Company Officer Responsibility Incident Safety

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Firefighting is a Skill
Firefighter Safety an Attitude
A Call to Action

Safety First

Fire service culture weaving safety and risk management together.

A Call to Action

High Risk
Life Safety
Human Response

What the Data tells us ...

30 deaths occurred while fire fighters were operating on the fire ground.

- 22 occurred at 20 structure fires
- 7 occurred at 6 wildland fires
- 1 at an outside fire

The average number of deaths to fire fighters on the fire ground*:

- 12 career
- 14 Volunteer

* Averaged over the last ten years
What the Data tells us...

Health and Wellness Roadway Incidents

Fire ground related incidents, accidents and fatalities continue

Key Recommendations

**NIOSH**
CONSISTENTLY SIMILAR

Root Causes

Knowledge ... Emotions ... Actions
Accidently Successful

- The way things are
  - Ineffective policies and procedures
  - Ineffective decision making
  - Lack of Preparedness and Training
    - Ineffective Leadership
    - Lack of Personal Responsibility – Accountability

It’s a matter of effective communication

Beliefs  Attitude  Actions
Attitude  Attitude

Attitude

Attitude

Examples

Emotions

Knowledge
Why Change?

We have always done it this way.

Am I doing all that I can to make the difference between what is and what could be?

- There is no need for change
- Loss of control
- Closed mind
- Not wanting to learn
Why Change
We have always done it this way.

- Connection with the older way
- No role models for the new way
- It's too overwhelming to change
- Bad experience

COMPLACENCY

The Call to Action
You can make a difference

A Call to Action
NFPA Standards

- Fire companies arrive alive
- Can identify, evaluate, prioritize risks
- Determine action steps
- Control the incident during its first 20 minutes.
NFPA Standards

How do you view NFPA Standards?

Protection ... Education

• Knowledge
• Skills
• Action
• Attitude
• Competence
• Expertise

Guidance Document

Professional Development

• NFPA 1500
• NFPA 1521
• NFPA 1561
• NFPA 1001
• NFPA 1021
• NFPA 1026
Job Performance Requirements
Professional Development

1. Task
2. Tools, Equipment, Materials
3. Performance

One System

Mental Modeling:

- **Resources** - What do we have available for this initial response?
- **Risk** – What are the risk factors based on the environment and the available resources?
- **Report** – How can I best communicate what appears to be happening and how the current resources will interact with risk?
- **Recon** – How continued size-up affects our resources, risk and actions?

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* NFPA 1561 2008 ed. Chapter 3 Definitions
  * 5.8 Supervisory Personnel
  * 5.8.1* – Risk Management principles shall be employed routinely by supervisory personnel at all levels of the incident management system to define the limits of acceptable and unacceptable positions and functions for all responders at the incident scene.
Once a hazard is classified in one of these boxes, a priority can be assigned to it.

**Determine & Handling Risk**

**Severity**
- High
- Moderate
- Low

**Frequency**
- High
- Moderate
- Low

Once a hazard is classified in one of these boxes, a priority can be assigned to it.

**Understanding Burning**

**Backdraft Flashover**
- Rapid
- Routine
- Slow

**Arrival**
- 3
- 7
- 10

**Time**
- 5
- 10
- 20

**Burning and Task Assignments**

**Task Assignments**
- 1-5
- 5-7
- 7-10

**Arrival**
- 3
- 10
- 20
Burning, Task Assignments, Risk Taking

Injury Probabilities

Develop Mastery

Getting 90% of all your objective right at least 90% of the time.
Front Loading

- Ability to recognize future consequences resulting from current actions
- Override and suppress unacceptable social responses
- Retaining longer term memories which are not task-based

Mastery

Without Front Loading ...
- Will resolve situations
- May not resolve without escalation, injury, accidents or worse
- May take a longer time frame to complete an appropriate risk management model

With Front Loading ...
- Will resolve situations
- May endure the first 20 minutes utilizing a more appropriate risk management model
- May implement a safer, efficient, and more effective incident action plan in much less time.
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NFPA 1521 2008 ed. Chapter 3 Definitions 3.3.44

Safety Officer

- A generic term given to a member within the fire department or emergency services organization who performs the functions of a health and safety officer, an incident safety officer, or who serves as an assistant to the person in either of those positions.

A Call to Action

Empowerment

A Call to Action

NFPA 1026 2009 ed. Chapter 3 Definitions

Company Officer

- The individual responsible for command of a company, a designation not specific to any particular fire department rank.
Once a hazard is classified in one of these boxes, a priority can be assigned to it.
NFPA 1500

Chapter 8 Emergency Operations

1500 Chapter 8 - 8.1.8

- Arrive on scene before assuming command
- Assume and confirm command
- Perform Size-up and risk assessment
- Determine strategy and action steps
- Accountability
- Company level ICS
- Review, evaluate, revise
- Transfer command

ISO Incident Action Model

- Resources
- Recon
- Action
- Risk
- Report
**Construction type – Principle Hazards**

- Identify construction type and hazard
  - Construction features
    - Characteristics of materials
    - Load imposition, resistance and transfer
    - Structural impact of fire degradation
    - Collapse potential

**Construction Type – Principle Hazards**

**SMOKE & Smoke Hazards**
Situational Awareness
Application during Roadway Incidents

The first arriving large apparatus should be positioned to create a traffic barrier and work zone. Cones and a spotter/flagger can help with “traffic calming.”

Who Me?
Time on the job – Measure of performance
Thank You

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