TAKE 5 FOR SAFETY

INSTRUCTOR'S NOTES

5-MINUTE SAFETY DRILL

Driving: Trains Always Win!

Date:_____

Shift:_____

Dept:_____

Station:_____

Training Code:_____

NOTES:

FOCUS: Equipment crashes are costly and dangerous. We must not put our firefighters at risk needlessly attempting to cross railroad tracks unsafely.

CHALLENGE

In the performance of our duties, we are usually responding to a crisis situation. In our haste to get there, sometimes we make unwise decisions. One of those choices involves crossing intersections. The most dangerous of these involves railroad crossings.

In many cities, trains provide a means of daily commuter transportation. This creates situations where the train crossings are located in a variety of locations throughout the city and often lack sufficient markings that serve as warnings. Due to the size of trains, it is often difficult to accurately judge the speed the trains are traveling. This miscalculation can cost lives!

We must never violate safe crossing procedures due to haste. Stopping the appropriate distance from the railroad tracks is an excellent safety measure. We want to avoid a collision at all costs. Most collisions with a train usually have disastrous results. .

In addition, there have occasionally been train scheduling errors or signal problems that contribute to safety issues. The more distance we allow between our apparatus and the train, the better opportunity to escape should a problem arise with the train. We can't perform our jobs if we can't get there!

Remember, even with our large apparatus, we lose when we meet a train. The risk is truly not worth the time savings.

DISCUSSION

- Do you always stop before attempting to cross railroad tracks, how far away do you stop?
- Have you been tempted to cross without stopping when there are no signs of the train?
- Have you had or witnessed a near miss involving a railroad crossing?
- How often does the department discuss issues involving departmental protocols?
- Have you read about near misses involving trains and emergency vehicles?
- What can be done to eliminate this type of accident?
- Have you identified areas of concern regarding train intersections?
- How is the issue being handled?

The greatest asset of the fire service is our people; protect them!

Copyright August 31, 2006 WHA Insurance
For additional Safety Drill material call 1-800-852-6140 PDT
Or email info@whainsurance.com
Ask for public entity safety coordinator