

# FirefighterCloseCalls.com

Home of The Secret List



Hey,

It appears that yet unknown fumes from a sanitary sewer killed a Middletown Public Works employee this morning and injured 2 Firefighters trying to rescue him around 0800 hours this morning. It is still not clear what the substance inside the hole is.

The victims are:

=Fire Captain Todd Wissemeier - INJURED - was transported to Miami Valley Hospital in Dayton. He was reportedly unconscious at the scene and is reported to be serious.

=Fire Marshal Bob Yess - INJURED - is listed in fair condition at Atrium Medical Center in Middletown. He was conscious at the scene.

=Firefighter Thomas Allen, 46, INJURED with NLT injuries.

=Mr. Jabin Lakes, 32 - employed by Public Works for a year. He was pronounced dead at the scene.

Four top city officials as well as some others at the scene were also sent for screening. The City Manager, The Mayor, their Law Director and an MPD Supervisor were all tested at hospitals today following the incident. A helicopter carrying specialized testing equipment has been brought in and crews are seeking to determine exactly what substances are in manhole.

Mr. Lakes and other public works folks were going to inspect a sanitary sewer line in that area because a local business wanted to tie-in some additional lines. They were going to inspect the line, run a camera through it and clean it in preparation for that work. There was no intention to go inside the sewer system by the public works employees according to reports. However, once the manhole was open, fumes escaped right into Lakes' direction and he fell into the hole.

2 of his co-workers immediately called 911 and Middletown Firefighters responded. Captain Wissemeier and FM Yess were standing outside the hole when they went down. It was also noted that the sewer line is a dead-end at both ends.

The Butler County Search & Rescue Team was called to assist Middletown and will remove Lakes' body as soon as it is safe. Air monitors were lowered into the hole to check the air quality before that work could be performed. More to follow later.

## **INTOXICATED FIREFIGHTERS**

An upstate NY Volunteer Firefighter is accused of drunken driving while responding to a fire in the Town of Guilderland overnight. The Captain from the Stanford Heights VFC was arrested and charged with DWI after striking a Guilderland police officer with his car. 42-year-old Fire Captain Thomas Fortune, had a blood alcohol content of 0.15, almost twice the legal limit for operating a vehicle. The charges are that he hit Officer Don Jones with his car while Jones was directing traffic (Jones was treated for an arm injury) and Captain Fortune was attempting to respond to the fire call.

And in Iowa, another incident involves another Firefighter (The Carlisle Fire Chief) who was intoxicated. Dave Statter has more on both of these events right **HERE:** <http://tinyurl.com/2dv7jbt>

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 5-7-10 / 1446 Hours

[www.FireFighterCloseCalls.com](http://www.FireFighterCloseCalls.com)