

### 5-MINUTE SAFETY DRILL

## Risk Management: Blame Game Never Works

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Shift: \_\_\_\_\_

Dept: \_\_\_\_\_

Station: \_\_\_\_\_

Training Code: \_\_\_\_\_

### NOTES:

**FOCUS:** Accidents present us with an opportunity to improve our existing systems and we should respond with this in mind. Our aim should be to “fix” the problem and not place blame! Our history shows this approach isn’t getting positive results.

### CHALLENGE

Often we are quick to point out “human error” as the cause of an injury or accident. Rarely is there a simple explanation to the whole story. It is much more difficult and time consuming to get to the “root” cause of accidents and injuries.

Accidents and injuries are often blamed on human error when they may actually be the result of common unsafe practices. All accidents and injuries have at least four major factors that should be considered.

1. Is there a policy concerning the activity and was it violated? If so, was the violation common place or a “cultural drift” where practice and policy no longer coincide?
2. Is there adequate training that is frequent enough to perfect behavior? If so, was it violated?
3. Has the proper environment been established? Do our companies act as a professional team of firefighters or do they get a group-mind that promotes risk taking?
4. Are all firefighters trained to make appropriate decisions and act as thinking professionals responding appropriately to the chain of command?

Most often we fix blame on the unlucky individual that was injured. Thorough analysis points out that many others may have had “NEAR MISSES”, and frequently we find that the behavior is a common practice. . Let’s get to the root cause because the Blame Game Never Works!

### DISCUSSION

- What short cuts do you take as routine?
- What policies do we violate to save time?
- What equipment usage is inadequate to provide proper protection?
- Do we have cultural drift that promotes different behavior than our policies require?
- How effective is our near miss reporting system?

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