

Questions to Drive Advocate Life Safety Discussions

This form presents a number of sample questions you may use to help facilitate your Life Safety Session discussions, and to help participants fill out the Firefighter Survey Form. Make sure you take your time in documenting the answers to these questions and your personal observations about the discussion. Try to capture what you are hearing from the Firefighters that may be important to the assessors.

Questions are grouped according to target audience:

Chiefs

- What departmental policies are in place to protect firefighter lives and safety?
- Is there a 'safety culture' that exists in the department?
 - Is that fostered by senior staff and training officers?
 - If there is not a safety culture, what is preventing it from taking hold?
- What incentives does the department use to promote firefighter safety?
 - Would the department be open to ideas about other incentives?
- What consequences do staff face for neglecting safety?
 - Do senior staff feel comfortable reporting safety violations?
 - How are senior officers supported when they report safety violations?
 - Is the department willing or able to reprimand volunteer staff who violate safety procedures and standards?
- What incentives does the department use to promote healthy lifestyles?
 - Are there any consequences for firefighters whose health problems (including obesity and poor fitness) put themselves and others at risk?
 - Does the department monitor health and fitness through routine physicals, blood pressure checks, physical fitness tests, or other methods?
 - If not, would the department welcome advice on how to implement these types of programs?
- Which of the 16 initiatives are most important to you and your department?
 - Which should the department focus on for the greatest impact on safety?

Training Officers / Coordinators

- What safety training are staff required to complete?
- Do you have sufficient resources to address your department's safety concerns, including:
 - Training?

- Equipment?
- Dedicated time for staff training?
- What safety issues does your department need to focus on the most, and why?
- Would you welcome materials or training assistance to address your department's safety issues?
- What safety training do new recruits go through, if any, before they go out on calls?
- How would you describe attitudes towards safety in the department, both by staff and by leadership?

Senior Staff / Company Officers

- Is there anything either policy-related or structural that prevents firefighters from using their seatbelts for the entire duration of the trip to the incident?
- What, if any, policies are in place and enforced to minimize on-scene accidents?
- Do most firefighters ride the apparatus from the station to the incident, or are they paged from their off-duty location to the incident (i.e., they drive themselves to the incident or to the station when paged)?
- Is there any resistance among senior staff to implement safety standards?
- Does the health of your firefighters cause you any concern?
 - Does their health get in the way of their ability to do their job, or present a risk to them in terms of the possibility of stress or overexertion on the job?
- Are you willing to report violations and enforce safety policies?
 - Is there anything about the culture in the department that prevents people from minimizing accidents or injuries?
 - What, if anything, could be done better to prevent accidents or injuries.
- Are you willing to hold the engine back until everyone is in compliance with safety procedures?
- What do you do to make sure that 'newbies' feel comfortable following safety guidelines and regulations?

Firefighters

General

- Does this department and its staff do everything it can to make sure that LODDs don't happen here?
- If you had to predict what the next injury or LODD would be caused by in the department, what do you think it would be?
 - What do you think can be done to prevent that from ever happening?
 - What obstacles prevent these actions from occurring?
 - What can be done to overcome those obstacles?
- Do you feel like you help your fellow firefighters to avoid injuries or LODDs

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- Do you advocate safety as much as you can in your job?
- Would you consider yourself to be 'an example' of life safety for other firefighters?
- What would happen to you if you were injured and couldn't do your job?
 - How would your injury affect your family?
 - Are you doing everything you can to avoid this?

Seatbelt Use

- When you respond to an incident, is it usually in your own car, or on the apparatus?
 - If you drive your own car, do you feel it's worth the risk to speed to the incident?
 - If you ride in the apparatus, is there any reason you can't wear a seatbelt?
 - Do you always wear a seatbelt? If not, why?
 - Do firefighters look at seatbelts as something that helps or gets in the way?
 - What would make you wear your seatbelt every time?

Health Maintenance

- Are you worried at all about injuries or death caused by stress and overexertion?
- Do you do anything either on duty or off duty to make sure you are physically fit enough to do the strenuous activities your job requires you to do?
- Do you encourage your fellow firefighters to eat healthy and live healthy lives?
 - What do you think is the best way for firefighters to encourage each other to stay in shape?
- Would you be able to safely extract every one of your fellow firefighters if they were injured, or would poor fitness (on their part or yours) make this difficult?
- Is there anything you would like the department to do to make it easier for you to stay in shape?
 - Would you go to a gym if membership was free?
 - Would you use gym equipment if it was at the station?
 - Would you participate in a station running club?
 - Would you support fitness tests?
 - Others?

Operational Safety

- Does your department promote on-scene operational safety?
- Do you have any unanswered questions about when risks are worth taking, and when they are not?
- Are there any policies in place that put your safety at risk?

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- Are there any policies that would help you to avoid injuries or LODDs that you would like to see?
- Do you think that an (or another) operational injury or LODD is just a matter of time?
 - If so, what would be the cause?