



COMMUNITY RISK REDUCTION FACT SHEET #5

MAIN RISK FACTORS

- ✓ Overwhelming demand due to major and/or multiple incidents or emergencies
- ✓ Risks encountered during emergency response
- ✓ Risks encountered during emergency operations

STRATEGIES

- ✓ Develop a plan to engage and involve the community during major emergencies
- ✓ Develop and implement policies for the safe operation of vehicles during emergency response
- ✓ Develop and implement procedures for safe fire ground operations
- ✓ Develop and implement fitness and wellness programs

MOST EFFECTIVE INTERVENTIONS

- ✓ Develop and organize a well-managed Community Emergency Response Team (CERT)
- ✓ Organizational procedures addressing emergency response
- ✓ Organizational procedures for safe fire ground operations
- ✓ The use of fitness and wellness programs agreed upon by management and labor



EMERGENCY RESPONSE OVERVIEW

Emergency response interventions are tools designed to help emergency responders mitigate risk. Although emergency service personnel are the best trained to handle emergencies, there are additional actions that can be taken to enhance their safety. For example, emergency service capability can be enhanced greatly by well-organized, well-managed Community Emergency Response teams (CERT's).

Additionally, fire service leaders should establish, implement, and enforce standard operating procedures on emergency vehicle operation and seatbelt usage. This includes ensuring that seat belts for all riding positions are in proper working order. Also, encouraging all members of your organization to participate in the **Everyone Goes Home® International First Responder Seatbelt Pledge** will assist in reducing the number of preventable injuries and fatalities while responding to and returning from incidents.

Furthermore, firefighters, law enforcement officers, and emergency medical personnel play a critical role in protecting people and property in the event of fires, natural disasters, medical emergencies, and actions by terrorists. Hence, the importance of using risk management principles at all emergency incidents to ensure the appropriate strategy and tactics are used based on the conditions encountered.