

November 2010 Newsletter



EVERYONE GOES HOME® Success Stories

[A Testimonial: The Courage to Be Safe® Class Saved My Life!](#)

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[Share Your Story: Are You an Everyone Goes Home® Success Story?](#)

Help others understand the importance of adopting the Everyone Goes Home® Program and the **16 Firefighter Life Safety Initiatives**. Share changes that you have made and the positive impact they had on your life, your family, and in your department, and we'll feature your story in a new section on the EveryoneGoesHome.com website. » **[Tell Us Your Success Story!](#)**

[We Are All Leaders](#)

From the day you leave the academy or get your firefighter certification, you are a fire service leader. You have and should exercise the power to make positive change in your crew, your department, and the fire service as a whole. You can lead just by listening to those around you.

[Fighting Fires in Disposable Structures](#)

Today's residential structure fire is not your daddy's residential structure fire. Today's lightweight wood frame structure is burning faster, failing sooner, and often doing so with tragic results, much quicker than traditional wood frame structures built in years past.

[A Partnership in Prevention](#)

"A Partnership in Prevention" was the theme for the 39th Annual Georgia Fire Safety Symposium held at the Georgia Public Safety Training Center in July of this year. In September, that theme seem to be taking hold in Camden County, Georgia. Then in October, it turned into reality when the area fire departments, cities, county and a military base joined together to teach fire safety throughout their local communities.

[Ray Downey Courage & Valor Award Nominations](#)

Nominations must be received by January 7, 2011. » **Learn More:** www.courageandvalor.org



INITIATIVE SPOTLIGHT

Spotlighting one of the 16 Firefighter Life Safety Initiatives each month

Initiative #11 - National standards for emergency response policies and procedures should be developed and championed.

» EveryoneGoesHome.com: [Firefighter Life Safety Initiatives Research Database](#)
 » [USFA: NETC Learning Resource Center](#)

More Information: [16 Firefighter Life Safety Initiatives](#) | Share a Resource: editor@everyonegoeshome.com



ONE GREAT CAUSE
One Great Race

Join your fellow firefighters
for racing and hospitality at the
DAYTONA 500
and support a great cause!

GET TICKETS

FEATURED Events

Courage to Be Safe® Training

Hebron, ND

November 25, 2010

Read More: » [About the Event](#)

L.A.C.K. Training (Leadership, Accountability, Culture, Knowledge)

Middlesex Co. Fire Academy, NJ

December 8, 2010

Read More: » [About the Event](#)

L.A.C.K. Training (Leadership, Accountability, Culture, Knowledge)

Burlington Co. ESTC - Burlington Co., NJ

December 10, 2010

Read More: » [About the Event](#)

FDSOA 23rd Annual Apparatus Symposium

Rosen Plaza Hotel - Orlando, FL

January 23 - 26, 2011

Read More: » [About the Event](#)

» [Find More Firefighter Life Safety Events](#)

Do you have an suggestion for the newsletter? Tell us about it! Please send your comments, articles, or news about what your department is doing to keep firefighters safe to editor@everyonegoeshome.com.

A Testimonial: The Courage to Be Safe® Class Saved My Life!

My name is Corby Coney, a firefighter from Liberty, NY. This is my testimony to the Everyone Goes Home® Program.

In the winter of 2006, I took the Courage to Be Safe® class with a great teacher, Carl Houman. After that class I took a hard look at myself. I was overweight and out of shape.

After several conversations with my doctor, we decided it would be best for me to have gastric bypass surgery. This was going to be a life-saving surgery because I had high blood pressure, diabetes, and sleep apnea, just to name a few serious health problems.

I had my bypass on January 13, 2010. As a result, my gallbladder went bad, which is a common side effect of this surgery. My local hospital would not do the gallbladder removal surgery, so I was sent to Westchester Medical Center, which is our local trauma center for the procedure.

During my stay at Westchester, they found a tumor on my pancreas that measured one centimeter. Pancreatic cancer is the most aggressive forms of cancer, so I've come to find out. Because of the severity of the diagnosis, the doctors wanted my wife there with me every moment. The hospital sent me home to get my affairs in order which included finding a caregiver for our 3-year-old daughter.

During that week of being home, the tumor grew from one centimeter to three inches. Thankfully, the tumor was removed completely and all margins were clear.

I asked the doctor what would have happened if I did not have the bypass surgery, which is why they ultimately discovered the tumor. He said point blank, "You would have been dead by this Christmas." So, in many ways, the Courage to Be Safe® class saved my life more than once!! I encourage EVERYONE to take this important information to heart.

Fighting Fires in Disposable Structures

Chief Gary Bowker (Ret)

Today's residential structure fire is not your daddy's residential structure fire. Today's lightweight wood frame structure is burning faster, failing sooner, and often doing so with tragic results, much quicker than traditional wood frame structures built in years past. In just the last six months, we have seen three separate fire incidents in Fargo, ND; Coatesville, PA; and Harrisonburg, VA that have involved large wood frame apartment buildings which resulted in close calls and firefighters being injured. Each of these incidents occurred in lightweight wood frame "disposable" structures. As the Ol' Professor, the late Francis Brannigan taught "The Building is your Enemy, Know your Enemy." Today the lightweight wood frame structure fire is the enemy. It has evolved into one of the most dangerous types of structure fires you will encounter.



A fire in today's lightweight wood frame structure, is a structure fire on steroids and can devastate anyone and anything in its path, including unsuspecting firefighters. To understand why this is occurring, we must first look at the history of wood frame construction in our country and define what a "disposable" structure is.

We must know where we have been in terms of construction and culture in the American fire service, in order to understand and appreciate where we are going. Fire officers must understand the nature of the risk we face in order to effectively manage it.

A Brief History

Wood frame (Type V) construction has been used extensively in this county since the nineteenth century for homes and businesses. During the great American expansion westward, many prairie towns were built exclusively of wood frame material. Lumber was plentiful and cost effective, but the fire problem it posed was significant. As building and fire codes evolved, Ordinary (Type III) construction usage increased for business and industrial use. Quick recovery after a fire was essential for economic survival. Most homes continued to be built of wood frame construction well into the twentieth century. It is essential to understand that wood frame structural members used in home construction during that time period utilized full dimension lumber, which yielded more mass for structural support during a fire. Floors and roofs were typically built using a minimum dimension of 2 x 8 and 2 x 6 inch solid wood. The walls and ceilings were typically covered with plaster and lath, giving the structure reasonably good resistance to a room and contents fire. These structures were built to last a lifetime and could survive a moderate to serious fire generally speaking. Typical fire loads used during that era consisted mainly of natural materials for furnishings and contents which continued into the 1950's. It was also during this time that traditional aggressive interior firefighting operations were becoming well established or "hard-wired" into our fire service culture. However, in the 1970's a significant shift began to occur in the wood frame construction dynamic, with the introduction of smaller 2 x 4 inch lumber use in floor and roof truss support systems. With the use of smaller dimension lumber in structural supporting systems "lightweight" construction was born, and has continued to evolve into lighter, cheaper materials with less mass for structural support. Less mass means quicker failure. The combustibility of lightweight building components has also greatly increased from those used in traditional wood frame construction.



GL Bowker

Today's lightweight wood frame structures include commercial buildings which can be massive in size creating huge un-sprinklered void spaces with the entire structure being wrapped in foam insulation.

building industry.

The vast majority of new homes and apartments, fast food restaurants, hotels, and commercial buildings constructed in the past twenty years are lightweight wood frame. Lightweight or engineered wood frame support systems include smaller than two inch dimension wood products that are not solid lumber. Glued and finger-jointed wooden trusses, and Truss/Joist I-Beams (TJI's) made of wood chips or particle board that are pressed together with combustible adhesives to eliminate waste, are commonly found today. In addition most of these newer wood frame structures are wrapped in synthetic insulating material which adds to the fuel load, speed, and toxicity of a fire. Wood frame structures today are not built to last like the wood frame structures were prior to the 1970's. Today's wood frame structure is "disposable." Much in our society has become disposable, from diapers, to appliances to homes. Time is money and less material and waste is money. So it should come as no great surprise as to why this has occurred within the



Courtesy of Acushnet, MA Fire Dept.

View of Polyurethane foam adhesive attaching gypsum ceiling board to the wooden structural frame in the void space between floors. The floor voids are typically 14' x 48' x 20" per modular unit, which equals approximately 1300 cubic ft, and may have multiple attached units. It is doubtful that the code developers thought beyond the 1000 sq ft. requirement using the standard length x width when developing the trigger for draft stopping of concealed spaces. Also note the small dimension finger-jointed truss and the exposed back side of the foam board wall insulation. This void space creates a very effective "fire box."

Disposable Structures Defined:

A disposable structure is defined as: (Bowker's definition) "Lightweight wood frame construction that utilizes engineered wood assemblies of lesser mass and/or synthetic products, that contribute significantly as fuel, and have a faster flame spread and failure time when exposed to fire and/or heat than does traditional solid dimension wood frame construction." This includes site built and factory built structures.

In addition, fire loads have dramatically changed since the 1950's from that of natural fiber materials, to fire loads today being primarily synthetic based. This has contributed significantly to faster developing fires, with less time to flashover, less time for escape, and less time to structural failure.



View of attic void in modular structure with spray-on foam insulation covering underneath side of roof. Note the 2 x 4 inch knee-wall construction supporting the roof structure.

Another significant risk facing firefighters involves manufactured and modular constructed homes and buildings. The 2009 International Residential Code now allows manufacturers to use polyurethane foam construction adhesive in lieu of mechanical fasteners (screws or nails) to install gypsum wallboard to interior ceilings and walls of these structures. This highly combustible adhesive off-gases at approximately 480 degrees F. With early failure of the compartment, very rapid fire spread throughout the structure should be expected.

Void Space Dangers:

Firefighters face a very serious threat once the fire in a disposable structure enters the truss void space underneath the floor(s) or in the attic. Large open void spaces are common to all lightweight wood frame structures. These void spaces provide an abundance of exposed fuel surfaces and plenty of air for a fire to rapidly develop and violently spread throughout the void. Attic and floor voids create a very effective "fire boxes" within the structure. Exposed fuels may consist of compressed wood products, polyurethane binding and construction adhesives, PVC plumbing, plastic wrapped duct work, and electrical wiring insulation. Fires that start or extend into the void space, especially from the exterior, and have a tendency to become violent very quickly with little or no warning; trapping unsuspecting firefighters conducting interior operations. It is well documented that once flames or high heat impinges upon exposed wooden lightweight structural components, failure can be expected in as little as 4 to 6 minutes. In addition, void spaces filled with heated fuel vapors create an increased risk of a backdraft, when oxygen is introduced from either unsuspecting firefighters pulling ceilings, or from ceiling panel failure.

Here are some of the dangers a void space fire may present:

- Hidden fire
- Rapid fire spread throughout structure
- Preheating of structural supporting members ahead of the fire
- Accumulation of fire gases and depletion of oxygen
- Increased backdraft potential
- Early structural failure
- Increased fire load from storage and foam insulation
- HVAC unit installation



The risk posed by today's wood frame structure demands a different tactical approach be taken by firefighters. A change in tactical thinking is needed. The American fire service culture has been hard-wired for many decades, to extend a fast and aggressive interior fire attack, from the unburned side whenever possible. While this strategy has served us well in certain situations and types of construction, it can be an absolutely lethal approach with disposable wood frame structure fires we are seeing today.

A seemingly non-life threatening fire originating on the exterior of a disposable structure can quickly spread up the synthetic vinyl siding, breach the soffit, and involve the attic space to become a very violent and lethal fire in a matter of moments

trapping occupants and firefighters. This is especially true if the fire becomes wind-driven.

A Recommended Tactical Approach:

- Conduct a 360 walk around before committing personnel
- Follow the 3 R's: Read the Smoke, Read the Structure and Read the Risk
- Check for extension into the attic or void space
- Determine the wind direction and its impact

Immediately attack an exterior fire with a high flow appliance if the structure is savable Do not underestimate the danger of an exterior fire spreading into the attic void via the soffits. This appears to have been the avenue of fire spread at the Galleria Apartments in Fargo, ND that resulted in the mayday situation for several firefighters.

Fires that originate on the exterior, or vent and extend from an opening of a disposable structure must be controlled quickly, especially if the exterior is covered with vinyl siding. The blitz attack may be your best option for a quick knock-down, and then followed up with a Cautious Interior Assessment (CIA) if the quick knock-down is successful.

These high BTU producing fires will quickly breach the soffit into the attic void. If the fire is wind-driven, this is a fire on steroids and may blow fire back through the structure from the windward (pressurized) side, to the firefighters entry (vent) point, over-running and cutting off their escape route. A wind speed as little as 10 mph can create a wind-driven structure fire. Exposures are also at an increased risk with the use of vinyl siding. Research over the dangers of wind-driven residential structure fires conducted by retired San Antonio Fire Captain William Mora estimates approximately 24 firefighters have died in structure fires over the past eight years where wind was a factor, some involving lightweight wood frame construction.

Fires that gain possession of the void space doom the structure as un-savable in most cases. However, during a working structure fire in a lightweight wood frame apartment building that my department in Winfield, KS responded to over Labor Day weekend in 2000, an elevated master stream was applied early-on to an attic fire that was rapidly spreading through the structure's attic void. Initial fire attack with 1-3/4" handlines from the interior had little to no effect on the fire. Quick use of the master stream from an aerial platform stopped the fire dead in its tracks. This action saved the structure and limited the fire loss to the attic space above the apartment of origin. This is contrary to what we've been taught for many years. Breaking old cultural habits are difficult, especially if we fail to understand the nature of the fire problem.

Avenues of Fire Spread Into Void Spaces:

Situations that seem minor should be viewed very pessimistically until thoroughly checked out and overhauled. Thermal Imaging Cameras (TICs) are essential for checking hidden locations. It is noteworthy to point out however, live fire testing video recorded by the National Institute of Standards and Testing (NIST) indicate that TICs may not be able to effectively "see" through wooden floor decks covered with carpet and

padding. The test shows a raging basement fire burning directly underneath the wooden floor deck constructed with wooden TJs. Catastrophic failure of the floor occurs in less than six minutes after fire exposure begins, plunging two firefighter manikins into the inferno. The NIST video dramatically illustrates what can happen to unknowing firefighters that "rush through the door and then fall through the floor."

In addition to fire extension into the void space from an exterior fire it can also extend via the following avenues:

- Combustible Dryer Vents and Air Ducts
- Anchor points in modular structures
- Failure of Polyurethane glued gypsum drywall & ceiling panels in modular structures
- Basements or rooms with missing or no drywall ceilings
- Construction gaps and around electrical fixtures
- PVC plumbing fixtures
- Fires that originate within the void space

Protecting Our Own:

Coming of age in the fire service in the 1970's as I did, little was known about "lightweight" construction or why firefighters died in the line-of-duty (LODD). The primary pre-requisite for being a "good" firefighter then was to be aggressive. Since the 2004 introduction of the 16 Firefighter Life Safety Initiatives by the Everyone Goes Home® program, much has been learned about the causes of firefighter LODDs; but, not all firefighters are getting the message. We now know the top three killers of firefighters are:

1. Cardiac related... Approximately 48 %
2. Motor Vehicle Accidents... Approximately 31%
3. Lack of Situational Awareness... Approximately 21% (failure to know or react to situations that kill firefighters)

This article has focused on lightweight wood frame construction dangers, which falls under the "Lack of Situational Awareness" category. Hostile fire events such as flashover, backdraft, and wind-driven fire conditions are also included. Today's firefighter must be thoroughly aware with these situations, and be able to quickly identify and react properly to changing and dangerous conditions. Firefighters must be intelligent first and aggressive second.

Here are some methods that can be used in managing the risk:

- Stay knowledgeable
- Know and practice the Rules of Engagement
- Select the appropriate operational mode
- Continually evaluate Risk vs. Benefit
- Assign an Incident Scene Safety Officer
- Develop, follow, and maintain current SOPs/SOGs for disposable structure fires
- Use the latest technology i.e., thermal imaging cameras, CAF Systems, etc.
- Stay heart healthy and physically fit for this job
- Pre-plan and know where disposable structures are located
- Be an advocate for residential sprinklers
- Support fire inspection and code enforcement programs
- Utilize a hazard identification system for disposable structures in your community

The only proven method for stopping a fire in the pre-flashover phase is by the installation of a residential sprinkler system.

Firefighters must know the facts regarding the cost and effectiveness of residential sprinklers and continue to advocate for their installation, despite the efforts by the home building industry across the nation to the contrary. They have a very well funded lobby in many states, and are working overtime to spread

disinformation and prohibit local jurisdictions from adopting residential sprinkler legislation. This has recently happened in Kansas.

I am aware of at least one Kansas department that has proactively adopted a "No Enter" policy regarding lightweight wood frame structures to protect its firefighters. If no life hazard exists, and the fire has extended into the void space of the attic or basement, a defensive approach is taken to control the fire.

The Blue Diamond Hazard ID System:

The purpose of the Blue Diamond Program is to alert responding firefighters arriving at the scene of a commercial or industrial structure fire where lightweight construction is used by the placement of a blue diamond placard on the exterior of the building. One or more Blue Diamond placards are placed in conspicuous locations on the exterior of the building, thereby alerting responding firefighters immediately upon their arrival.

The Blue Diamond is designed with four quadrants, similar to the NFPA 704 Diamond. The all-weather reflective diamond is Safety Blue in color and measures 14 x 14 inches square. The top quadrant contains the letter T which denotes the presence of truss construction. The left quadrant contains the letter R if truss construction is used in the roof system. The quadrant to the right contains the letter F if the structure has floor trusses present. If floor trusses are not present, the quadrant is left blank. The bottom quadrant contains the letter M or W denoting either wood or metal construction components.

This information is also contained in the department's quick access pre-fire incident plan. The advantage of the Blue Diamond program is two-fold. First, it provides four key pieces of critical information about the building's construction immediately upon the arrival of firefighters prior to their entry. And secondly, the diamond serves as a constant reminder to firefighters while doing pre-planning and familiarization training in the community. This program was presented to the Winfield City Commission by the fire department and was unanimously recommended for adoption into the 2008 Winfield City Municipal Code for community-wide use.



GL Bowker

Blue Diamond located on the front corner of a lightweight wood frame apartment building to alert firefighters.

This is a good example of the fire department being proactively involved in the community and receiving support from local government leaders to promote firefighter life safety initiatives. But we must first take the time to educate them to promote that cultural change.

If we fail to stay current and well informed in today's disposable firefighting environment and continue to aggressively attack fires relying on yesterday's tactics or luck for a positive outcome, we will continue to experience preventable LODDs and injuries in America. That's just not acceptable! As firefighters and fire officers, we are responsible for many important things on the fireground. But I cannot think of anything more important than the life of a firefighter... especially if you're the dad of three firefighters.



Gary Bowker is a retired fire chief with the U.S. Air Force, and has served as fire chief with the Sumner County Rural Fire District #10. Chief Bowker recently retired as fire marshal with the City of Winfield, Kansas and has over 36 years of fire service experience. He has taught numerous courses with the National Fire Academy, US Department of Defense, and the University of Kansas Fire & Rescue Training Institute. He serves as a Kansas advocate with the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation's Everyone Goes Home® program and speaks frequently and has written numerous articles on firefighter life safety and health issues. Chief Bowker currently teaches a 3 hr program entitled "Fighting Fires in Disposable Structures". He is nationally certified as a Fire Officer II, Instructor II, Inspector II, and is a certified Fire & Explosion Investigator. Chief Bowker can be reached at: glbowker@hotmail.com

A Partnership in Prevention

Fire Chief Freddy Howell, Kings Bay, GA
Everyone Goes Home® State Advocate

"A Partnership in Prevention" was the theme for the 39th Annual Georgia Fire Safety Symposium held at the Georgia Public Safety Training Center in July of this year. In September, that theme seem to be taking hold in Camden County, Georgia. Then in October, it turned into reality when the area fire departments, cities, county and a military base joined together to teach fire safety throughout their local communities.

Actually, the reality started sometime in early August via an e-mail concerning the upcoming fall fire safety blitz being held in the state. For those who live outside the state, let me explain the history of what a fire safety blitz is.

Some years ago, the State Fire Marshals office and the Georgia Public Safety Educators Association (GPSEA) looked at the state and noticed several communities that had a large fire fatality rate. Georgia was also ranking high in number of fire fatalities each year, at one time the 8th worst in the nation. So to save lives in both those communities and the state they got volunteers from all over the state to come together as a team and blitz the community by going to all the schools, daycares and even Wal-Mart parking lots to teach fire safety in those high-ranking communities. Those volunteers consisted of fire safety educators, firefighters, fire chiefs, puppeteers, robot operators, fire clowns and with the use of fire safety houses. These volunteers traveled around the state every couple months teaching fire safety and were able to cover the majority of the state. Soon, the State of Georgia started to see a reduction in fire fatalities and fire loss. After a year or so of doing this, the Georgia Firefighter Burn Foundation joined in to lend even more assistance with this project. This project has been focused to twice a year, one in the fall and one in the spring, one in North Georgia and one in South Georgia. This is what we now refer to as the Georgia Community Fire Safety Blitz.

Now back to the e-mail that started this Camden County Partnership in Prevention. I had received the e-mail about the upcoming fall blitz and thought it would be nice to have another down in Camden County as they did years ago when the community was much smaller. With this thought in mind, I e-mailed the local fire chiefs asking if they agreed. Chief Horton from the St. Mary's Fire Department responded with...

Chief Howell,

I agree with you completely but something to ponder: We have a huge amount of the resources needed to conduct a blitz right here in our community. The amount of talent and expertise is almost limitless. Why can't we conduct our own blitz as the fire service of Camden? I believe that we need to showcase what is here, if you will. By taking the same approach that we have for many years of losing the shirts of individual departments and becoming one and the same. You and I both have been a part of these blitzes and we know what will work and how to make it happen. But as always, I will respect the opinion of all who are involved. Thank you for your drive and compassion for education.

Robby Horton, Fire Chief St. Mary's Fire Department

What a wonderful idea he had! He was absolutely right. This was a way to bring our community together and showcase the local resources of that community in one location. The next week we set up a meeting with all the local fire chiefs and laid out a game plan.

The first item of the game plan was to get some new firefighters interested in teaching fire prevention. To get new firefighters interested we figure we'd offer a short three day clown class. The class would just cover some basics about fire prevention clowning to see if any of them would be interested. We offered the class and had 5 students, including Chief Horton, attend the class. During the class, we covered the basics and then we ran through a little puppet manipulation and set up a puppet stage. Then we put together a show from everyone's ideas and ran through it a couple times.

Next a representative from each city and the county contacted the schools and daycares in their areas and set up dates for us to visit and perform our show.

During the first three weeks of October, almost every morning you could find what looked like a parade of fire vehicles from Camden County, St. Mary's, Kingsland, and Kings Bay Navy Base pulling into a local school. The area fire trucks and the Camden County Fire Safety House would set up outside as the clowns went inside and hammed it up performing their fire safety show with the kids. By the time the month was over, what started out as the Camden County Fire Safety blitz ended up in the neighboring Charlton and Brantley Counties, as well. A total of approximately 7,000 kids got the opportunity to see and hear fire prevention lessons from a group of clowns that included: 2 fire chiefs, 2 assistant fire chiefs, 1 fire marshal, 2 firefighters and several other firefighters assisting.

Why is this so important? If we can form a partnership in this community and go out and teach fire safety and prevention to all the area schools and daycares what can you do in your community? Since we were asked and we went over into Charlton and Brantley Counties this year, couldn't we make it an area wide blitz next year? Why can't we all get with the other area fire departments and local schools and form a larger partnership and have a larger blitz? The more departments we get involved the more resources we gain!

Although this article is about what we have done in Camden County, it's a good illustration of how we need to be **TOGETHER** in every aspect of the fire service, especially in fire safety and prevention and the future of our kids. I have used this several times before but it still fits the fire service in every way! Henry Ford said it best: "Coming together is a beginning. Keeping together is progress. Working together is success."
TOGETHER WE CAN REDUCE FIRES AND FIRE FATILITES!



FIRE ENGINEERING COURAGE AND VALOR FOUNDATION

Remember Forever

REMEMBER FOREVER: SEPTEMBER 11, 2001 ... AND BEYOND.

The Fire Engineering Courage and Valor Foundation was created to ensure that we as Americans “Remember Forever” the fallen firefighters of September 11 and in their memory recognize other firefighters who demonstrate that same courage and valor in rescue missions.

For more information visit
www.courageandvalor.org

FIRE ENGINEERING COURAGE AND VALOR FOUNDATION

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The Ray Downey Courage and Valor Award commemorates the life and career achievements of Deputy Chief Ray Downey, who lost his life while commanding rescue operations at the World Trade Center attack on September 11, 2001. Deputy Chief Downey was chief of rescue operations and a 39-year veteran of the Fire Department of New York. He was the most highly decorated firefighter in the history of FDNY. Deputy Chief Downey commanded rescue operations at many difficult and complex disasters, including the Oklahoma City Bombing, the 1993 World Trade Center Bombing, and many natural disasters worldwide.

For his lifetime of unparalleled service to firefighters and citizens alike, and in remembrance of the courage and valor exemplified many times throughout his life, it is fitting that the Courage and Valor Award, presented to one extraordinarily courageous American firefighter each year, bear the name of Ray Downey, a truly extraordinary man.

Keep the tradition alive –

Nominate your candidate for the 2011 Ray Downey Courage and Valor Award now.

RAY DOWNEY COURAGE AND VALOR AWARD

2011 NOMINATION FORM

CONTACT INFORMATION FOR PERSON SUBMITTING NOMINATION FORM:

Name: _____

Address: _____

city state zip code

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Relationship to Nominee: _____

NOMINEE INFORMATION:

Name: _____

Title/Rank: _____

Fire Department: _____

Years of Service: _____

Home Address: _____

city state zip code

Home Phone: _____

Qualifications/Distinguishable Traits: _____

1. Please give a brief history of the nominee.
2. Describe the event or circumstance for which you feel the nominee displayed unparalleled courage and valor and is deserving of the 2011 Ray Downey Courage and Valor Award.
3. Describe in detail why you feel the nominee went above and beyond the call of duty during this event.

Important Details:

- Answers to questions 1-3 should be typed on separate 8 1/2 x 11 pages and attached to the nomination form.
- The incident/meritorious act described in this nomination form must have occurred between December 1, 2009 - November 30, 2010, and must have been part of an official fire department response to an emergency incident.
- The award is open to all firefighters in the United States, regardless of rank or department type.
- The recipient of the award may be living or deceased.
- The recipient will receive a medal and a significant financial award.
- The award will be presented at the Fire Department Instructors Conference in Indianapolis, March 23, 2011.
- Nomination forms will be published in *Fire Engineering* magazine and on its Web site.
- Incomplete nomination forms will not be considered.
- Forms must be received by **January 7, 2011** for consideration of the 2011 Ray Downey Courage and Valor Award.

Signature _____

In remembrance of Ray Downey and all fallen firefighters, please consider making a tax-deductible contribution to the Fire Engineering Courage and Valor Foundation.

Please send nomination forms to: Fire Engineering Courage and Valor Foundation Nomination Committee
 Attn: Diane Feldman
 PennWell Corp.
 21-00 Route 208 South, Fair Lawn, NJ 07410