

Go Down Swinging

The Nathan Espinosa Story



Discussion Support Tool Worksheet

1. This worksheet is designed to assist you with extracting lessons from *Go Down Swinging – The Nathan Espinosa Story*.
2. Read the questions that coincide with your current rank/position in your fire department.
3. Watch the documentary.
4. Jot down your observations based on your current rank/position in your fire department.
5. Be prepared to discuss your observations with other viewers.



Firefighter – Place yourself in Nathan’s boots

- How well do you think you are prepared to handle a mayday situation like Nathan experienced?
- How in depth do you check your equipment at the beginning of each shift/tour/standby?
- If you are a volunteer firefighter, how confident are you the equipment you are using (SCBA, handlight, thermal imager, etc.) is ready for use when you come from home for a response?
- Nathan emphasizes several important actions regarding his survival. Which of those speaks to you and why?
- Do you think your department does an adequate job of preparing its members for a mayday operation? What is done well? What needs improvement?

Company Officer – Place yourself in Apparatus Operator Tavera’s boots

- What are your first actions upon arrival at a similar incident per your department’s SOPs/SOGs?
- If you lose a crew member, what are you going to do?
- How often do you practice (either informally or formally) the answer to the question above?
- Radio communications are frequently cited as problematic on incident scenes. What exercises do you employ to ensure you practice radio discipline?
- Do you truly believe your crew is prepared to handle an incident such as this and if not, what can you do to make them prepared?”

Chief Officer – Place yourself in Chief Terrazas’ boots

- How well do believe your department is prepared to address an incident like LAFD experienced with the Espinosa near miss?
- What is your department’s operational risk profile process?
- Do you have a system in place to objectively investigate significant injury and LODD events?
- How well prepared are the members of your command team prepared to handle a mayday event? What do you base your answer on?
- What procedures do you have in place to support firefighter families who experience an event like Nathan Espinosa and his family experienced?
- If you are chief of department, how do you ensure cultural change becomes a new department norm?



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