



EVERYONE GOES HOME®

FIREFIGHTER LIFE SAFETY INITIATIVES PROGRAM
BY THE NATIONAL FALLEN FIREFIGHTERS FOUNDATION

NEWSLETTER

August 2013 Issue

Looking Ahead

As of this writing, there are over 80 reported firefighter fatalities in the nation. Though there has been a downward trend of firefighter deaths over the past few years, we must remain ever vigilant in our pursuit to stop ALL preventable deaths and injuries.

The grief, disbelief and anguish on the faces of the families, firefighters and the community help to serve as a poignant reminder that firefighting is an inherently dangerous business. Men and women serving their communities as firefighters sometimes make the ultimate sacrifice and they richly deserve to be honored, their families should be cared for the fire service should learn from these tragedies and do all that is humanly possible to prevent it from ever happening again. In spite of the downward trend in firefighter fatalities over the past few years, our work is not done. I urge everyone to review the 16 Firefighter Life Safety Initiatives and commit, (or recommit) to personally implementing them to the degree that you're able as well as influencing those around you to do the same.

On a more encouraging note, we are pleased to announce that the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation has received another Assistance to Firefighters Fire Prevention and Safety grant. This award will enable the Everyone Goes Home® program to continue to lead the national effort to stop preventable firefighter fatalities and injuries. Here are some highlights of what we will be working on in upcoming months:

Advocate Support—our staff is working to strengthen existing programs and to do a better job of providing tools for the Advocates to promote the 16 Firefighter Life Safety Initiatives. The Missouri LAST team will be hosting our annual Survivors and Fire Service Conference in St. Louis in May 2014, and approximately 35 to 40 Advocates from across the country will be able to attend.

Community Risk Reduction — this year we will be focus greater attention on Life Safety Initiatives 14, “Public education must receive more resources and be championed as a critical fire and life safety program” and 15 “Advocacy must be strengthened for the enforcement of codes and the installation of home fire sprinklers” through our Be a Hero, Save a Hero® program. This national program engages communities in preventing fires, which in turn reduces risk and exposure for firefighters.

Response to Violent Incidents — we will build on work completed in support of Life Safety Initiative 12 “Develop and champion national protocols for response to violent incidents.” This year we plan to complete a 60-90 minute training program based on the 2007 Firefighter Life Safety Initiative 12 White Paper and the Firefighter Life Safety Initiative 12 Final Report from the March 2012 Response to Violent Incident Summit.

Safety Summit — we will host a Safety Summit in 2014, in conjunction with the Philadelphia (PA) Fire Department. The purpose of this meeting is to raise awareness of the programs and initiatives of the Everyone Goes Home® program among our nation's fire department safety and training officers.

New Technologies — new programs will evaluate several departments' experiences as they introduce the use of new technology. The Everyone Goes Home® program is working with a group of firefighters from California who have developed an incident command board that is downloadable through an iPad. Several fire service organizations will be given the opportunity to utilize the new technology and provide feedback on how they implement the technology in their departments. This effort supports Firefighter Life Safety Initiative 8 “Utilize available technology wherever it can produce higher levels of health and safety.”

Continued on Page 2

Training and Education—program development for the Firehero Learning Network will continue in the next year. Programs currently under development include a size-up and decision-making module, and those that focus on leadership, behavioral health, physical fitness, safe driving, cancer prevention, roadway safety and tactical considerations that should be implemented based on new research.

Next year will mark the tenth anniversary of the 2004 Firefighter Life Safety Summit in Tampa, where the 16 Firefighter Life Safety Initiatives were originally developed. As we approach this important milestone, we plan to conduct a full evaluation of the Everyone Goes Home® program. Over the last decade, the Everyone Goes Home® program has developed some fantastic programs and there are numerous great successes to be celebrated.

Year 8: Initiative 1

“A revolution can neither be made nor stopped.

The only thing that can be done is for one of several of its children to give it a direction by dint of victories.”

~ Napoleon Bonaparte

By Steve Kimple

Everyone Goes Home® Advocacy Manager

As we near the end of the eighth year of the Everyone Goes Home® Program, and look forward towards the tenth anniversary of the first life safety summit, there are milestones that should be celebrated and challenges to be acknowledged. We are deep into a cultural revolution and we have tasted success. The advocacy of the 16 Firefighter Life Safety Initiatives must continue to affect positive change in the Fire Service. Initiative 1 states:

Define and advocate the need for a cultural change within the fire service relating to safety; incorporating leadership, management, supervision, accountability, and personal responsibility.

From Initiative 1 was born the advocacy of the 16 Firefighter Life Safety Initiatives, a composite of firefighters and friends of the United States Fire Service. The Advocacy Team is comprised of career, volunteer, corporate and military firefighters, fire service educators and administrators. All ranks are included, from probationary firefighter to department chiefs. These advocates accepted the challenge of defining and altering the cultural beliefs of the United States Fire Service to move from an area of comfort to one of mild discontent, primarily that the acceptance of one hundred line of duty deaths each and

However, as we pause to review the last ten years we also need to embark on a candid and realistic review of all of our programming. This will be an opportunity to 1) note where we've succeeded, 2) determine which areas should be shored up and supported and 3) candidly decide which areas should be completely re-created or eliminated.

It is important to note that our successes to date have largely been the result of a dedicated group of people who are focused clearly on the mission to reduce firefighter fatalities and injuries. To maintain this momentum we must be honest about where we've been, and not become mired in a particular methodology or way of doing business. As I noted earlier, the recent loss of lives proves that the stakes are too high to take our eyes off the goal. So let's celebrate our successes, but recognize that there is work still to be done.

every year was unacceptable and that we could lower the number without affecting our core mission.

“I cannot help fearing that men may reach a point where they look on every new theory as a danger, every innovation as a toilsome trouble, every social advance as a first step towards revolution, and that they may absolutely refuse to move at all.” ~ Alexis de Tocqueville

Monsieur de Tocqueville wrote the words above describing a society about two hundred years ago, although he aptly describes the culture of our service at the beginning of this process. There has been resistance to discussing cultural change for the past years, but it is becoming apparent that we can alter the culture of the fire service without negatively affecting the mission. The advocacy of the 16 Firefighter Life Safety Initiatives has shown that we can continue to save lives, protect property and stabilize incidents and increase the safety of our firefighters and community.

Mission versus Culture

Our culture can be defined by the beliefs and traits we share, the values, attitudes and goals that we agree to when we join the fire service. It is also defined by how we accomplish our goals. The practices that we deploy in daily operations, emergency and not. The advocacy of

the 16 Firefighter Life Safety Initiatives was never about changing the things we hold dear; courage, honor, commitment, duty, and the willingness to sacrifice to make lives better for the ones around us.

150 years ago we fought on the fields of Gettysburg, Pennsylvania. The culture of warfare at the time was to walk across open fields, bayonets fixed, side by side with your brothers to trade withering fire until losses were so severe that one side retreated in defeat. Their mission was intact, but the culture of warfare dictated their tactics. Our current military mission is the same, but the culture of warfare has changed drastically. Today our soldiers fight in smaller groups, wear body armor and even duck behind objects for protection. They avail themselves of technology whenever they can to minimize risks, including robotics and unmanned aircraft. Same mission, but a vastly different culture.

Firefighting has changed drastically in the past years. We all know about the improvements in personal protective equipment, apparatus and technology. We are becoming increasingly aware of building construction changes that impact our culture. The science of studying fire behavior has grown exponentially during just the past ten years and we are starting to apply these academic lessons to our strategies and tactics. Leadership and incident management programs are teaching new officers that we must alter our skill sets to reflect our risks.

Some of these changes make us uncomfortable, but they are necessary to protect our mission. We can continue to save lives, protect property and stabilize incidents and return to quarters after the call. We will continue to lose firefighters during heroic operations, and we will continue to honor those firefighters. Our culture must honor those firefighters by learning from the past and continuing on the mission.

As the advocacy of the 16 Firefighter Life Safety Initiatives moves into the ninth year I hope that all advocates remember Bonaparte's words;

"A revolution can neither be made nor stopped. The only thing that can be done is for one of several of its children to give it a direction by dint of victories."

The 16 Firefighter Life Safety Initiatives are the foundation of a cultural change, and that change is happening. You have all experienced victories, and through your tireless dedication more firefighters are going back to quarters and staying in the fight to accomplish their mission.

Thank You All

NFA Approves Foundation Training Programs!

By Rick Mason

Training and Education Coordinator

Working with the North American Fire Training Directors the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation submitted the Courage to Be Safe® and Leadership, Accountability, Culture, Knowledge (LACK) classes to the National Fire Academy (NFA) to be considered for their "Approved" training class list. This has several benefits as approved courses are eligible for NFA certificates of completion, federal grants for training from the NFA can be used to offer these programs, and it requires a partnership with the state fire training entity to assist in accomplishing the programs, as they are the official agent of the NFA.

After many months of both waiting and "checking in" we received word that the two courses have been approved! Great news, another avenue in which we can assure that these key safety lessons are made even more available to the United States Fire Service! The next step in this process is the setting of protocols for the delivery, as programs of the NFA require the state training agency's involvement. At a meeting with the North American Fire Training Directors in September we will be working on a protocol for these programs.

A special thanks to the Bureau of Fire Service Training in Iowa under the direction of Bureau Chief Randy Novak for their diligence and tenacity to assure these programs were "approved." As we move forward with training programs, we will be submitting in the same manner!



Empowering All Firefighters To Stop Unsafe Practices

By Chief Ron Terriaco

Concord Township Fire Department

Everyone Goes Home® Advocate – Ohio

We have all been there when we first started our careers. You walk through the fire house door on that first day and you are welcomed with, “You are a rookie. You know nothing. So keep quiet.” Wanting to fit in – and most importantly – wanting to have a career, you did just that. So think about how many unsafe acts you may have seen and couldn’t tell anyone about it because you supposedly didn’t know anything. And think back to the beginning of your career and see if you can remember any firefighters who were hurt because you didn’t tell someone of the unsafe act.

Now think back to when you, as a senior firefighter or officer, were the one telling that rookie coming thru the door to sit down and shut up. Think of that incident when you wished someone would have spoken up, like that new guy, and stopped that unsafe act because it seriously hurt another firefighter. Such incidents are part of the firefighting culture that we now realize needs to be addressed and changed.



like this –and continue training our current firefighters with proper techniques in a professional and respectful way – we will empower everyone in the fire service to stop any unsafe acts and ultimately reduce injuries.

Now, the other half of this spectrum is how to train our senior staff and officers to accept a new firefighter saying, “Hey, Captain, I think you should be wearing your seat-belt.” or “Captain, you should really be using your mask because this smoke is bad for you.” Our newer culture coming into the fire service today is smart, asks questions and wants to know why we do what we do. We call them the why culture! Let’s use this inquisitive knack and talent on a daily basis with a mentoring system to guide them into their career as a firefighter. Wouldn’t this make it a safer place to work with everyone taking responsibility? By bringing the cultures together and working side-by-side we can accept this new challenge.

If we are thinking that a bottom up leadership is the right way to go then we need to support our firefighters and officers with their increased knowledge for the job. If they are trying to educate themselves and are succeeding then we need to use that knowledge to make our fire departments better and stronger. If we are going to change the culture and get it back on the tracks towards safety then we need to be leaders and provide the right leadership as chief officers and company officers. We are all accountable to each other and most importantly to ourselves and our families.

We need to provide that leadership foundation to support our fire service accountability, culture, and knowledge. If we all would just believe in *Responsibility*, *Empowerment*, and *Leadership* our fire service world will become safer and our injuries and deaths will be reduced.



Firefighter Life Safety Initiative #4 “Empower all firefighters to stop unsafe practices” is so important to our mission to prevent and reduce firefighter injuries or deaths. One way to improve the culture of firefighting is to allow all firefighters to speak up on firefighter safety and unsafe acts.

As we all know this will be easier said than done, but we can start with the incoming class of fire academy cadets who are beginning their careers. We can teach these new firefighters about safe and unsafe practices, including the proper way to run power equipment with safety gear, wear eye protection, wear their SCBA and use it to protect their respiratory system, how to drive the apparatus in a safe defensive manor and wear their seat belt, and help the better understand situational awareness. If we train our
new cadets



DURING NATIONAL
FALLEN FIREFIGHTERS
MEMORIAL WEEKEND
October 5 - 6, 2013



Bells Across
AMERICA
FOR FALLEN FIREFIGHTERS

**Bells Will Ring From Coast to Coast for 3rd Annual
Bells Across America for Fallen Firefighters**

National remembrance honors those who died in the line of duty

For the third year, the entire country is invited to come together as one community to honor the memory of those firefighters who died in the line of duty and reassure their loved ones that their firefighter will not be forgotten by participating in the Bells Across America for Fallen Firefighters.

Fire departments, places of worship, community organizations and individuals from coast to coast will join the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation in this poignant tribute as part of the National Fallen Firefighters Memorial Weekend in Emmitsburg, Maryland.

“The ringing of bells has a powerful meaning to firefighters. Not only do bells signal the beginning or end of a call, they also were used to notify department members that one of their own had died while serving the community,” explained Chief Ronald Siarnicki, executive director of the NFFF. “At the beginning of the Memorial Service on Sunday, October 6, the bells at the National Fallen Firefighters Memorial Chapel in Emmitsburg will ring to honor

the memories of those who made the ultimate sacrifice in 2012. We are encouraging firefighters across the country to invite their places of worship and community organizations to join us with their own tribute to all our fallen heroes.”

The moment of remembrance can occur at any time during October 5 or 6. Fire department representatives are encouraged to work with local clergy and community leaders to develop an appropriate tribute. Some suggestions include: ringing chapel bells, a moment of silence, a brief prayer, a hymn, or tolling a ceremonial bell by members of the fire department.

Hundreds of fire departments, places of worship and other groups participated in Bells Across America for Fallen Firefighters over the past two years. For more information about participating and to download sample invitation letters, press release and response form, please visit www.BellsAcrossAmerica.com.



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16 Firefighter Life Safety Initiatives

1. Define and advocate the need for a cultural change within the fire service relating to safety; incorporating leadership, management, supervision, accountability and personal responsibility.
2. Enhance the personal and organizational accountability for health and safety throughout the fire service.
3. Focus greater attention on the integration of risk management with incident management at all levels, including strategic, tactical, and planning responsibilities.
4. All firefighters must be empowered to stop unsafe practices.
5. Develop and implement national standards for training, qualifications, and certification (including regular recertification) that are equally applicable to all firefighters based on the duties they are expected to perform.
6. Develop and implement national medical and physical fitness standards that are equally applicable to all firefighters, based on the duties they are expected to perform.
7. Create a national research agenda and data collection system that relates to the initiatives.
8. Utilize available technology wherever it can produce higher levels of health and safety.
9. Thoroughly investigate all firefighter fatalities, injuries, and near misses.
10. Grant programs should support the implementation of safe practices and/or mandate safe practices as an eligibility requirement.
11. National standards for emergency response policies and procedures should be developed and championed.
12. National protocols for response to violent incidents should be developed and championed.
13. Firefighters and their families must have access to counseling and psychological support.
14. Public education must receive more resources and be championed as a critical fire and life safety program.
15. Advocacy must be strengthened for the enforcement of codes and the installation of home fire sprinklers.
16. Safety must be a primary consideration in the design of apparatus and equipment.

Learn More at: www.EveryoneGoesHome.com