A few days before Christmas the Chicago Fire Department experienced two-Line of Duty Deaths. FF Edward J. Stringer of E-63 and FF/EMT Corey D. Ankum of T-34 were killed in the line of duty following a wall collapse at a structural fire. It will be weeks and/or months before there is a final determination of exactly what the circumstances were in this incident. OSHA and NIOSH will begin their investigations and more than likely we will not see those reports for at least one year. Whatever the final outcome, the question has to be asked, was there anything that presented itself with a clue as to the condition of the building on that particular morning?

Thinking back through the years, at every emergency scene I have ever been to there is something that consistently required monitoring – the situation we were entering. Whether it was a vehicle fire, elevator rescue, vehicle rescue, technical

(Continued on page 2)
rescue, swift water/ice rescue, hazardous materials incident or a structure fire, the situation we were about to enter posed threats to firefighter safety. The threats varied, but the requirement to analyze the situation was always present. It didn’t matter if I was the incident commander, the support chief or filling any other role at the incident; I was always required to be conscious of my surrounding environment.

In today’s world there are constant reminders of this need for situational awareness in each near-miss we read about, each firefighter fatality we have information about or each accident report we review. Situational awareness is not a new concept. We have heard Assistant Chief Snart address it every year in the annual wildland refresher class and for good reason. Situational awareness is not a new concept. In the fire service, we accept a basic level of risk to do our job with appropriate controls to hopefully protect lives and property. A higher level of risk may only be acceptable if life is in danger. By evaluating the situation, you practice actions similar to that of military officers who make calculated decisions to enter hostile situations. Evaluating every situation will help guide you in determining the level or asset you are willing to risk. This concept takes a risk-rewarding approach to help assure situational awareness. It also offers an understanding of what is at risk when taking action at emergencies.

So how do we determine what is acceptable risk and what is not? The law enforcement and military communities long ago developed “rules of engagement” regarding the use of deadly force. These rules define critical rapid assessments necessary to justify firing their weapons or the use of deadly force. The rules have proven to be highly successful for both of these disciplines. It is believed that a similar concept in designing rules of engagement for the fire service would prevent firefighter fatalities.

The Safety, Health and Survival Section of the IAFC was created in 2004. In 2008 the Section moved to develop a set of “Rules of Engagement for Structural Firefighting”. The project team consisted of representatives from the Fire Department Safety Officer Association, the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation, the International Association of Firefighters, the National Volunteer Fire Council and the International Association of Fire Chiefs. Two sets of rules were developed – one for the firefighter, who is at the greatest risk, and another set for the incident commander who is responsible for keeping all members on the fireground safe. Each set of rules has several commonly shared rules and objectives, but the explanations are described somewhat differently based on the level of responsibility (firefighter vs. incident commander).

(Continued from page 1)

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I will be presenting the “Rules of Engagement” at a weekly training on February 8th. I would highly recommend you attend this session. Also, this is one of the required trainings for our new and existing Lieutenants. I would encourage all officers to attend as well as all firefighters. We will highlight the “rules” with the different explanations and follow them with a few case studies where applicable.

Firefighter safety must always be a priority for every fire chief and every member. Over the past three decades, the fire service has applied new technology, improved protective clothing and equipment, implemented modern standard operating procedures, and improved training. According to the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) data during the same period shows the fire service has experienced a 58 percent reduction in firefighter line of duty deaths. But the country has also seen a paralleling 54 percent drop in the number of structural fires over the same period – thus, reducing firefighter exposure to risk. With a continued annual average of more than 100 firefighter fatalities, the question remains; have we really made a difference with all these technology improvements? Or, is there more that we can do to improve the safety culture of the American Fire Service?

Understanding the conditions around us when entering a fire or rescue situation can mean the difference between life and death to our crew. It is up to the officers in charge of the incident, divisions, group, crew or apparatus to know the level of risk they are encountering and make critical decisions of when to advance or retreat in order to risk only what you are willing to lose versus what can be saved. Please join us on February 8th as we present the “Rules of Engagement”.

**Anniversaries**

4 Years

Gene Quador 01/29/2007

**Birthdays**

Jonathan Ashford 01/26
Angela Baca 01/11
Matt Finley 01/31
Jordan Houser 01/06
Kent McCrea 01/13
Adam Phipps 01/13
Jeff Steinhoff 01/17
Craig Weimer 01/13

[Anniversary Cake Image]

[Everyone Goes Home Website]

[Everyone Goes Home Logo]

[Page 3]
Chimney or Flue Fire Incidents

A Chimney Fire Incident is classified as a Structure Fire Incident, therefore the information covering a Structure Fire Incident are appropriate. However, with the prolific use of wood fueled heating and that chimney fires are common occurrences in a lot of communities, it is wise to look at ways to extinguish them safely.

- **ALL CHIMNEY OR FLUE FIRES SHOULD BE TREATED AS POTENTIALLY SERIOUS!**
- If the building is smoke-logged, ensure that a thorough search of the building is carried out as quickly as possible to ensure that no persons have been overcome by smoke.
- In heavily smoke-logged buildings, as soon as the source of the fire is located, VENTILATE.
- A chimney of solid construction (i.e. brick), often has a large hollow space from the ceiling down to the upper edge of the fireplace, on either side of the chimney. Mortar in old buildings tends to deteriorate and fire can escape into the ceiling space.
- As a general rule chimney fires should be extinguished and not allowed to burn out.
- NEVER USE ANY MORE WATER THAN NECESSARY. A chimney fire may be attacked with very basic equipment such as a charged hose line or extinguisher.
- Attack the chimney fire from either the ...
- **FIRE PLACE**, when the fire is burning near it. Remove contents from the fireplace and apply a fine spray of water up the chimney.
- Or the **ROOF**, when the fire is burning near the top or the full length of the chimney. If there is a damper, close it. Apply small amounts of water using a charged hose line or extinguisher adjusted to a fine spray.
- **CAUTION** should be taken when applying water to the fire as super heat steam will rise out of the chimney. Wear gloves and keep your face clear.
- Always be mindful of possible water damage to the premises. Where possible, salvage sheets should be placed over carpets etc.
- If there is a need to look up a chimney use a mirror, do not look up directly as falling debris could injure.
- When working on the roof, step carefully and on steep or slippery roofs a safety line should be attached to the firefighters.

Make a thorough inspection of the wall, floors and ceiling in the fires immediate area to ensure the fire is **TOTALLY EXTINGUISHED** before leaving the premises. A Thermal Imaging Camera is the best tool for this job.

There are three main hazards during a chimney fire. **First**, combustible materials near the chimney could catch fire from the radiant heat of the chimney. If the system has proper clearances, this is unlikely. **Second**, pressure may build in the chimney to the point where fire is forced out through cracks. This shouldn't be a problem in a chimney that's in good condition. **Third**, sparks from the top of the chimney may ignite roofing materials or nearby vegetation. A spark arrester screen will stop larger solids from coming out the top of the chimney, but the screen will have to be cleaned frequently during the burning season.
Lessons Learned

It’s hard to believe that it’s been 10 years since I joined the Golden Fire Department. I guess time flies when you’re having fun.

Over these years I have attended countless hours of training and have learned many, many lessons. So rather than just write about one specific topic or subject, I thought I would discuss a few key general subjects that I have learned over the years. These are the ones that I feel are very important to the outcome on a fire scene.

Make everyday a training day… When I first joined the department, I was told that I have just become a student of the fire service and will remain that way until the day that you retire, and for good reason…the fire service is a very dynamic profession that is constantly changing. Today we have the opportunity to learn so much more than those who came before us. We have unlimited resources available to us and we should be taking advantage of it. Books, magazines, and videos are available from many sources for either free (public library or the NFA) or at a minimal cost. If you ever find a book with valuable information, add it to your library. If you don’t have a library, start one. We also have the internet, a source of unlimited information available at your fingertips. However, remember one very important thing about the internet: sometimes the information posted can be misleading or completely incorrect. Make sure to do your homework and be complete.

Know your tools… This one is fairly straightforward and simple enough. Our trucks are the toolboxes for our profession and contain the tools of our trade. Each one of us should not only know how to use the tools in that tool box but know where they are so we can quickly go to work when called.

Know your job…. Once again a fairly straightforward topic, but this is one of the most important lessons that I have learned over the years. Each position on a rig has a particular job or set of jobs, for which that position is responsible. And each rig is different as well. A ladder truck is different than an engine, which is different than a heavy rescue. If you are a firefighter, know your tools and where they are on the truck (see above). If you are an engineer, know your rig and how to use it, where to place it, etc.. If you are riding in the officer’s seat, know that you may be the one in command of an event, and that you are responsible for the actions of all the others on that rig as well as everyone else on scene until further help arrives. One last word on knowing your job, when faced with stressful situations, you need to be able to go to work quickly and instinctively, and knowing your job is the best way to work instinctively.

Train as you play, and play as you train…. When you attend training; focus on the training at hand and not on other things. Pay attention, and actively participate. Being associated with two different departments I understand that there is more than one way to perform a job in the fire service and I realize that the way being presented might not be the best way for either you or the department. But trying new skills or ideas may be useful in a situation that might be unusual or stressful. I find nothing more disrespectful to the instructor and
other students than seeing someone in class surfing the internet, sending text messages or talking with friends in the back of the room during a training. If you find the need to do these, quietly excuse yourself from the room and take care of business quickly and quietly, otherwise you are a distraction to those who want to be there. Also, don’t take shortcuts during training. During training you are building the skills that are used on the fire ground. If you take shortcuts during training, you are likely to take shortcuts on scene.

*There is no such thing as a routine call…* Countless times we respond to smoke alarms at senior living facilities around 5:00 or 6:00 in the evening and usually it means burnt dinner. We’ve all responded to countless “structure fires” that end up being the back yard B-B-Q, snow blowing around the roof top or low clouds. However, once in a while we get the real thing and if you go in thinking this is going to be just another “nothing call you will be caught off guard. Don’t get complacent when responding. Always remember…

**COMPLANCENCY KILLS.**

*Go Ugly Early…* If you think you need help, get help on the way. You can always stand them down if they are not needed. Remember it is better to be looking at your resources than looking for them.

Last month while on shift (at work), we responded to a reported structure fire at a 3 story multi-family dwelling. This structure was not unlike many structures that are located in our own fire district. You know the ones, a large single family structure converted into a multi family dwelling, many times not being brought up to current building or fire codes. On our arrival, heavy fire was venting out a second story apartment on two sides extending to the third floor and roof. To make matters worse, the fire had cut off the only means of egress for many of the occupants and multiple people were at their windows trying to get out of the building. What happened in those first few minutes, even as chaotic as the fire scene was, was a result of years of dedicated training and a complete knowledge of the job by all who responded. The IC (me) knew that more help was needed and called for it before the wheels stopped rolling. The truck company knew that we needed to get ladders to the people hanging from the windows. After assisting one victim out of the building, the truck crew heard a second victim still inside the structure calling for help. Fire crews entered a second story apartment and performed VES (a skill that was demonstrated and drilled upon earlier in the week). Due to their quick actions, they were able to locate the victim and remove them to safety. The engine crew knew where the hose lines needed to be placed and quickly deployed the lines to where they needed to go, a drill that they had practiced countless times during daily trainings throughout the year.

In the end, fire crews made quick work of the task at hand. They quickly rescued all of the occupants inside the structure and extinguished the fire. I credit the fast work to all those on scene and to the fact that over the years they too learned many of the same lessons listed above. As a result of this dedication and lessons learned, today the victims that were rescued are expected to make a full recovery and the building still stands. As a final note, later this month (during the officer Sunday training tentatively scheduled on January 30th) I will be doing a post incident review of the incident briefly outlined above.
Prevention Updates

As of December 15th, there are now eight tenants in the Red Rocks Medical Center Building. Tenant package 2 had three tenants that received their fire final inspection and testing for a Certificate of Occupancy. These were challenging in the inspection and testing process because there are four pre-action sprinkler systems among the three tenants. Finally, they were all adjusted properly and put into service with only a couple of false alarms in the process. The ambulatory surgery center suite in the eastern half of the first floor is going strong as are three other tenants on the second and third floors. The contractor has developed a procedure for taking the fire alarm system off line as they continue tenant finish construction. So far it has worked well and I anticipate it will continue to work well until they are done some time in the fall of 2011.

Since the office building at 1030 Johnson Road is nearly filled, the developer has submitted for permit for a second building known as 1040 Johnson. Look for construction to start toward spring. Likewise, we should start seeing a structure take shape at 605 Johnson Road. This will be the RTD parking structure where you may see a big hole where a small hill used to be just south of the 100 Jeffco Parkway parking structure.

Construction inspections are in full swing at the CSM Residence Hall and Brown Hall projects. As soon as school is out next spring, look for the Weaver Tower renovation project to start up just as the residence hall project completes.

For next month, I intend to put information in the updates for the Red Rock Church in Heritage Square. For now, suffice it to say that they occupy several buildings at Heritage Square, and have recent plans in to expand on the main worship center with a noted occupant load of over 2000 people. Inspector Berens is doing the review for this project and will compile the information through Heritage Square management.

See you next month.
December 29 at 6:00 pm, GFD was dispatched to a rollover crash requiring extrication at 5th and Washington. Upon arrival, personnel found a victim trapped under the vehicle. The vehicle was stabilized and after a lengthy extrication, the patient was transported to a trauma facility by AMR ambulance.
In November 2010 Chief Bales received the John H Buckman III Award presented by the Provident Insurance company through the Volunteer Combination Officers Section (VCOS) of the International Association of Fire Chiefs (IAFC). This award is for Fire Chiefs that are leaders in new innovation and program ideas to keep the volunteer departments alive and well.

Chief Bales was presented the award by his son Captain Steve Bales. Steve is a Captain with the Denver Fire Department. The Bales father and son team have contributed much to the fire service over the past 40+ years.

The Golden Fire Department hosted a lunch for a family of six. The family purchased the certificate for the lunch with the firefighters at the 2010 Golden Civic Foundation auction. The certificate included lunch for six, a guided tour of station one, an aerial view of the city from the Tower bucket and Golden Fire Department apparel. Thank you to all GFD members who participated in making this a successful event. The Golden Civic Foundation has given the fire department many grants to provide for equipment that is not covered with the city budget.
As most of all you know, I've lived in a number of places that get regular snow all winter. Lots and bunches of it!

This is one goodie that I learned from those of you in "the County", that being Aroostook County in northern Maine. They do get piles of it every winter and it hangs around a LONG time!

Aside from doing your winter prep on the car and maintaining over 1/2 tank of fuel ALL THE TIME, there is a simple trick that makes things easier.

When you park outside and there is any chance of snow before you get back, put a cheap wood snow brush with plastic bristles on top of your car's left front tire. Nobody will notice it.

THEN, when you come back, you can grab it to brush off the snow from the driver's door, start the engine, and continue to clear the windows.

If you also carry a full size broom or pusher, it's easier to get to without dumping all the snow on the top of the door into the driver's seat!

Drive safe, live long and prosper. Really Rotten RETIRED Ralphie

I wonder where Retired Mechanic Ralph’s recent travels have taken him?

Retired Firefighter Michael Laden recently spent time in Egypt on vacation
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Thanks For The Memories Chief Reinhard

Golden Fire Department
911 Tenth Street
Golden, Colorado 80401