



# Town of Canton

## Fire and EMS Department



**DRAFT #1**

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### **PRESS RELEASE** **For Immediate Distribution**

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### ***Board of Selectmen Honor Town of Canton Fire & EMS Firefighters***

***Canton, CT August 11, 2005....7:30 p.m.*** The Board of Selectmen honored three firefighters from the Town of Canton Fire & EMS Department on achieving their Fire Fighter I certification. Matthew Majher, Michael Kadis & Sylvia Cancela, all from the Department's Collinsville Station, attended the Burrville Fire Training Academy in Torrington.

Fire Fighter 1 is a first level of formal education & training from the State of CT. Successful completion of the course work permits firefighters to participate in interior fire suppression.

First Selectman Mary Tomolonius noted that the certification required nearly 170 hours of training, over a period of three months; from wintry days in March to 93-degree heat in June.

The coursework at the Burrville Fire Training Academy included both knowledge & skills (practical) education & training. From the basics of fire behavior to building construction, salvage & overhaul, wild fire suppression, ropes/knots, survival/rehabilitation & hazardous materials, students attended class twice per week, 3 hours per evening for the twelve weeks.

Practical skills training took place over the course of five weekends & included: lifting & throwing ladders, search & rescue, ventilating roofs, fire suppression & forcible entry. Practical training culminated with a controlled, *live burn* in a smoke & fire filled building where all their training came to bear.

Underlying all the training is the importance of learning how to manage the *emotional, physical & mental* toll that dealing with all types of crises takes on firefighters. Firefighters must be ready to perform their duties with precision, professionalism & presence of mind.

Tomolonius commended Majher, Kadis & Cancela for achieving this "important milestone...a testament to your commitment & dedication to the critical community service provided each & every day by the men & women of your Department. The citizens of Canton are indebted to you & your fellow firefighters & we extend our thanks to you on their behalf."



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