TAKE 5 FOR SAFETY

INSTRUCTOR'S NOTES

5-MINUTE SAFETY DRILL

PPE: Our Safety Depends Upon It

FOCUS: Respiratory issues are directly linked to many of the cancers as well as heart attacks that firefighters suffer each year. With the technological advances in PPE, our safety is greatly enhanced when we use it as required.

Date:_____

Shift:_____

Dept:_____

Station:_____

Training Code:_____

NOTES:

CHALLENGE

OSHA appropriately requires that we be protected with the best equipment available and yet injuries are still occurring. What can we do to reduce the injuries and fatalities associated with cancer and respiratory issues?

Injury investigations indicate that a significant number of smoke inhalation incidents are the result of firefighters not knowing when the personal protective equipment was needed.

Most investigations indicated that successful entry was completed with no injury to firefighters that were properly turned out. However the same scene resulted in inhalation injury to firefighters outside of the structure that were not wearing the appropriate respiratory equipment. When should respiratory equipment be used?

When in doubt err on the side of safety.

DISCUSSION

- How do we evaluate what PPE is required for tasks we engage in?
- Does our department require full turnouts be worn when you are in the "Hot Zone"?
- What air quality systems does our department employ at the scene?
- How do you know when colorless and odorless toxins are in the air?
- Is heavy smoke outside the building an adequate sign that respiratory equipment is need?
- Who has the authority to require firefighters wear respiratory equipment?
- Do we investigate all injuries and near misses?
- How do we communicate the results throughout the department?

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

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PPE 9519