



Hey,

Today we remember Hackensack (NJ) Fire Captain Williams, Lieutenant Reinhagen, and Firemen Kresja, Radumski, and Ennis were killed in the Line of Duty while fighting a fire at Hackensack Ford, on July 1, 1988.

To the younger Firefighters on The Secret List and visitors to FireFighterCloseCalls.com, please take time to study this fire and also determine if your local "fire" library (department, academy, training center etc) has access to the old AMERICAN HEAT video and story on this fire. It is a "must see" study for all firefighters.

These 5 men were in the structure, a bowstring truss building, when the roof suddenly collapsed. Williams, Kresja, and Radumski were killed instantly, and Reinhagen and Ennis, despite heroic rescue attempts, were trapped and died from carbon monoxide poisoning. This fire caused significant awareness and changes in many aspects of firefighting not only in Hackensack, but all of North America.

(From the NFPA Report):

5 Firefighters from the Hackensack, New Jersey, FD were killed in the Line of Duty while they were engaged in interior fire suppression efforts at an automobile dealership when portions of the building's wood bowstring truss roof suddenly collapsed. The incident occurred on Friday, July 1, 1988, at approximately 1500 hours., when they received the first of a series of telephone calls reporting "flames and smoke" coming from the roof of the Hackensack Ford Dealership.

Two pumpers, a ladder truck, and a battalion chief responded to the first alarm assignment. The first arriving fire fighters observed a "heavy smoke condition" at the roof area of the building. Engine company crews investigated the source of the smoke inside the building while the truck company crew assessed conditions on the roof. For the next 20 minutes, the focus of the suppression effort was concentrated on these initial tactics.

During this time, however, little headway appeared to have been made by the initial suppression efforts, and the magnitude of the fire continued to grow. The overall fire ground tactics were shifted to a more "defensive" posture (exterior operation) and the battalion chief gave the order to "back your lines out." However, before suppression crews could exit from the interior, a sudden partial collapse of the truss roof occurred, trapping six fire fighters. An intense fire immediately engulfed the area of the collapse. One trapped fire fighter was able to escape through an opening in the debris. The other five died as a result of the collapse.

This incident and an earlier similar incident at the Waldbaums supermarket fire in Brooklyn, New York, <http://stevespak.com/waldbaums.html> provide important lessons to the fire service regarding the fire ground hazards of wood truss roof assemblies.

ARTICLE:

<http://tinyurl.com/339u4z9>

PHOTO/VIDEO:

<http://www.cyberonic.net/~mikef6/p0000120.htm>

RESOURCES:

<http://tinyurl.com/2uchtog>

REMEMBERING GLOUCESTER CITY, N.J. TRIPLE LODD-July 4th, 2002

On July 4th, 2002 at 0136 hrs., the Gloucester City FD along with auto-mutual aid including the Mt Ephraim FD was dispatched to 200 North Broadway in Gloucester City for a dwelling fire. Responding units were advised that occupants may be trapped. First arriving units were on the scene in less than three minutes and had heavy fire, burn victims and kids trapped. While Firefighters were operating an interior attack and rescue, a partial collapse of the structure occurred. An emergency evacuation signal was sounded and while that was happening, a much more substantial collapse occurred trapping 8 Firefighters. Additional rescue resources were requested, Firefighter accountability was initiated and rescue efforts continued. Five of the eight trapped Firefighters were rescued. But 3 Firefighters (see below) died in the Line of Duty and 3 children were killed.

We remember James Sylvester, Fire Chief, Mount Ephraim FD. Sylvester, 31, a 17 year veteran, was survived by his wife, who was pregnant with the couple's first child.

John West Deputy Chief, Mount Ephraim FD. West, 40, a 23-year veteran, was survived by his wife and three children.

Thomas G. Stewart III, Career Firefighter, Gloucester City FD. Stewart, 30, a 13 year veteran, was survived by his fiancée and their son. Stewart publicly proposed to his girlfriend, just hours before the fire while they watched the city's fireworks from high atop a fire truck ladder at Gloucester City High School.

HERE is the NIOSH REPORT: <http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/fire/reports/face200232.html>

HERE is the NJ STATE REPORT: <http://www.state.nj.us/dca/dfs//gloucester.pdf>

OFF DUTY FIREFIGHTER WORKING HIS POLICE JOB KILLED IN THE LINE OF DUTY

We regret to advise you that Kyle D. Pagerly, 28, functioning as a Police Officer, who was also a Firefighter, was killed in the Line of Duty. Kyle was a military police officer in the Balkans and Iraq and a Volunteer Firefighter for Spring Township.

Officer Pagerly, a Berks County deputy sheriff working in the fugitive warrants division, was fatally shot Wednesday night in Albany Township with a semi-automatic AK-47 rifle by a man wanted by a joint state police-U.S. marshal's task force, authorities said. Pagerly is the first Berks deputy killed in the line of duty. The gunman, Matthew M. Connor, 25, dressed from head to toe in camouflage, was shot and killed by law enforcement officers near his home about 6:30 p.m. Wednesday. Pagerly, one of two K-9 officers in the sheriff's department, went with troopers, federal marshals and other deputies to look for Connor at his parents' house in the first block of Pine Swamp Road. Cops knew Connor recently had threatened to kill himself and others, that he was likely armed and inclined to provoke police so they would shoot him. RIP.

PA FIREFIGHTER CRASHES WHILE RESPONDING POV, OTHER CAR FLEES

A Firefighter is in satisfactory condition at York Hospital Friday after being injured Thursday morning in a two-vehicle crash. FF David A. Miller, 29, was responding to an emergency call in his personal vehicle, a 2008 Chevy Cobalt. The driver of the second car, a 2003 Acura, fled the scene and must still be interviewed.

Bean declined to say whether charges will be filed. FF Miller was trapped in his vehicle and had to be extricated and taken to the hospital. A female passenger in the Acura, who remained on the scene after the driver fled, was not injured.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL. **Seriously.**

BillyG

The Secret List 7-1-11 / 1322 Hours www.FireFighterCloseCalls.com
