



Hey,

You may have read that there is some controversy in Charleston (SC) over a fire - one that occurred on March 1, 2011. And a report. A DRAFT report that wasn't intended to be released yet as it doesn't contain all the facts-according to CFD Chief Tommy Carr. Chief Carr has acknowledged problems at the fire, which gutted a two-story office building. That's why he authorized a 6 member committee of Firefighters to conduct a critical incident review.

It should be noted that Chief Carr rejected the committee's draft report because it had errors and failed to live up to their intended purpose, which was to create an educational tool, not an instrument for blame. "I was appalled at the material in there," Chief Carr said. "We did have some issues with that fire, and we want to get learning out of that. The way to do that is not to beat everyone up, but to give feedback in a positive way."

The 12-page unauthorized draft portion (link below) obtained by the Charleston Post Courier newspaper, describes "major" violations of policy and assigns blame for those mistakes. It raises questions about the handling of the fire, the effectiveness of the training firefighters have received and the integrity of the promotion process. It also highlights the continuing conflict between the department's hard-charging past and its new, risk-sensitive methods.

Chief Carr and his commanders said the rejected section of the report was authored by one member of the committee whom they did not identify. The Chief said the final report is still being retooled and fact-checked, and cannot be released because it's tied up in an unresolved personnel dispute involving a Fire Captain disciplined in connection with the fire. It's unclear how long the final document will be, and the CFD isn't sure when it will be available to the public.

HERE is the DRAFT report that was rejected:

<http://media.charleston.net/2011/pdf/889islandparkdrivefirereport.pdf>

HERE is Glenn Smith's article about the fire, the people and the report from the Post & Courier: <http://www.postandcourier.com/news/2011/dec/11/same-mistakes/>

Lots of lessons learned-and not just about the fire.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 12-15-11 / 1800 Hours

www.FireFighterCloseCalls.com