



### INCREASING FIRE PREVENTION INSPECTION AND Protection in Cromwell CT

I am very gratified to share with all of you the recent establishing in my department here in Cromwell CT, the formulation of our Line Division Fire Inspector program. Obviously this is not a new concept and we are not the first in the area to have developed one, however. It is yet another means in the tool box for the overall protection of our constituency to which we took an oath to protect. I credit a previous chief I served under, over 25 years ago in Stamford, Chief Ron Graner, for first introducing the process.

I especially wish to thank the IAFF Local 4662 leadership of the Cromwell Professional Firefighters for their dedication to the protection of our community in working with me to arrive at an agreement to allow line suppression firefighters to also become certified and conduct fire safety code compliance inspections. Their professionalism in recognizing that the importance of fire prevention is equal to the effective and safe response to fire and other hazard threats as we protect our communities.

The agreement allows for line staff who are certified and maintain their certification to also conduct fire code inspections under the auspices and authority of the Cromwell Fire Districts Fire Marshal while on duty. Historically, CFD full time career staff as part of their job description provided public Fire Prevention education presentations. Moving forward, they are now able to further assist the Fire Marshal's Office in meeting the state mandate of annual inspections of public buildings, thus freeing up the Fire Marshal to focus on other program development in Fire Prevention, as well as allowing the FMO to continue to provide a focused review of the increase of plan reviews that is occurring in Cromwell.

It is every firefighters true duty to also protect the community by preventing fires as well as battling them after they occur. These types of programs make our efforts more efficient, and provide an increased level of security as we strive to safeguard those who rely on us to do so.

The on duty

What makes firefighters want to be a part of the fire service? Is it a true understanding of the insidious injury and devastation that occurs from fire out of control? Is it the excitement of first responding to a call for assistance in an emergency? The interest in the associated technology? The camaraderie



enjoyed as being a part of something? Or the true desire to prevent accidental fires and their threat to human life and property preservation?

As the fire department as we know it today has progressed to what I refer to it as a Fire and Life safety protection delivery system, it is quickly understood that we do more than simply fight fires. Or is that accurate? Firefighters in my opinion perform their duty