



SAN FRANCISCO FIRE DEPARTMENT  
Public Information Office

8/24/10

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Media Advisory

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1300 Hrs

For Immediate Release PST  
Mindy Talmadge – 415 – 558-3403  
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**San Francisco Firefighters Recipients of National Firehouse Magazine  
Heroism Award**

*On December 13, 2009, T10 responded to a Working Fire at 1839 Jefferson St. The crew, led by Captain James O'Connell, proceeded into the Fire Building to conduct search and rescue operations. The Captain reported "Heavy Smoke and Fire on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor" yet proceeded up to the third floor. The crew split and conducted a floor sweep while conditions deteriorated. The crew could feel the extreme heat of the fire below them and the staircase, their means of egress, was becoming compromised as they continued their search efforts, without the benefit of a hose line, locating a 27 year old male victim, unconscious and burned. The crew of T10, working together as a team, removed the victim from the fire building to the street level where a medical team took over his care. If not for the quick actions of Capt. O'Connell and his crew, under the most adverse conditions, the victim would have died within minutes.*

Firehouse Magazine receives hundreds of nominations from across the country each year for the ***Firehouse Magazine Heroism and Community Service Awards*** program. This year, three of San Francisco's own Firefighters have been named recipients of this prestigious recognition for their extraordinary work in the fire service.

Fire Chief Joanne Hayes-White will acknowledge Captain James O'Connell, Firefighter Henry Tasto and Firefighter Ryan Toby at the Fire Commission meeting scheduled for 6:00 p.m. on Thursday, August 28, 2010. The meeting will be held at Fire Department Headquarters, 698 Second St., San Francisco.

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