

September 2008 Newsletter

[New Leadership for the *Everyone Goes Home*® Program](#)

An Introduction to Year 4 by Chief Rich Marinucci, Program Director

Linda Stone and I have been retained to manage year 4 of the *Everyone Goes Home*® program. For starters, we recognize that this is a very large task that is going to require the support and effort of many others. Further we understand the importance of the program to help to reduce the unacceptable number of line of duty deaths for firefighters. With that said, what can you expect?

[Child's Dream Weekend Teaches the *Courage to Be Safe*\(SM\)](#)

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» **Also:** [Minnesota Junior Firefighter Weekend](#)

[Tampa, Miami Dade Fire & Rescue Initiate Culture Change Process](#)

In his seminal work on fire department culture for Oklahoma State University, funded in part by the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation's *Everyone Goes Home*® Program Year 3 funding, Bill Pessemier argues that changing a department from a "risk based identity" to a "safety based identity" is a transformational process.

[Asbestos Exposure: What Every Firefighter Should Know](#)

Firefighters face a number of occupational perils, and the dangers may seem obvious: burns from a raging fire, smoke inhalation, or a fall from a ladder. There is another peril, however, that is less obvious, and that is exposure to asbestos in burning buildings. Previous exposure to asbestos is the only cause of malignant mesothelioma, a deadly type of cancer that has no cure.

[What I Brought Back from the Pittsburgh Fire/EMS Expo](#)

A few of us attended the Pittsburgh Fire/EMS Expo. Some of us attended classes. The fire department picked up the tab for the training with the caveat being that those of us who did attend classes were requested to bring something back to share with our department. So I will share this.



INITIATIVE SPOTLIGHT

Spotlighting one of the 16 Firefighter Life Safety Initiatives each month

Initiative #1 - Define and advocate the need for a cultural change within the fire service relating to safety; incorporating leadership, management, supervision, accountability and personal responsibility

More on Initiative #1:

» [Firefighter Life Safety Initiatives Research Database](#)

More Information: [16 Firefighter Life Safety Initiatives](#) | **Share a Resource:** editor@everyonegoeshome.com

Online TRAINING

Take 5 For Safety

**Risk Management:
Training Is No Accident**

» [Handout](#) | [Instructor](#)

» [View All Take 5 Drills](#)



FEATURED Events



2008 Memorial Weekend

Emmitsburg, MD
October 5, 2008

More:

» [About the Event](#)

» [How Can I Participate?](#)

Courage to Be Safe(SM)

Train-the-Trainer

Mercer Co. Fire Academy - Lawrenceville, NJ
October 17, 2008

Read More: » [About the Event](#)

Safety Through Leadership - Modules 1 & 2

Bergen Co. Fire Academy - Mahwah, NJ
October 25, 2008

Read More: » [About the Event](#)



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Firefighter Fatality Statistics from USFA

Statistics compiled for the period
January 1 - August 31, 2008.

» U.S. Fire Administration: [Fatality Database](#)

[Courage to Be Safe\(SM\)](#)

[Train-the-Trainer](#)

Morris Co. Firefighter and Police Training
Academy - Parsippany, NJ

October 17, 2008

Read More: » [About the Event](#)

Do you have an suggestion for the newsletter? Tell us about it! Please send your comments, articles, or news about what your department is doing to keep firefighters safe to editor@everyonegoeshome.com.

New Leadership for the *Everyone Goes Home*® Firefighter Life Safety Initiatives Program

An Introduction to Year 4 by Chief Rich Marinucci, Program Director

Linda Stone and I have been retained to manage year 4 of the *Everyone Goes Home*® program. For starters, we recognize that this is a very large task that is going to require the support and effort of many others. Further we understand the importance of the program to help to reduce the unacceptable number of line of duty deaths for firefighters. With that said, what can you expect?

First, you will get a sound effort. Linda and I have agreed to commit our energies to this program with hopes of making a difference. We also will include others, those with expertise and energy to offer to the program. We understand the urgency of the assignment and are working hard to learn the federal grant system and the projects identified in the year 4 application. We will evaluate those with the help of our leadership team to determine which items are valid, which ones need to be adjusted and which ones need to be abandoned. The question we must answer when we do the evaluation will be "will it make a difference?"



While LODDs are not often easily classified in simple terms, one could argue that they occur for one of two reasons - complacency or a lack of competence. The complacency can happen when people expect incidents to be routine. It can also come into play when firefighters believe they can't be hurt because of who they are. The competency issue is based upon a combination of training, education, practice and experience. Fewer calls or low frequency events require better and more training and practice.

With this simple explanation, one could deduce that the efforts of the *Everyone Goes Home*® program need to address this issue. Our intent is to continue to raise awareness to minimize complacency and to offer tools to help with the preparation of firefighters to do the job. More will be coming in the next few months. It will take the participation of many to make a significant difference. We believe it can happen and look forward to taking on this challenge. In the meantime, feel free to contact Linda at 248-506-3401 or lstone@everyonegoeshome.com or me at 248-231-8422.

Rich Marinucci

Child's Dream Weekend Teaches Kids the Courage to Be SafeSM

**Randy O'Donnell, Fire Chief
West End Fire & Rescue Company**

Throughout the past two decades the fire service has witnessed a decline in the number of volunteer firefighters. Many studies and commissions have been formed to discuss this problem, but resolutions have not been given. The members of the West End Fire & Rescue Company of Shippensburg, Pa. would like to share a program that changed the way they dealt with recruitment of young people into the fire service. Our department's strength at one time was the recruitment of young members, but as society changed they saw a dramatic decline in recruitment. So an idea was born, and a new way of recruitment paved the way for excitement for the fire service.

In 1997 an idea was formed from watching a news program where paid firefighters brought local children to their fire academy and showed them the tools of the trade. The program was designed to show a positive image of their department and to the community. West End Fire & Rescue Company decided we could take a similar concept and adapt it to recruitment. This idea was floated at a company meeting in 1997 and a committee formed to explore the idea. Out of this committee came a program that would change how we recruit new members, retain long time members and bring back the enthusiasm that we had a decade ago.



"Starting the cultural change with those who want to become firefighters." - G. Crawford Wiestling.
Poster Designed by Claudia Garner

The program that was developed would be called "Child's Dream Weekend" This program would bring 25 excited youths between the ages of 11 to 13 into the fire station for a weekend and educate them on the fundamentals of

firefighting, personnel safety and the importance of community service. Traditionally this event is held the first weekend after school lets out for the summer. The attendees are selected through an application process, and the parents attend an orientation several weeks before the event. This orientation gives the family members an overview of the weekend and allows time for the family to ask questions and to sign permission slips.

As the young men and women enter the fire station with their supplies for the weekend, they are divided into five separate battalions and they elect their own captain for the weekend. Senior firefighters are assigned to each battalion to insure their safety and to provide guidance throughout the weekend. Participants start the day with a warm greeting from the company president. Safety equipment, accountability tags, and uniforms are handed out. To set the stage for the weekend, Chief Emeritus Crawford Wiestling presents the *Courage to Be SafeSM* Program and explains the 16 Life Safety Initiatives. Chief Wiestling's idea is to preach safety now and this will reduce injury and firefighters deaths in the future generations. It has been a very powerful program to watch.

After the initial classroom presentation, the battalions participate in different training exercises. They are given hands-on training in four areas: Basic EMS training, CPR, patient packaging techniques, and use of personnel protective clothing including SCBA. A hose maze is set up for participants to follow and learn search and rescue techniques. Each of the youths has the opportunity to use fire extinguishers and take part in an obstacle course. This obstacle course ends the morning of the first day by putting together all of the skills that they learned for that day.

In the afternoon, the fun really begins for the participants. In the afternoon they will learn basic rescue techniques. The extrication exercises draw a lot of interest from the participants and parents alike. The hose line competition and bucket brigade are the highlights of the weekend. Battalions compete for the best time and at the end of the afternoon everyone, including staff, becomes a part of a huge water battle. After everyone is already wet participants will walk to the fire chief's nearby swimming pool to learn water safety and have free time to swim. Pizza is provided and a time to wind down before everyone returns to the station for cleanup and showers. All participants are assigned an area to sleep for the night. We are fortunate that our fire station accommodates both males and female sleeping facilities.

The evening is time to show the recreational time of the fire service and brotherhood of the fire department. Normally, we will start the night with a ball game at the station before walking to a local bowling alley for a night of bowling. After returning to the station ice cream and a movie is provided for all. This is the time when everyone is tired and ready for a good night of rest.

The following morning the participants are wakened by the company's alerting system, while company members prepare a delicious breakfast. Firefighters and their families help provide many of the meals and snacks for the weekend. This makes for a great time and fellowship of company members.

The morning is started with one of the favorite events for the weekend. A visit of Life Lion, an air medavac unit. The flight crew and paramedics always put on a great show and spend a lot of time with the participants. This is another favorite of the parents and community members as well. After the departure of Life Lion, we get back to work performing hands-on training. It will be anything from obstacle courses to rescue drills or engine company drills. This is where they put everything that they have learned for the weekend to good use.

After the Sunday morning drills, participants clean up and prepare for a picnic with family members. At the end of the picnic a formal graduation ceremony is conducted to acknowledge the work of these young men and women. All participants receive awards and gifts for their participation in the Child's Dream Weekend. The parents have the opportunity to hear from the battalion captains and view a video of the weekend. At this point company members are exhausted but fulfilled for their accomplishments. They hope to see these young people back in the near future.

Child's Dream Weekend is an opportunity to excite young people. Our message is simple: If you do not want to volunteer as a firefighter, please volunteer in some other manner. The results of this program are rewarding. We have watched participants move on to career departments and now serve as officers in our department. At one time, a large number of our bunkroom was filled with earlier participants from Child's Dream Weekends. We hope that this information is helpful to other fire departments; we freely offer this program outside of the Shippensburg area. Other fire departments in Pennsylvania have adapted the program and started their own Child's Dream Weekend. A department in Minnesota has just completed their first program with overwhelming success.

This program cost the department approximately \$3000 a year, that includes an extra insurance policy. We have been fortunate to receive funding from many outside sources including: the Lt. Keith Hess Foundation, Drew Micheal Tayler Foundation, Yvorra Fire Service Leadership Foundation and Chief Crawford Wiestling. The contributions from these organizations and individuals have help make our dreams and the dreams of the participants a reality.

The West End Fire & Rescue Company is willing to provide this program and more details to any other department that is interested in the recruitment tool and firefighter safety programs. We need to look towards the future and prepare our young people for the challenges ahead. By adopting this program, we have found a great tool to educate new recruits and our firefighters to the 16 Life Safety Initiatives. There is nothing more positive than a firefighter teaching young people the *Courage to Be SafeSM*.

Also:

» [Minnesota Junior Firefighter Weekend](#)

Minnesota Junior Firefighter Weekend

**Fire Chief Joel E. McColl,
City of Savage Fire Department**

The weekend consisted of inviting a total sixteen twelve year old boys and girls to live at the fire station for a weekend.

The entire weekend was designed around the Courage to Be Safe (SM) training of the Nation Fallen Firefighters Foundation's *Everyone Goes Home®* Program.

This idea was brought to us through Mr. Crawford Weistling, State Advocate for the *Everyone Goes Home®* Program. Without Mr. Weistlings collaboration, cooperation and communication none of this would have been possible. Mr. Weistling has always been, and continues to be, an inspiration for the fire service when it comes to promoting firefighter life safety initiatives.

Our local firefighters strive to support the 16 Firefighter Life Safety Initiatives. Initiative #14 talks about public education. Some of the other initiatives that the local firefighters have addressed or continue to address are:

1. Improved radio communication.
2. High-visibility jackets issued to all firefighters when working on the roadways.
3. High-visibility vests inside of all fire trucks to be worn over the turn-out gear.
4. Better flashlights purchased for the responders to be carried with them at all times.
5. Chevron markings on the new equipment that has been ordered.
6. Approved DOT highway safety signs purchased and placed on the two front line engines that can be quickly set-up to protect the responders.
7. Sarah's Story PSA has been implemented into the driver's education program in the community. All new drivers now see that video as part of their classroom education.
8. First ever Junior Firefighters Dream Weekend program was established and carried out.
9. Seatbelt policies have been implemented.
10. Dust masks have been made available when cutting glass while at an auto extrication.
11. Promoting the Responder Safety and Firefighter Close calls web sites.
12. Promoting and educating of the 16 life safety initiatives for the local firefighters.

These are just some of the items that have been completed over the last five years. There are still many more to come that will hopefully reduce both civilian and firefighter injuries.

Weekend Itinerary



The firefighters spent many hours prior to this event planning, asking questions, working with State Advocate Mr. Weistling, League of Minnesota Cities, City Attorney and staff members for direction and implementation.

- Advertise the program.
- Thursday evening prior to the weekend there was a mandatory meeting of parents and/or legal guardians to have release forms signed, gain medical information and to inform them of what their children could expect to experience.

Saturday:

- 09:00 - 09:15 registration
- 09:15 - 10:00 break into squads receive t-shirts, bunk space and get acclimated to the new surroundings.
- 10:00-11:45 Hose Streams
- 11:45 - 12:00 Clean-up
- 12:00 - 13:00 Lunch
- 13:00 - 15:00 Auto Extrication
- 15:00 - 15:30 Break
- 15:30 - 17:30 Aerial Work, Search and Rescue, Donning of PPE, Thermal Imaging Cameras
- 17:30 - 19:00 Dinner
- 19:00 - 20:00 Home Visits
- 20:00 - 21:30 Home Visits
- 21:30 - 23:00 Free Time (pool, ping-pong, foosball)
- 23:00 Lights out

Sunday:

- 07:00 - 07:30 Rise and shine, Get Cleaned Up
- 07:30: - 08:30 Breakfast
- 08:30 - 09:30 EMS Class
- 09:30 - 11:00 Confined Space
- 11:00 Set for lunch and preparation for the ending ceremony.
- 12:00 Lunch with the Families
- 13:00 Certification Ceremony
- 14:00 Put everything away and go home

It appears as though the kids took a lot of breaks, but we must remember that they were issued hard hats, safety glasses, gloves and a light weight jacket to be worn during the entire weekend. Each exercise took a considerable amount of time and effort to accomplish and the kids were conducting the work. Just like firefighters they too need to be rehabbed from time to time.

Below is a very short and quick synopsis of each event:

Hose Streams

A firefighter would give a 20 minute class on the importance of selected hose streams, the water distribution system and hose lays. Then the kids had water fights using their new found knowledge. We used a 2 1/2 inch line directly off of the hydrant into a gated wye that also had a reduced amount of pressure and then this went into two 1 3/4 inch hand-



lines.

Auto-Extrication

The kids had a 20 minute classroom on the importance of seat belts, auto-extrication safety and patient care. Then the kids were allowed to deflate the tires, break the glass, and cut windows. The firefighters then cut the cars apart while the kids watched.

Confined Space

The kids donned safety gear, crawled through a tube and had to secure their scene and complete patient packing and remove the victim to a safe location.

EMS

The kids learned the importance of CPR and AED's and how they work. Demonstrations were completed by the firefighters. And then the kids had the opportunity to accomplish both hands on and education through direct dialogue about personell safety and techniques of this exercise.

Search and Rescue

The kids wore a mask with wax paper on it and had to conduct a search of the training room looking for a stuffed animal wearing their helmets, scba mask, glove and jackets.

There were many more items and activities covered throughout the weekend. For more information feel free to contact me at: 952-882-2689.



Also:

» [Child's Dream Weekend Teaches Kids the Courage to Be Safe\(SM\)](#)



Tampa and Miami Dade Fire & Rescue Initiate Culture Change Process

Chief Richard Anderson

"If the fire service is to be successful in reducing firefighter casualties, there must be a determined and sustained effort by those individuals and organizations that care about the fire service to change the way we think about who we are, how we measure the value of what we do for the communities we protect, and how our constituents think of the fire service".

- **Chief Bill Pessemier (ret.)**

In his seminal work on fire department culture for Oklahoma State University, funded in part by the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation's *Everyone Goes Home®* Program Year 3 funding, Bill Pessemier argues that changing a fire department from a "risk based identity" to a "safety based identity" is a transformational process. Pessemier notes that it "requires a comprehensive understanding of the underlying issues involved with organizational identity" (*International Journal of Fire Service Leadership and Management*, vol 2, no.1, 2008, 13-14).

In Chief Pessemier's view, in order for a department to begin this transformation, it must do three things: understand its own organizational identity, understand how the department adapts to significant challenges and, finally, recognize how the department resists change. Each of these three steps involves a commitment to learn how the organization understands itself and what it is willing to do to make the changes necessary to foster the adaptation of a safety based culture.

Miami Dade and Tampa Fire & Rescue Departments stepped up to participate in a Safety Survey designed to do just that: Chiefs Bill Pessemier and Richard Anderson visited both departments to kick-off the process last month.

The first step of the process includes conducting confidential interviews with randomly selected members of the department from a variety of stations. The second step is participation of all members in a safety survey. The survey is designed to allow all members of the department to anonymously express their opinion on the department's safety management



Chief Pessemier with Miami Dade Fire and Rescue Safety Health Organization. Pictured from left to right: Captain Rick Bond, Lt. Jeff Rouse, Captain Manuel Dominguez, Lt. Brian Lynch, Chief Fernando Olivera, Chief David Downey, and Firefighter David Vanburen.
Photo by Chief Anderson



Chief Pessemier with Tampa Fire Rescue Truck 14.
Photo by Chief Anderson

systems, safety related behaviors and organizational safety culture. Lastly, the process includes review of documents that relate to safety.

The results of these surveys, interviews and document reviews are then analyzed to identify opportunities in these three key areas. This will enable a custom Safety Improvement Plan to be developed. Safety Improvement Plans not only help ensure that *Everyone Goes Home*®, they also result in maximum operational effectiveness.

Everyone Goes Home® will be exploring projects like these in the future. For more information on this project contact the *Everyone Goes Home*® Program at info@everyonegoeshome.com.

Asbestos Exposure: What Every Firefighter Should Know

Important Information About Firefighters and Asbestos Exposure

Mesothelioma & Asbestos Awareness Center

www.maacenter.org

Firefighters face a number of occupational perils, and the dangers may seem obvious: burns from a raging fire, smoke inhalation, or a fall from a ladder. There is another peril, however, that is less obvious, and that is exposure to asbestos in burning buildings. Previous exposure to asbestos is the only cause of [malignant mesothelioma](#), a deadly type of cancer that has no cure.

Prior to asbestos-usage regulations put forth by the federal government in the 1980s, asbestos was used in the development of a variety of construction products, including attic insulation, drywall compound, acoustical plaster, stucco, roofing tiles, floor and ceiling tiles, and even certain brands of duct tape, and if a home or commercial building was built before these regulations, then there is a very good chance that it is harboring harmful levels of asbestos. In fact, over 35 million residences in the U.S. harbor asbestos-containing products. Asbestos is not dangerous until it is disturbed or damaged (perhaps from the intense heat of fire or explosion). If asbestos fibers become friable and subsequently airborne, firefighters may be at risk of inhalation. If inhaled, the small fibers, which have a claw-like composition, can situate in the mesothelium, or lining of the internal organs, for decades before an individual may begin to suffer from common [mesothelioma cancer](#) symptoms, such as difficulty breathing or chest pain.

It is imperative that firefighters understand the risks associated with asbestos exposure and take the necessary precautions. All firefighters should wear their self-contained breathing apparatus, or SCBA, during the extinguishment phase of a fire, but also after the fire is out and the rehab/overhaul stage is beginning. Many firefighters may remove their SCBA after the fire has been extinguished, but what they may not know is that cooling debris and rubble can still release asbestos fibers into the air and without an SCBA, a firefighter is at a heightened risk of inhalation. In addition, firefighters should also clean their safety equipment (including their SCBA, jackets, pants, goggles and boots) prior to leaving the scene of a fire where asbestos may have been present in an effort to avoid transfer of errant asbestos fibers to a secondary location.

Despite being absolutely avoidable if you take the appropriate safety measures, a diagnosis of mesothelioma (sometimes referred to as [asbestos cancer](#)) is essentially a death sentence. The rate of survival associated with this form of cancer is less than 1%, and the vast majority of mesothelioma patients will lose their battle with this particularly aggressive cancer in less than 2 years following their initial diagnosis. There is no known cure for mesothelioma, but there [mesothelioma treatment](#) options, including chemotherapy and radiation. The most prevalent form of mesothelioma cancer is [pleural mesothelioma](#), which occurs in the lungs, but there are also two other forms of this disease known as peritoneal mesothelioma (occurring in the lining of the abdomen) and pericardial mesothelioma, which manifests within the lining of the heart.

If you are a firefighter who suspects that you may have been exposed to asbestos while on the job, it is advisable to consult with a doctor to determine your risk of developing mesothelioma. Please visit www.maacenter.org for

Related Links from www.maacenter.org:

- » [Firefighters and Asbestos](#)
- » [Additional Safety Gear For Firefighters](#)
- » [Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus](#)

additional information regarding firefighters & asbestos exposure and the related health concerns.

What I Brought Back from the Pittsburgh Fire/EMS Expo

**Captain Andrew Marsh Fire
Mount Oliver Fire Department, PA**

A few of us attended the Pittsburgh Fire/EMS Expo. Some of us attended classes. The fire department picked up the tab for the training with the caveat being that those of us who did attend classes were requested to bring something back to share with our department. So I will share this.

What I have listed below may be repetitious for some, however with as many firefighter injuries and deaths we suffer from locally, and as a State, and as a Nation, it begs to be repeated. But first, a word from a sponsor; in our department, and even as a fire service, we have come a long way. Speaking only to what I have been exposed to, over the past 28 years, we have improved our training; we attend more training; we provide more training; we have improved on our leadership skills; we have changed some by-laws; we have created standard operating guidelines; we have improved in our professionalism, and we are striving to improve our delivery methods as we serve our community and our mutual aid districts. If you haven't been around in a while, you may have missed out on some or all of these improvements.

There are several issues facing our Nation's Fire Service. #1 on the list has to be combating firefighter line of duty deaths. #2, in my mind anyway, is getting more people to train and train effectively as a team, as a unit, and as a department. #3 is finding that time. Look.... It ain't gonna get any easier. Why this is so is partly due to a lack of 'buy in' over the years of the safety equipment and initiatives developed over the years, and the failure to utilize it during firefighting operations, and during training.

The reality is when enough firefighters died because they were lost in structures; the personal alert safety system device was invented. What happened when more firefighters died because they did not turn their PASS on? The industry made them integral, so that when we turned our cylinder on, the device came on. However, firefighters continue to die and to get hurt. Thermal Imagers were introduced to the fire service, to find victims and to find fire, yet we do not thoroughly train to be proficient with them. We continue to rush into buildings we have no idea about, structures that are poorly constructed, and some that are vacant structures which have no value to us, especially when we talk about what we are risking our lives for. So what happened when our industry kept on losing firefighters? Accountability Systems were created. But, we still fail to 'tag in' at times. Firefighters still were getting lost in structures; firefighters ran out of air, so Rapid Intervention Teams were created. We have better turn out gear being produced, yet we don't buckle the chin strap, don't put on the gloves, etc. We fail to sound floors, sound roofs, recognize signs of flashover, rollover, and back drafts, so we got ourselves a safety officer. 25% of firefighter LODDs are due to crashes, and we are not wearing a seatbelt. So, we continued to lose firefighters. And so our training hours increased. Over the years, some of our members came in without the benefit of the "Essentials of Firefighting". We have seen the amount of initial training rise from a very basic 40 hour program, to a 66 hour program, to an 88 hour program and now to a 168 hour program.

The idea has been, if we train more we will live more. Somewhere along that line of thinking, something got lost. The fact of the matter is we are still losing 100 or more firefighters to line of duty deaths. We've got to wonder why that is? What's more is that the people who insure us have been very patient. How much longer will this be the case, before they deny a claim? We have national standards and guidelines to serve by, yet we ignore them because, generally, we think they don't apply to our situation or in our State. The fact is that if we ever have to go to court over a LODD or civilian fatality, we would be eaten alive by an attorney. Moreover, we are not the

untouchable society we used to be. More and more, we are being more scrutinized in how we do our jobs. While we are and have been doing more to get ahead of the curve, a lot more needs to be done. Don't find out where we keep equipment at the time of the incident, by going compartment to compartment, come to training and find out. Don't wonder why we don't let you in the game, wonder how to get back into the game, and stay in the game, through training. Just hanging out at the firehouse? Great! We are glad to see you. But while you are hanging out, get better acquainted with what we are carrying, where it is, how to use it, and find out why we use what we use etc. Boy... there is so much more.

I think you get the point. We have been trying to make training more palatable. We have seen increases in attendance in some training and decreases at other times. If you have a suggestion, let us know. We will work on it. We have several classes planned in the near future. Some may be intense, all will be very beneficial. I believe that while I don't have "the answer", it may be found in our training, in our attitudes, and in our behavior. Stay tuned.

Get better acquainted with these. These should be the norm. Stay Smart and Stay SAFE my friends.

16 Firefighter Life Safety Initiatives

1. Define and advocate the need for a cultural change within the fire service relating to safety; incorporating leadership, management, supervision, accountability and personal responsibility.
2. Enhance the personal and organizational accountability for health and safety throughout the fire service.
3. Focus greater attention on the integration of risk management with incident management at all levels, including strategic, tactical, and planning responsibilities.
4. All firefighters must be empowered to stop unsafe practices.
5. Develop and implement national standards for training, qualifications, and certification (including regular recertification) that are equally applicable to all firefighters based on the duties they are expected to perform.
6. Develop and implement national medical and physical fitness standards that are equally applicable to all firefighters, based on the duties they are expected to perform.
7. Create a national research agenda and data collection system that relates to the initiatives.
8. Utilize available technology wherever it can produce higher levels of health and safety.
9. Thoroughly investigate all firefighter fatalities, injuries, and near misses.
10. Grant programs should support the implementation of safe practices and/or mandate safe practices as an eligibility requirement.
11. National standards for emergency response policies and procedures should be developed and championed.
12. National protocols for response to violent incidents should be developed and championed.

13. Firefighters and their families must have access to counseling and psychological support.
14. Public education must receive more resources and be championed as a critical fire and life safety program.
15. Advocacy must be strengthened for the enforcement of codes and the installation of home fire sprinklers.
16. Safety must be a primary consideration in the design of apparatus and equipment.