosses to do something about it.

"We're here to announce nothing less than an effort to change the culture of the San Francisco Fire Department," said Dan Siegel, attorney for the firefighters.

Two of Chief Joanne Hayes-White's nine assistant chiefs -- the fourth-highest rank in the department -- and seven battalion chiefs, the next rank down, were among those filing suit in San Francisco Superior Court.

The chief called the lawsuit unnecessary and perplexing, saying she relied on her staff to inform her of problems, not file lawsuits.

"I am disturbed by what I am hearing," she said of the suit. "There are a number of members of the department, more importantly officers, (who) would be obligated to report any allegations of conduct they observe."

Siegel called drinking in the firehouses "an open and dirty secret" and said the plaintiffs want the department to heed the "zero tolerance".
MEMPHIS, TN – The Memphis firefighter accused of shooting a nurse in the parking lot of Delta Medical Center has been charged with first degree murder.

Police say that on Friday, Feb. 12, 2010, Frank Graham III approached 35-year-old Taffi Crawford in the rear parking lot of her job at Delta Medical Center and shot her. Crawford was airlifted to The MED in extremely critical condition, where she later died.

Officers caught Graham shortly after the fatal shooting. He has been charged with first degree murder and committing a felony with a firearm.
Paramedic arrested in Owensboro

Posted: Nov 21, 2009 1:20 PM EST
Updated: Nov 26, 2009 4:26 PM EST

By Brandon Bartlett - bio | email | Twitter

OWENSBORO, KY (WFIE) - A paramedic has been arrested in Owensboro.

Officials with the Owensboro Police Department say on November 18, they were contacted about a potential problem involving an EMT at Yellow Ambulance Service.

Police say on Friday, November 20, Yellow Ambulance dispatched 42-year-old David Michael Herron to what he thought was a regular service run.

OPD says the run was actually part of an undercover operation involving hidden cameras and listening devices placed inside a home where Herron was dispatched.

Police say Herron was caught removing $700 of $800 from a wallet found on a table in that home.

Herron was arrested and taken to the Daviess County Detention Center.

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Windber fire official accused of stealing $285k

By DAN DiPAOLO
dand@dailyamerican.com
Rating: 0

Thursday, February 18, 2010 10:23 PM EST

WINDBER - Henry Swincinski, president of Windber Fire Company No. 1, has been charged with stealing more than $285,000 from the department in the past six years.

Swincinski was arraigned Wednesday on more than 850 felony counts for cashing 284 checks from the department to his Jefferson Avenue business called C C Plus Inc., said Cpl. Daniel Croyle.

"The figure at this time is in excess of $285,000, but we expect this to grow as the investigation continues," Croyle said.

Windber Fire Chief Craig Cicon and police Cpl. Daniel Croyle discuss the arrest of fire company president Henry Swincinski for theft during a press conference Friday. Swincinski, 58, of Sunset Drive, Somerset, was charged with stealing more than $285,000 from the department since 2003. (Staff photo by Dan DiPaolo)
Ex-Firefighter who took severed foot charged with theft

January 26th, 2009 by Post Staff

FORT PIERCE— A former St. Lucie County firefighter was arrested today on theft charges in connection with a severed foot she took from an accident site in September.

Cindy Economou, 38, of Port St. Lucie, was arrested on one misdemeanor charge of petit theft and booked into the St. Lucie County Jail, then released on her own recognizance, according to an arrest report.

Economou admitted to taking Karl Lambert’s foot from the scene of the crash on Interstate 95 in St. Lucie County on Sept. 19.

Lambert had crashed into a tree, severing his foot, and was later flown to St. Mary’s Medical Center. Lambert, 46, survived and Economou told St. Lucie County Fire District investigators that she took the foot because it was too damaged to reattach and she intended to use it for training cadaver dogs.
Firefighter Charged With Forgery, Theft

Osmar R. Orozco Accused Of Forging Ex-Wife's Signature On IRS Check

CHICAGO (Sun-Times Media Wire) — A Northwest Side firefighter charged with forging his ex-wife’s signature on a tax return and a tax refund check for more than $13,000 has been released on his own recognizance.

Omar R. Orozco, 42, of the 7700 block of West Clarence Avenue, is charged with one count of felony theft and two counts of felony forgery, according to police.

Judge Michael Brown set a $10,000 I-bond during a Thursday hearing, Cook County State’s Attorney’s office spokesman Andy Conklin said. An I-bond means Orozco was released with only his signature. He must appear for a preliminary hearing Nov. 17 in Domestic Violence Court (Br. 64).

Orozco, a Chicago Fire Dept. employee, turned himself in at Grand Central Area police headquarters Tuesday afternoon and the charges were approved Wednesday, according to a police report.
Janesville firefighter charged with OWI after rolling fire truck

By JOSH NELSON, josh.nelson@wcfcourier.com | Posted: Friday, May 7, 2010 11:00 am | (10) Comments

JANESVILLE - A volunteer Janesville firefighter has been charged with drunken driving after he allegedly rolled a fire truck while on duty.

The Bremer County Sheriff's Office said David Francis Flood, 43, was driving the truck as the department was either responding to or working on a fire in rural Bremer County on March 27. He was charged with operating a motor vehicle while intoxicated on May 6 following an investigation.

"He was acting as a fireman when it occurred," said Sheriff Dewey Hildebrandt.

The incident occurred around 9:15 p.m., according to records. A deputy estimated the damage around $30,000. No injuries were reported in the incident, and an accident report didn't indicate if anyone was in the vehicle with Flood at the time, records say.
October 25, 2008    08:35 am
BJ Hansen, MML News Reporter

San Andreas, Ca -- A firefighter employed by the Jenny Lind Fire Department has been arrested for alleged child molestation.

39-year-old Albert Engel Jr. faces charges of lewd or lascivious acts with a child under the age of 14 and continuous sexual abuse of a child.

The Calaveras County Sheriff´s Department says that the case began when the female victim reported the abuse to her school teacher. Investigators were told that Engel abused the victim multiple times over a seven year period.

Engel was booked into County Jail, and released on $430,000 bail.
Two firefighters accused of embezzling

One has already pleaded guilty to the crime

Updated: Tuesday, 16 Mar 2010, 8:29 AM EDT
Published: Monday, 15 Mar 2010, 5:51 PM EDT

George Richert
Posted by: Eli George

CATTARAUGUS, N.Y. (WIVB) - Two volunteer firefighters are charged in the disappearance of tens of thousands of dollars from the Cattaraugus Fire Department.

They ran the Bell Jar Ticket Game for the Department and now somewhere between $30,000 and $80,000 is missing.

39-year-old Edward Holtz of the village of Cattaraugus pleaded guilty to third-degree grand larceny for the taking at least $30,000 while running the Bell Jar Ticket Game to raise money for the Cattaraugus Volunteer Fire Department. The Treasurer of that Department, 52-year-old John Finnegan, was arrested last week and charged with offering a false instrument and filing false business records in the same case.

More Crime

Man indicted for incest, sexual assault
Firefighter disciplined for smoking pot on job
Friday, February 1, 2002

By HECTOR CASTRO
SEATTLE POST-INTELLIGENCER REPORTER

The Seattle Fire Department has disciplined the driver of a ladder truck accused of smoking marijuana on duty and later found to have the drug in her system.

The 38-year-old firefighter, a 17-year veteran of the department, was removed from duty after her superiors learned of the accusations last November -- just hours after she drove a ladder truck the wrong way while responding to a call.

Since the accusations first surfaced Nov. 17, the firefighter has served a 30-day unpaid suspension, has voluntarily entered a drug treatment program and has been barred from being an assigned driver for at least a year, a move that reduced her pay by 5 percent.

The Seattle Post-Intelligencer is not identifying the firefighter because she has not been charged with a crime, and remains with the department. She could not be reached for comment.

"I'm saddened that this event happened," Chief Gary Morris said. "This member let us down."
Rochester firefighter indicted on child pornography charges
Allegedly admitted molesting a baby and a young relative

By JAYETTE BOLINSKI (jayette.bolinski@sj-r.com) and JOHN REYNOLDS (john.reynolds@sj-r.com)
THE STATE JOURNAL-REGISTER
Posted May 08, 2009 @ 12:04 PM
Last update May 09, 2009 @ 09:49 AM

ROCHESTER — A Rochester volunteer firefighter who allegedly admitted molesting a 13-month-old child was in federal court Friday after being indicted by a grand jury on child pornography charges.

Justin D. Weaver, 24, who lives with his father on Cascade Road in Rochester, was arrested Wednesday and appeared before a judge for a detention hearing.

The hearing was continued to Tuesday. No bond was set, but Weaver is to remain in the custody of the U.S. Marshals Service.

Peter Wise, Weaver’s attorney, said after Friday’s court appearance that his client will plead not guilty.

Federal authorities contend Weaver is a flight risk and danger to the community and assert that he has victimized at least two children. They said he has made suicidal statements to family members and has threatened to kill both his parents at different times.

They also said some of the images they found on Weaver’s computer were of him with children while he was in his firefighter’s uniform and at the Rochester fire station.

“As a fireman, the defendant placed himself in a position where children would trust and be drawn to him,” prosecutors stated in a proffer to the court. “Many of the images recovered from his computer show the defendant with children in his uniform and around the fire station.”

Rochester Fire Chief Mark Poffenberger said Weaver, who joined the fire department in 2006, has been on leave since February. Weaver initiated the leave, the chief said, but did not say why.

Except for top officials, the Rochester department is entirely staffed by volunteers. Firefighters receive a stipend of $10 per call, Poffenberger said.
Mesa fire official arrested in bestiality case

12 News
Mar. 6, 2006 06:30 PM

A Mesa Fire Department battalion chief was placed on administrative leave on Monday after being arrested in a bestiality case.

Police say Leroy Johnson went to a residence and knocked on the door of a home where a 13-year-old girl was staying home alone this weekend. When she didn't answer, he went into the back yard, police said, and took a lamb into a nearby barn.

"One could certainly ascertain that if you're in a barn and in a secluded area with a lamb and you're behind her and your pants are down by your ankles, then an unnatural sex act is probably occurring," said Lisa Allen of the Maricopa County Sheriff's office.

Johnson is facing misdemeanor criminal trespassing and public sexual indecency charges.

Officials with the Mesa Fire Department, responding to Johnson's arrest, said he's been an exemplary employee for the past 26 years, adding that they are shocked and surprised.

Johnson will remain on administrative leave pending an investigation by the Maricopa County Sheriff's Office.
Commissioner Cites Cover-Up By Firefighters

By MICHELLE O’DONNELL. Jason Fisher contributed reporting for this article. Published: January 3, 2004

The colleagues of a firefighter who was critically injured after being hit in the face with a chair on New Year’s Eve during an altercation with another firefighter initially gave false accounts to doctors about how the firefighter was hurt, the city’s fire commissioner said yesterday.

The commissioner, Nicholas Scoppetta, also said that the Fire Department is investigating whether supervisors violated protocol by not initially informing superiors about the fight involving the two men at a Staten Island firehouse.

Michael R. Silvestri, 41, of Staten Island, pleaded not guilty yesterday in Staten Island Criminal Court to charges of assault and harassment and criminal possession of a dangerous weapon. He was freed on $1,000 bail and ordered to return to court on Feb. 3.

Mr. Silvestri has been suspended without pay for 30 days, a fire official said.

The injured firefighter, Robert Walsh, 40, was in stable condition yesterday at Staten Island University Hospital’s north campus.

The authorities believe that the incident began around 6:30 p.m. Wednesday at Engine Company 151 and Ladder Company 76 in the Tottenville section of Staten Island when Firefighter Silvestri, coming on duty, exchanged words with Firefighter Walsh, 40, who was going off duty. Prosecutors said that Mr. Silvestri swung a metal chair at Mr. Walsh,
Prostitution ring suspected at firehouses

By

D.C. fire officials are investigating whether department employees have been running a prostitution ring out of several of the city's firehouses.

"The allegation is being taken seriously. It is being investigated at this time," said Battalion Chief Kenneth Crosswhite, a spokesman for Fire Chief Dennis L. Rubin.

Chief Crosswhite said no action has been taken against any employee in connection with the investigation. He would not say how many people are under investigation or identify the firehouses where they were stationed.

He declined to comment further on the investigation, saying he wanted to ensure a "fair and thorough" investigation.
Harrison Twp. Fire Chief lied about firefighter having sex while on duty

By Lucas Sullivan | Friday, August 22, 2008, 11:40 AM

(Harrison Twp. Fire Chief Mark Lynch was reprimanded for lying to township officials about an incident involving a firefighter having sex while on duty. Staff photo by Chris Stewart.)

HARRISON Twp. — A Montgomery County Sheriff's investigation found that Harrison Twp. Fire Chief Mark Lynch lied about and tried to cover up incidents involving a firefighter that had sex while on duty in the fire house while other firefighters watched.
New Allegations Surface Against Firefighters

Woman Claims Crews Would Park Outside Bars, Offer Women Joyrides

POSTED: 6:01 pm PDT July 7, 2004
UPDATED: 7:52 am PDT July 8, 2004

SACRAMENTO, Calif. -- Following claims of a sexual assault at a porn costume ball over the weekend, there are new allegations that could tarnish the reputation of the Sacramento City Fire Department.

A woman claims that city fire crews -- while on duty -- would park outside bars and nightclubs and offer women joyrides.

"She stated that she in fact did see some fire engines downtown. She stated that there were some females getting on. There were some rides taken. And she obviously didn't agree with the behavior," said Sacramento City Fire Department spokesman Capt. Niko King.
Hempstead fire chief arrested

AP

Last Updated: 2:17 PM, March 9, 2010
Posted: 2:16 PM, March 9, 2010

HEMPESTAD, N.Y. — Hempstead’s fire chief has been arrested on charges he and two men armed with shotguns stopped and searched a pedestrian on a village street before letting him go.

Michael Charles pleaded not guilty to menacing and weapons possession charges at his arraignment on Tuesday. He was released without bail. His attorney did not immediately return a call for comment.

Nassau County Police say Charles and two other men in a fire department SUV stopped a pedestrian on Sunday afternoon. Charles, who allegedly had a handgun, and a passenger with a shotgun exited the vehicle. A third man with a shotgun stayed in the SUV.

Charles allegedly searched the 29-year-old man before releasing him. It was not clear why he was detained.

One passenger also was arrested; the third person is still being sought.
Firefighters Suspended For Sex At Fire Station

Fire Department Says It Is Disappointed

POSTED: 5:53 pm PST March 10, 2005
UPDATED: 6:13 pm PST March 10, 2005

SACRAMENTO, Calif. -- KCRA 3 has learned that two Sacramento Metro firefighters -- a man and a woman -- have been suspended for having sex in their firehouse.

Fire officials said that both firefighters, one of them a department veteran, have already admitted to sexual activity inside Metro Fire Station No. 23 on Greenback Lane within the past 30 days, according to fire officials.

"We did have a couple of employees involved in inappropriate activities, sexual in nature, and they were then brought in for an interview to process this complaint," said Sacramento Metro Fire Department Spokesman Assistant Chief Jim Hatt.
CLEVELAND -- Formal charges, three counts of aggravated murder, were filed against Cleveland firefighter, Terrance Hough Junior on Friday.

Hough, is accused of shooting several shots into his neighbor's Fourth of July celebration just after midnight Wednesday.

American flags are being left at the sidewalk shrine for the three young adults who died after being hit by gunfire.

"It seemed very symbolic it happened on the Fourth of July. We brought three of them, one for each of the victims," said Tony Marlette a friend of the victims.

Tony and Ed Rose describe their friend Bruce Anderson as the nicest guy you ever met, someone who would give you a hug, rather than a handshake.

He'd be there for me and I will definitely be there for him. He's a great guy and I'll miss him," Rose said.
City Firefighter Is Accused of Beating Man in Robbery

By ANDY NEWMAN
Published: September 5, 2008

A city firefighter joined a robbery gang last year, donning a ski mask and pistol-whipping an intended victim, federal prosecutors said Friday. The firefighter, Ricardo Louis, 30, was arrested Friday at his home in Queens, officials said.

He is accused of being part of a ring that stole money and drugs from drug dealers and held up businesses. Firefighter Louis, who has worked for three years as a firefighter and is based in Engine 275 in Jamaica, Queens, has been suspended without pay, fire officials said Friday.

According to a criminal complaint filed in federal court in...
Termination Letters Sent To Firefighters Amid Sex Scandal

SACRAMENTO, Calif. -- One Sacramento City Fire Department firefighter has resigned and three others have been sent termination letters after a group sex scandal.

Five weeks ago, firefighters were accused of having consensual sex at Station No. 12. The investigation began after Chief Joe Cherry heard rumors that firefighters from the station were having sex on duty. Officials said evidence was later found to substantiate those rumors.

Investigators said they believe the firefighters -- three men and one woman -- had been engaging in sexual activity for many months. The sexual activity was consensual and much of it happened at the station, but did not affect any calls for service and did not involve any members of the public, officials have said.

On Tuesday, Cherry confirmed the recommended penalties.
Firefighter charged with sexual assault

A female firefighter reported being fondled by another firefighter while she slept.

Sunday, July 16, 2006 | 12:00 a.m. CDT

BY LEE LOGAN

A Boone County Fire Protection District volunteer firefighter was charged with deviate sexual assault Saturday after a volunteer firefighter from another county reported that the Boone County firefighter fondled her while she was sleeping in a district fire station.

The Boone County firefighter has also been suspended pending the outcome of the investigation, Division Chief Gale Blomenkamp said.

The female firefighter, 19, reported that at about 3:30 a.m. Saturday, she awoke at Boone County Fire Station 17 to find another firefighter in her bed. He had used her bed.
Firefighter quits amid outcry

Bill Morlin and Karen Dorn Steele
Staff writers
March 9, 2006

Minutes after a Spokane firefighter resigned Wednesday for photographing sex acts with a 16-year-old girl in a city firehouse, Fire Chief Bobby Williams revealed that the fireman had accessed an adults-only Internet sex site 22 times using a city computer.

Firefighter Daniel W. Ross also used his personal computer on duty at his regular fire station to post "pornographic images of himself" to the Internet in recent months, the fire chief said at a City Hall press conference.

"This is a matter that incensed the community and those of us in the Fire Department," Williams said.
One-time fire cadet claims sex abuse, sues Thornton

EX-FIRE CHIEF CONVICTED OF AGGRAVATED CRIMINAL SEX ABUSE IN 2005

Gregory Tejeda - Times Correspondent | Posted: Wednesday, September 30, 2009 5:00 pm | 7 Comments

THORNTON | The village, along with its fire and police commission and former Fire Chief John Klaczak, are all being sued by a one-time Fire Department cadet who claims the chief had sex with him when he was 16.

Steven Wragg Jr., filed the lawsuit against various officials with Thornton, where he was a cadet with the Fire Department in 2001.

His lawsuit claims that in December of that year, Klaczak "performed acts of physical and sexual abuse," with Wragg, including acts of oral sex.

"He intended to inflict severe emotional distress upon Wragg, or recklessly disregarded the likelihood that such severe emotional distress would occur," reads the lawsuit filed Monday by attorneys for Wragg in Cook County Circuit Court in Chicago.

Allegations about Klaczak are not new.

The former fire chief pleaded guilty to felony charges of aggravated criminal sexual abuse and official misconduct in September 2005, for which he received prison terms totaling three years.

At that time, it was claimed by prosecutors that Klaczak had sexual contact with boys ages 17 and 16 -- both of whom were cadets in the Fire Department's training program.

The Illinois child sex offender online registry lists Klaczak as living in Harvey. A phone number for Klaczak was disconnected.

The lawsuit seeks unspecified damages from Klaczak and the village, which Wragg indicates should have been aware of the potential for problems with the former chief's behavior.

The lawsuit claims that Thornton village officials received two complaints in July 1997 from local residents
Two Bronx Firefighters Suspended After Sex Accusation

By WILLIAM K. RASHBAUM
Published: August 21, 2004

Correction Appended
Two veteran firefighters were suspended without pay yesterday after they admitted having had sex with a woman in their Bronx firehouse while on duty, Fire Department officials said. Nine other firefighters and three supervisors were assigned to administrative duties as a result of the matter.

The suspensions came in the latest and perhaps most lurid controversy in a department that has seemed to be lurching from scandal to scandal in recent months. The two firefighters acknowledged having sex with the 34-year-old woman when she visited one of them early yesterday at the firehouse on Walton Avenue in University Heights, police and fire officials said.
Fire Captain Arrested In Sex Sting

Police: 55-Year-Old Wanted Sex With 'Very Young' Girl

By Nicole E. Matthews, News Editor

POSTED: 5:34 pm PST March 1, 2010
UPDATED: 7:44 am PST March 2, 2010

HENDERSON, Nev. -- A Clark County Fire Captain was arrested and charged with using technology to lure a minor after a Henderson police sting.

Martin Vohwinkel, 55, was arrested by Henderson police Friday after police said they found him in a location where he had set up a meeting with a minor.

An undercover detective said he had been communicating with a man who posted an ad on Craigslist.com looking for a “casual encounter” with a “very young girl,” according to the Henderson Police Department arrest report.

The detective said after he sent a brief e-mail response to the ad, the ad’s writer immediately contacted him to acknowledge he had placed the ad and said in an explicit way that he was looking for sex with a young girl, stating “the younger the better.”

The detective said he then told the man that he was a 14-year-old girl, after which the man said he was 45 and that he needed the girl “ASAP.” Vohwinkel sent a naked photo to the detective and then said in his next e-mail
A New York City firefighter has been arrested on charges that he was growing more than 100 pounds of marijuana in the basement of a home in Queens, according to court records.

The firefighter, Patrick Murray, 33, was arraigned Wednesday in Federal District Court in Brooklyn on charges of manufacturing and
Fireman admits to setting 3 blazes
Volunteer charged with arson in recent Spencerville fires

Michael Zennie  |  The Journal Gazette

Lee J. Yoder reported a fire at his neighbor’s house Jan. 23 near Spencerville.

After calling 911, Yoder, a volunteer firefighter, showed up with the Concord & Spencerville Volunteer Fire Department to fight the blaze, which caused thousands of dollars in damage to the house, according to court documents. When his neighbor saw Yoder, court records said, she ran up and threw her arms around him.
Lake Norman Volunteer Jr. Firefighter Charged With Arson

To contact the reporter, e-mail Tim Caputo.
Posted: 6:24 pm EST January 19, 2010

IREDELL COUNTY, N.C. -- Iredell County investigators said they became suspicious of a junior firefighter in part because he was quick to respond to a number of fires.

Now they've charged 17-year-old Mason Lee Missler for allegedly setting 14 fires in woods or fields over the last four months.

Detectives said the teen gave a written statement admitting his involvement in all the fires.

The break in the cases came Friday when two small fires were set with a mile of the Lake Norman Volunteer Fire Department.

Neighbors knew they had to be connected to the other fires.
New Carlisle firefighter charged with arson

By Valerie Lough, Staff Writer

Updated 2:58 PM Friday, May 15, 2009

NEW CARLISLE — A former New Carlisle firefighter is accused of setting fires while on duty, according to a Clark County Sheriff’s office news release.

Brian L. Doak, 32, of 937 Firwood Drive, New Carlisle, was arrested on charges of complicity to aggravated arson and breaking and entering Wednesday, May 13, according to a sheriff's report.

A 16-year-old male was also taken into custody on similar charges.

New Carlisle City Manager Bob Bender said officials were “shocked” to hear the news.
County fire officer convicted of theft

Crofton resident stole $7,300 from charitable group

By SCOTT DAUGHERTY, Staff Writer
Published 03/04/10

A lieutenant with the county Fire Department pleaded guilty Wednesday to stealing more than $7,000 from a charitable organization dedicated to helping firefighters in need.

Lt. Joshua Lee Constuble, 38, of 1655 New Windsor Court in Crofton, was ordered to spend the next five weekends in jail and pay full restitution to the Anne Arundel County Firefighters' Emerald Society - the organization for which he served as treasurer from late 2003 until early 2009.

"I was hoping for much more," Emerald Society President Brett Howe said of the sentence, pointing out that Constuble cleaned out the organization's two bank accounts and kept them from helping firefighters and their families for the past year.
Volunteer firefighter charged with arson in blaze that killed mom and three children on Long Island

BY TIM PERSINKO AND SAMUEL GOLDSMITH
DAILY NEWS STAFF WRITERS

Updated Saturday, March 21st 2009, 11:20 AM

Volunteer firefighter Caleb Lacey (below) has been charged with arson in a Lawrence, Long Island fire (scene above) that killed a mother and three children.
Volunteer Firefighter Charged With Arson

by The Associated Press

Published: Wed, February 25, 2009 - 2:54 pm CST
Short URL: http://wkrg.com/23951

CHUNCHULA, Ala. (AP) - An 18-year-old volunteer firefighter in Mobile County has been arrested and charged with arson in a house and woods fire.

State Fire Marshal Ed Paulk said firefighter Coty Presley of Chunchula was arrested Tuesday morning. He's accused in a Feb. 19 fire at a residence and surrounding woods in the Chunchula community.

In a statement, Paulk said Presley is a firefighter with the Oak Grove Volunteer Fire Department. Charged with two counts of felony arson, Presley surrendered at the Mobile County Jail. Bond was set at $6,000.

If convicted, Presley could be sentenced up to 15 years in prison, plus fines and restitution.
Police Chiefs Running FDs

Why?

Westbrook fire chief ousted in first step to restructure department

Westbrook Mayor Colleen Hilton puts her left hand on a Bible held by her husband, William Hilton, as she's sworn into office by City Clerk Lynda Adams at the city's inauguration ceremonies Monday. (Staff photo by Brandon McKenney)
Police Chiefs Running FDs

- Why?

Hemet fire chief on indefinite leave; police chief assumes his duties

10:00 PM PDT on Friday, June 1, 2007

By HERBERT ATIENZA
The Press-Enterprise

HEMET - Fire Chief Bob Verburg is on an indefinite leave of absence, while Police Chief Richard Dana has been appointed acting fire chief -- while keeping his permanent job -- as city officials figure out what to do next.

Verburg remains fire chief but has been relieved of his duties, City Manager John Davidson said Friday.

He declined to say what led to the decision, or whether Verburg was
City Lacks a System to Track Complaints Against Firefighters

A murder charge against an L.A. fire captain with an alleged history of domestic abuse highlights the problem.

September 08, 2006 | Lisa Richardson and Andrew Blankstein, Times Staff Writers

The Los Angeles Fire Department doesn't have a system for tracking criminal and civil complaints filed against firefighters, a problem that has come into sharp focus in the weeks since a fire captain once accused of domestic abuse was charged with murdering a female acquaintance.

Unlike L.A.'s department, several other big-city fire agencies as well as the Los Angeles Police Department keep a detailed record of personnel with criminal or civil complaints for domestic violence and other alleged misdeeds.
Cleveland investigates possible cheating on EMS exam

By Jean Dubail, The Plain Dealer
July 15, 2008, 5:36PM

Paramedic Steals Credit Cards From Patient, Goes On Shopping Spree At Target

A Cleveland paramedic was arrested last week after being caught on video using credit cards she had stolen from an 87-year-old patient, according to The Plain Dealer. Tiffany Forte, age 32, has been working for the Cleveland Emergency Medical Services for the last seven years. A police statement says she was seen on video surveillance at Target and Marshalls racking up $1000 worth of charges while wearing her EMS t-shirt. Details, inside...
NJ probes allegations of cheating on fire-captain exam

Officials probing whether D.C. firefighters cheated on EMT exam
By: SCOTT MCCABE
Examiner Staff Writer
April 24, 2009

2 Omaha firefighters pulled into test probe

Orlando firefighter caught in scandal says he was told to lie about not cheating, asks State Attorney’s Office to investigate deeper at City Hall

Weslaco firefighters accused of cheating on lieutenant promotional examination

Atlanta investigates allegations of cheating on fire department promotion test

Boston fire test will be voided
Probe said to find hints of cheating; Decision won't affect rest of state
“Whenever people begin to confuse the nobility of their cause with the goodness and wisdom of their actions... they can ... easily lead themselves astray.”

Jim Collins: *How the Mighty Fall*
Historically the caring and support that firefighters have shown each other has been both a core value and fundamental strength of the fire service that transcends jurisdictional lines.
• It can remain a core value and fundamental strength provided we respect and mutually enforce a code of honor.
Fire Department Administrative Investigations and Enforcing Discipline

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