

# June 2009 Newsletter

## Cultural Change in a Tough Economy

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## A Checkup From the Neck Up

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## What's In a Slogan?

Over the past several months, the members of my department have engaged in a verbal survey relating to a particular slogan. This slogan is clearly posted in the department and is familiar to the members. The idea for a survey about the slogan developed during the hiring interview for an Assistant Fire Chief of Operations. One of the goals of that interview was to learn the extent of the knowledge of the applicant concerning firefighter safety, or "safety-consciousness."

## Reflecting on Positive Change

There is no greater achievement for an educator than to identify and witness behavioral changes in a student whom you have influenced and educated. If and when that lifelong dream comes to fruition, one can personally acknowledge that in a way, their beliefs, challenges and efforts have come full circle.

## A Message from the United States Fire Administrator about Residential Fire Sprinklers

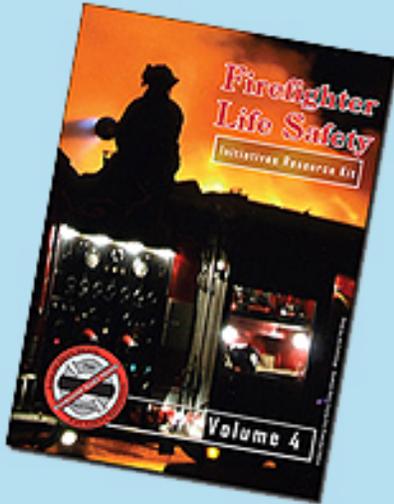
The U.S. Fire Administration has promoted research, development, testing, and demonstrations of residential fire sprinkler systems for more than 30 years.

## Theme Announced for Fire Prevention Week 2009: Stay Fire Smart! Don't Get Burned

The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) has announced the theme for Fire Prevention Week, October 4-10, 2009. This year's campaign, Stay Fire Smart! Don't Get Burned, focuses on the importance of fire safety and fire safety education and ways to prevent fires and the deaths, injuries, and property loss they cause.

## Application Period Now Open: Assistance to Firefighters Fire Station Construction Grants

The application period for the Assistance to Firefighters Fire Station Construction Grants is now open. The e-application and an applicant tutorial are available at [www.firegrantsupport.com](http://www.firegrantsupport.com). Applications for these grants must be received by July 10 at 5:00 p.m. Eastern Time.



**Watch: [Volume 4 Preview](#)**  
**Learn More: [About Volume 4](#)**  
**Previous: [Volume 1 - 3](#)**

### Everyone Goes Home® Program to Release Firefighter Life Safety Initiatives Resource Kit Volume 4

The National Fallen Firefighters Foundation (NFFF) through the Everyone Goes Home® Firefighter Life Safety Initiatives Program is proud to announce the upcoming release of the Firefighter Life Safety Initiatives Resource Kit Volume 4.

Volume 4 includes easily deployable fire service training on two DVDs and one CD. Some of the video training materials include: Smoke Reading, Rapid Intervention Teams, Calling the Mayday, Seatbelt Use, Pre-Planning and Fitness. CD resources also include support materials for each of the video training modules included.



## INITIATIVE SPOTLIGHT

Spotlighting one of the 16 Firefighter Life Safety Initiatives each month

**Initiative #7 - Create a national research agenda and data collection system that relates to the initiatives.**

**More on Initiative #7:**

- [Firefighter Life Safety Initiatives Research Database](#)
- [National Fire Service Research Agenda Symposium Report](#)

**More Information:** [16 Firefighter Life Safety Initiatives](#) | **Share a Resource:** [editor@everyonegoeshome.com](mailto:editor@everyonegoeshome.com)

http://www. **WEB WATCHING**

**Everyone Goes Home® is on Twitter**

Twitter is a free service that lets you keep in touch through quick, frequent posts.  
» **Follow Everyone Goes Home® on Twitter!**

**Lightweight Construction: Time to Push for Sweeping Changes?**

Fire Engineering Article by Azarang (Ozzie) Mirkhah and David C. Comstock Jr.  
» **Read the Article**

**U.S. Chemical Safety Board**

The CSB is an independent federal agency charged with investigating industrial chemical accidents.  
» **Visit the Website**

**FEATURED Events**

**Safety Through Leadership 1 & 2**  
Firehouse Expo - Baltimore, MD  
July 25, 2009  
**Read More:** » **About the Event**

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**Behavioral Science, Health, and Firefighter Safety: The NFFF Behavioral Health Initiative**  
Firehouse Expo - Baltimore, MD  
July 25, 2009  
**Read More:** » **About the Event**

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**Everyone Goes Home®: Where Are We Now?**  
Fire-Rescue International 2009 - Dallas, TX  
August 25, 2009  
**Read More:** » **About the Event**



**Do you have an suggestion for the newsletter? Tell us about it!** Please send your comments, articles, or news about what your department is doing to keep firefighters safe to [editor@everyonegoeshome.com](mailto:editor@everyonegoeshome.com).

# Cultural Change in a Tough Economy

**By Captain Ryan Pyle**

It appears that the fire service is suffering from the same problem as most are these days...no money! I agree that this definitely puts a damper on our ability to provide the best service to our customers. However, it is time for us to look at what it is, rather than what it is not. We understand that the flow of money is not as abundant as it once was, but that should never stop us from changing our culture and reducing line-of-duty deaths. The best part is we do not have to. Are we simply going to close up shop because we do not have the revenue stream that we once enjoyed? The last time I checked, cultural change did not have an invoice attached to it. What are you or your department doing to cultivate change in these tough economic times?

As firefighters, we constantly have to adapt to changing situations. What makes this economic problem any different than responding to a fire or EMS emergency? If we are operating at the scene of a fire and the situation changes, do you just throw your hands up and go home? Absolutely not! We may opt to take a defensive stance or change our strategies to get the outcome that we desire but giving up is never an option. This attitude is what makes the fire service so unique. There will be no bailout; we cannot simply ask for more money and it magically appears, solving all of our problems.

As you read this piece, I will provide some possible suggestions for initiating or continuing cultural change without any additional cost. I encourage you to start by looking at your department and the departments' situation and evaluate what actions you can take to safely navigate through these times. I challenge each of you to look at what you can do within your department to change the culture without financial influence.

## **Masters of Doing More With Less**

While I try to stay away from painting the fire service with broad strokes on any issue, I felt confident enough to do so in terms of financial woes. If you pay attention to national fire department news, you hear the same thing... this department is laying off firefighters, that department is closing firehouses. While I by no means condone these drastic measures and believe they are nothing short of gross negligence, it is the climate that we have been forced to operate in given the current economic situation.

No matter how long you have been on a part of the fire service, I am sure that you have heard at one time or another about how we have to do more with less. What makes this period in the fire service any different? I can answer that pretty easily...nothing. The fires are still going to go out; we just may have to adjust the way we operate. If you are suffering from a shortage of firefighters, you have to take a close look at your risk assessment model and change what is necessary. Risk assessment has been kicked around for a long time now. I am a very opinionated proponent of the thought process and there has never been a more critical time to delve into it full throttle.

As I was contemplating this article and how to frame it, I finally came to the obvious conclusion that as our ability to properly staff apparatus goes down, our risk and potential for injury or death goes up. On its face, this sounds very simple, but if you were to really analyze it, there is much more that goes into that one conclusion. Firefighters are creatures of habit and tend to want to operate the same way on every call with the expectation that we will get the standard outcome as dictated by the type of emergency we are faced with. I can make a strong argument that we will operate the exact same way with fewer personnel, thus putting ourselves in a situation will inevitably lead to dangerous acts on the fireground.

We are now talking about a total shift in thinking, particularly on the part of the company officer and incident commander. Below are a few issues that should be discussed if your department is a victim of cutbacks or a shortage of personnel. These would be great roundtable trainings that could yield big benefits:

- Stress to your personnel the importance of pre-incident planning. These can include target hazards or garden variety single-family residential fires.
- In the face of cutbacks, how are you going to operate on the scene of an emergency? For example, if there is no immediate danger to life, are you going to wait for additional companies prior to making entry? I am not taking a position one way or another, as every department and situation is different. However, I do believe that you should assess your situation and plan accordingly. It is much better to do so beforehand, than wish you had done it after a tragedy has occurred.
- Increase the amount of company trainings centered on reading buildings, smoke conditions, victim survival probabilities, etc.
- Clearly illustrate to your personnel how they are to operate given fewer personnel on the scene. This is extremely important because if you don't, firefighters are always going to go into default mode - "It's what we do and how we have been trained." This means more firefighters operating in fewer numbers and more freelancing, etc. All because we are trained to get the job done as quickly as possible. STOP AND THINK!!!!!!
- Intense training on accountability systems (NIMS). With fewer personnel operating, the need for accountability increases significantly.

*\*\* There is a critical caveat that must be addressed regarding the previous bullet points. Whoever assumes command for emergencies in your jurisdiction must be intimately involved with these trainings. The incident commander will dictate the tone for the emergency and must take preemptive actions in the face of fewer personnel operating at the scene. This is absolutely critical to the safety of all personnel. \*\**

## **Solutions to Decrease the Burden**

There are ways that the fire service can decrease our risk. The following are a few points to ponder:

- Be an advocate for strong mutual or automatic aid agreements. Believe it or not, the customer does not care what the name on the side of the rig is. Furthermore, the personnel operating at the scene should be grateful for the assistance. Don't be afraid to ask for additional companies. It could mean the difference between the job getting done safely and a firefighter getting injured.
- If you are operating at minimum or below minimums, DO NOT ENTER THE BUILDING, without additional companies (known rescues excluded). I know that is a hard one to swallow, but remember, this article is based on staffing situations that few of us have been faced with before.
- Call for additional resources without hesitation. By the time you think you need them, it could already be too late.
- There are many different possible solutions to lessen our risk; train with your personnel and come up with a plan that meets your needs. Do not wait or you may be planning something much worse, such as an injury or line-of-duty death.

## **Change at No Cost**

The 16 Firefighter Life Safety Initiatives have provided us with a no cost framework for change. Utilize these tools and create a culture of safety. The Shawnee Fire Department of Shawnee, Kansas, took one of those steps in the past year. Firefighter Jeff Salmon started a grass roots effort to have each member sign the "National Seat Belt Pledge." This simple change was met with overwhelming support and has since transcended to other departments throughout the City of Shawnee. That is a perfect example of a no cost, high benefit culture change. I urge each of you to go through the list of Life Safety Initiatives and work on them one by one until we irradiate

line-of-duty deaths in the fire service.

With every article I write, I try and give the reader something to think about. There is no possible way to address every situation or understand what the readers department is going through. However, there is one thing that I can say without knowing your particular situation; cultural change is a shift in thinking, and is not always associated with money. What can you do in your department to change culture for free? The bottom line is that culture is what you make it. So, why not make it safe?



Ryan Pyle is a Fire Captain at Station 71 in Shawnee Kansas. Ryan has been a part of the department for thirteen years. He holds an Associate of Arts degree in Fire Administration, a Bachelors degree in Management and Human Relations, and a Masters degree from the Edwin Stene School of Public Administration at the University of Kansas. Ryan is a graduate of the 2007 Virginia Fire Officers Academy, which is a program that includes leadership values associated with the *Everyone Goes Home*® Life Safety Initiatives Program. Ryan has been accepted into the Executive Fire Officer Program and will begin in September.

# A Checkup From the Neck Up

**Billy Hayes**

**Everyone Goes Home® Advocate Program Manager**

Courtesy of [Firerescue1.com](http://Firerescue1.com)

Jimmy Buffett said it best in his song Changes In Latitudes, "If we weren't all crazy we would go insane!" Jimmy's songs have a way of helping me cope with the everyday stresses of work, marriage, parenting, and all of the other ups and downs in the rollercoaster ride of life.

So, you have to be asking yourself, "OK Billy, other than you letting us know that you're a Parrothead, what's your point?" Well, it refers to Initiative 13: Provide firefighters & their families' access to counseling & psychological support. I do believe that every one of the Life Safety Initiatives have an impact on the mission of reducing firefighter line-of-duty deaths. But for the last couple of years, Initiative 13 has stuck out in my mind more than some of the others.

When Initiative 13 is discussed in most cases, we talk about what happens when we lose a firefighter in the line of duty. In every aspect, we have two families to take care of; the family at home, and the family who worked with our fallen brother and/or sister. But in many cases, we forget about the family we work with at the firehouse.

We become so caught up in the technical needs and what happened in an incident and preventing it from happening again that we tend to overlook the human emotional needs of coping with the loss.

Furthermore, we exert so much energy in the support of the family at home and providing for them, we either forget about ourselves, or use taking care of the family at home as a way to avoid dealing with our own feelings.

The National Fallen Firefighters Foundation has developed a wonderful class entitled, Taking Care of Our Own. Generally, it is taught by either family survivors or firehouse survivors, or in some cases, both. This year at Fire-Rescue International in Dallas, Cathy Hedrick and Charlie Dickinson will present this three-hour session which will help you prepare your department before an LODD occurs, what to do in case should one occur, and how to support everyone involved in the aftermath.

Cathy, who lost her son Kenny, and Charlie, who was Chief of Pittsburgh when his department experienced a multiple LODD, have a wealth of knowledge on this subject and are well respected nationally for their work in this field.

We know that cardiovascular events account for more than 50 percent of line-of-duty deaths. This percentage is consistent year after year. Through medical research, there are findings that stress is a contributing factor to cardiovascular events, whether it is strokes or heart attacks. We also know that stress is a leading contributing factor to abuse of alcohol and narcotics.

We seem to focus so much time and energy on health and wellness in the fire service, but isn't it predominantly from the neck down? As a former fire chief, and like many others, I sought funding to purchase weights, treadmills, perform physicals and drug testing. But it never dawned on me until I was close to the end of my run as chief that mental health is really more important. I did my share of Critical Incident Stress Management (CISM) meetings in the department when we had major incidents and even when we lost one of our own from a non-duty

related crash. But they weren't very effective and I never really forced it on the crews.

While many of us try to leave our 'work at work,' is it just as easy to leave home at home? How do financial, family, and/or any other personal issues affect our decision-making at the firehouse. How do we feel about the driver of the apparatus when we are going MACH 3 with lights and sirens who came to work knowing that he is going bankrupt, his wife is leaving him for another firefighter, she's taking the boat and the dog.

Is this somebody we want driving the truck? Or what if it's the company officer who is going inside with you on the hose line? The question I ask is what avenues of mental health and wellness are we offering our members?

You can say that you have an employee assistance program, but many employees find that as a form of discipline, especially when it's used in that manner on occasion.

You can say that you have CISM, but is it really effective? If there are departments who have effective mental health and wellness programs, please step up and tell us about them. You owe it to the fire service to share your findings because this truly is uncharted waters for many of us.

So how do we give ourselves a Checkup from the Neck Up? Here are just a few ideas:

1. Invite a mental health professional to conduct training, specifically on recognition of stress and how to deal with it? Even include the families on occasion.
2. Have events at the firehouse for the families. They will find support in each other and maybe can have a better understanding of the stress you go through at work.
3. Encourage members to look for signs of stress, and create an environment where it is acceptable to have mental health and wellness programs (don't criticize or poke fun of them for asking for help).
4. Avoid using the employee assistance program as a form of discipline. This negative use will discourage individuals to seek it when it is really needed.

Most of us have methods of dealing with our stress. I try to no longer vegetate on the couch, and in fact, a change of employment and position has helped me do that. Getting away from some of my old stressors have made me a better person, and helped me see where I was just as dysfunctional as some of the characters on FX's Rescue Me. I've actually had many people tell me that they don't like the show because it airs our dirty laundry which is exactly my point, and many like me have said, 'Finally, a show that tells our story.'

So what's the message of me and Jimmy Buffett? Like many Parrotheads can equate to, his music carries me away to Margaritaville, a magical place that is in your state of mind. It reminds me that life is too short not to hit the reset button as often as you want. It's my way of a Checkup from the Neck Up!

*Billy D. Hayes is the Advocate Program Manager for the Everyone Goes Home® campaign through the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation where he has served as a State and Region IV Advocate. He currently serves as the Director of Public Information and Community Affairs for the District of Columbia Fire and EMS Department. Previously, he was the Chief of Fire Services for the City of Riverdale, Ga., and is past-president of the Metro Atlanta Fire Chiefs Association. He is a graduate of Georgia Military College and the National Fire Academy's Executive Fire Officer Program. Hayes frequently writes and speaks on the topics of firefighter safety and fire prevention. In this column series, he will be outlining the 16 Firefighter Life Safety Initiatives - and what they mean for you and your department. He can be contacted via e-mail at [Billy.Hayes@firerescue1.com](mailto:Billy.Hayes@firerescue1.com).*

# What's In a Slogan?

**By Freddy Howell**

**Fire Chief, NSB Kings Bay, GA**

Over the past several months, the members of my department have engaged in a verbal survey relating to a particular slogan. This slogan is clearly posted in the department and is familiar to the members. The idea for a survey about the slogan developed during the hiring interview for an Assistant Fire Chief of Operations. One of the goals of that interview was to learn the extent of the knowledge of the applicant concerning firefighter safety, or "safety-consciousness." After learning that this particular applicant, along with several other applicants, were not familiar with the slogan, the verbal survey then became a regular interview question. Given that our department often hires firefighters who have previously worked for other local departments, their lack of familiarity with the slogan demonstrated that we have not expressed the importance of this slogan and more importantly, its message of safety.

Let's start with asking the question; what is a slogan? According to Wikipedia, a slogan is "a memorable motto or phrase used in a political, commercial, religious and other context as a repetitive expression of an idea or purpose." The American Heritage Dictionary© defines slogan as "a phrase expressing the aims or nature of an enterprise, organization, or candidate; a motto or as a phrase used repeatedly." Similarly, the Merriam-Webster Dictionary© defines slogan as "a word or phrase used to express a characteristic position or stand or a goal to be achieved" or "a brief attention-getting phrase used in advertising or promotion." After reviewing these definitions, I am sure everyone would agree for the purpose of this article, that a slogan can be summed up as a phrase that is repeated to promote a purpose.

## **Have you guessed the slogan yet? The slogan we used in our survey is ... EVERYONE GOES HOME®!**

In applying the above definitions to this slogan, it is clear that it exemplifies a simple phrase that has great purpose! This slogan should be as common in the fire service as water! I am sorry to say, as our potential employees made clear, this slogan is not as common as we would hope.

Is it the slogan? Maybe people do not understand the full extent of what it really means. Let's take a deeper look at the slogan and break it down into simpler form by returning to the dictionary to define each word.

- **Everyone** - Every person; everybody.
- **Goes** - plural for go- 1.) To move on a course, 2.) To move out of or away from a place expressed or implied, leave or depart.
- **Home** - 1.) One's place of residence, 2.) A place of origin, 3.) The social unit formed by a family living together.

So, what does the slogan Everyone Goes Home® really mean? Of course, the simple answer is that every person departs from the fire house or home, responds to a fire or emergency call, and then returns to the fire house or home.

That is the basic answer. Let's talk about what Everyone Goes Home® really means. For starters, it means that safety is the highest priority on the job, that every firefighter should be properly trained in accordance with NFPA

regulations, and should know the 16 Firefighter Life Safety Initiatives; the Life Safety initiatives that are designed to ensure that each and every day, Everyone Goes Home®. To sum it up: this slogan means your life.

The question we had to ask ourselves after our survey was, "Why?" Why doesn't every firefighter in the fire service know it? Why are there still fire officers and firefighters who have never heard of this life saving slogan? Why isn't it taught and discussed in every recruit class and in every training exercise? Why isn't it posted in every fire house just like the map of the community?

The question to ask yourself is...What are you doing to help promote firefighter safety? Are you promoting and displaying the Everyone Goes Home® attitude? If someone walked in your department would they see anything that related to Everyone Goes Home® or the 16 Firefighter Life Safety Initiatives? For that matter, would they even see any prominently displayed safety messages?

In order for us to change our culture we have to set the example that safety is the top priority and that **Everyone Must Go Home!**

# Reflecting on Positive Change

**By Lt. W. Greenwood**

*Essay submitted as a part of the Courage to Be Safe (SM) Trainers Essay Contest*

There is no greater achievement for an educator than to identify and witness behavioral changes in a student whom you have influenced and educated. If and when that lifelong dream comes to fruition, one can personally acknowledge that in a way, their beliefs, challenges and efforts have come full circle.

There are only a few times within an educator's career when a program comes along and shouts; "please institute me for the greater good of our service!" Within the last decade, for me, that epiphany occurred through my fire service career when I was introduced to the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation and the Everyone Goes Home® Firefighter Life Safety Initiatives Program. From the first time when I encountered the Courage to Be Safe(SM) Train-The-Trainer program, I decided to embark on a mission and to leave my mark in the fire service. I wanted to do this by devoting time and energy toward doing my part to reduce the number of line-of-duty deaths.

The Courage to Be Safe (SM) training program and the 16 Firefighter Life Safety Initiatives have both motivated me and given me assistance in my journey to complete this mission. If you have been in the fire service for any length of time, you may understand that the job of being an instructor can be a lonely one. More often than not, the position as trainer or instructor is looked upon as taking a step back from "the front line," as looking for a change of pace, or even as a stepping stone toward retirement. These are some of the reasons why an educator who has dedicated his life to teaching others may feel such a profound joy when the student gets it. The instructor may also feel a sense of gratification that may be difficult for peers to comprehend.

The Courage to Be Safe(SM) Training Program has provided trainers and advocates with the tools and support system needed to positively effect change every time the program is delivered. This change is possible regardless of whether the attendee is paid, paid-on call, or volunteer. The program has many wonderful initiatives that I truly believe in. I have applied them to my own personal experiences and have drawn upon and implemented them in adjusting my own behaviors..

For example, in late 2004, I decided to invest in the protection of a residential sprinkler system for my home. By responding to the Everyone Goes Home® initiatives and researching the various data on residential sprinklers, I ultimately helped to provide my family with an 82% greater chance of surviving a fire in my home. I also learned that the sprinkler system could protect our property by providing us with up to two-thirds less property loss from fire damage as compared to living in a non-protected residential dwelling. This built-in protection is a very cost effective asset and a comfort when I am away from my family protecting the citizens I have sworn to serve.

The two biggest behavioral modifications I have seen with past Courage to Be Safe(SM) attendees would be an understanding of the need to strap-in and stay-in and also instituting real emergency response procedures that focus on safe apparatus operations. The Courage to Be Safe(SM) program clearly identifies the definition of insanity. By emphasizing the consequences of traditional mindsets, it has become a grim reminder to open our thoughts towards changing the safety culture throughout the fire service.

The second personal experience I would identify with is within the firefighter health and wellness initiative. I have witnessed firefighters asking fire chiefs why they have not had a medical evaluation per industry standards. Then following a Courage to Be Safe(SM) presentation, I have watched as joint labor-management negotiations

unfolded to seek an agreeable Health and Wellness Program for all.

On a regular basis, we are starting to see an increase in reports of how seat belts have saved firefighters during apparatus related motor vehicle accidents. These reports are a further testament to the effectiveness of the Courage to Be Safe(SM) training program. I would like to point out though, that even with the success we have seen in the short time since the program's inception, there still is hard work to be done to meet our goals. I would like to challenge all Everyone Goes Home® state advocates to realign your commitment toward the mission of reducing your state's numbers.

If you feel you are stuck in a rut towards ideas for future deliveries and venues, then turn your attention towards other sources of assistance. For instance, if your state fire academy is not currently presenting or supporting the program, I would attempt to get the program included into a recruit or rookie school curriculum. Another option is to offer the program at a local, county or regional fire school. Lastly, I would recommend making contact with your local government. They may offer municipal government liability protection, insurances and education. These organizations all provide many wonderful training opportunities to reduce liability and risk...which sounds exactly what the Courage to Be Safe(SM) training program is all about.

As Courage to Be Safe(SM) Instructor, I would like to personally thank all of the survivors who contributed to the life safety summit and assisted in the research and development of the life safety initiatives. The ultimate tribute to a lost brother or sister firefighter should be celebrated each and every time another firefighter lives to respond another day. Without your personal involvement as a surviving family member, without living through your heartfelt stories and the ability to view the numerous memorials within the Courage to Be Safe(SM) training program, this program would definitely not have impact it currently does. With that said, a tip of my cap to all of you who have rededicated your loved one's commitment so others can have a safer working environment. Lastly, to all the men and women who have died in the line of duty, we may have lost your strength and presence but we as a service have gained insurmountable information to further protect and serve your fellow man.



Lt. W. Greenwood is a 16 year veteran of the fire service with experience in various volunteer, paid-call, and career fire departments throughout the State of New Hampshire. He holds a board of directors seat with the Fire Instructors and Officers Association of New Hampshire. He currently is working as a Career Lieutenant with the City of Keene, New Hampshire Fire Department and owns an advanced firefighter training and leadership company called FETC Services.

# A Message from the United States Fire Administrator about Residential Fire Sprinklers

**Chief Glenn A. Gaines**  
**Acting Assistant Administrator, U.S. Fire Administration**

The U.S. Fire Administration has promoted research, development, testing, and demonstrations of residential fire sprinkler systems for more than 30 years. The research regarding residential fire sprinkler systems has indisputably demonstrated the following:

- Residential fire sprinklers can save the lives of building occupants.
- Residential fire sprinklers can save the lives of firefighters called to respond to a home fire.
- Residential fire sprinklers can significantly offset the risk of premature building collapse posed to firefighters by lightweight construction components when they are involved in a fire.
- Residential fire sprinklers can substantially reduce property loss caused by a fire.

The time has come to use this affordable, simple and effective technology to save lives and property where it matters most - in our homes.

In the past year, the National debate about the benefits of residential fire sprinklers passed a major milestone with the adoption of a change to the International Residential Code that will require fire sprinklers in all new construction. This code change survived rigorous scrutiny, during which all interested parties had ample opportunity to comment on the technical merits of the issue. Since then, parties who oppose this life-saving technology have started a vigorous campaign to enact laws at the state level that will prohibit adoption of sprinkler requirements for new homes. I encourage every member of the fire service to stay abreast of this rapidly changing situation, and to be ready to voice any concerns that you have about proposed legislation to your respective state legislature. The Fire Sprinkler Initiative website has been established to provide a central clearing house for up-to-date information. Log on to the site at <http://firesprinklerinitiative.org> - stay vigilant and keep the fire service community informed of developments in your area. Only by working together can we save lives.

It is the position of the U.S. Fire Administration that all Americans should be protected from death, injury, and property loss resulting from fire in their residence. All homes should be equipped with both smoke alarms and residential fire sprinklers, and all families should have and practice an emergency escape plan. The U.S. Fire Administration supports all efforts to reduce the tragic toll of fire losses in this nation, including the recently adopted changes to the International Residential Code that require residential fire sprinklers in all new residential construction.

# Theme Announced for Fire Prevention Week 2009: Stay Fire Smart! Don't Get Burned

## National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) News Release

The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) has announced the theme for Fire Prevention Week, October 4-10, 2009. This year's campaign, Stay Fire Smart! Don't Get Burned, focuses on the importance of fire safety and fire safety education and ways to prevent fires and the deaths, injuries, and property loss they cause.

According to the NFPA, 84 percent of all fire deaths in 2007 were attributed to a home fire. By providing valuable information and safety tips, the campaign aims to help the public keep their homes and its occupants safe from fire and burns.

Fire Prevention Week commemorates the Great Chicago Fire of 1871, a fire that lasted for two days, killed more than 250 people, left 100,000 people homeless, and destroyed more than 17,000 buildings. For more information about the 2009 event, including planning materials, safety tips, statistical information, and other resources that can be used by fire departments, Fire Corps teams, and teachers, visit [www.firepreventionweek.org](http://www.firepreventionweek.org).

# Application Period Now Open: Assistance to Firefighters Fire Station Construction Grants

## Department of Homeland Security (DHS) News Release

The application period for the Assistance to Firefighters Fire Station Construction Grants is now open. The e-application and an applicant tutorial are available at [www.firegrantsupport.com](http://www.firegrantsupport.com). Applications for these grants must be received by July 10 at 5:00 p.m. Eastern Time. The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) recently released the program guidance for these grants, available at [www.firegrantsupport.com/docs/2009SCGguidance.pdf](http://www.firegrantsupport.com/docs/2009SCGguidance.pdf).

The Fire Station Construction Grants will provide financial assistance directly to fire departments on a competitive basis to build new or modify existing fire stations in order for departments to enhance their response capability and protect the community they serve from fire and fire-related hazards. The grants were established as part of the Administration's economic stimulus package under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 and will be administered by the DHS/Federal Emergency Management Agency's Grant Programs Directorate in coordination with the U.S. Fire Administration by the AFG Program Office.

Learn more at [www.firegrantsupport.com](http://www.firegrantsupport.com). Applicants who have questions regarding the Fire Station Construction Grants should contact the help desk at 1-866-274-0960 or [firegrants@dhs.gov](mailto:firegrants@dhs.gov). During the application period, the help desk will operate Monday to Friday, from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m., and from 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on Saturdays (Eastern Time).

# Everyone Goes Home® Program to Release Firefighter Life Safety Initiatives Resource Kit Volume 4

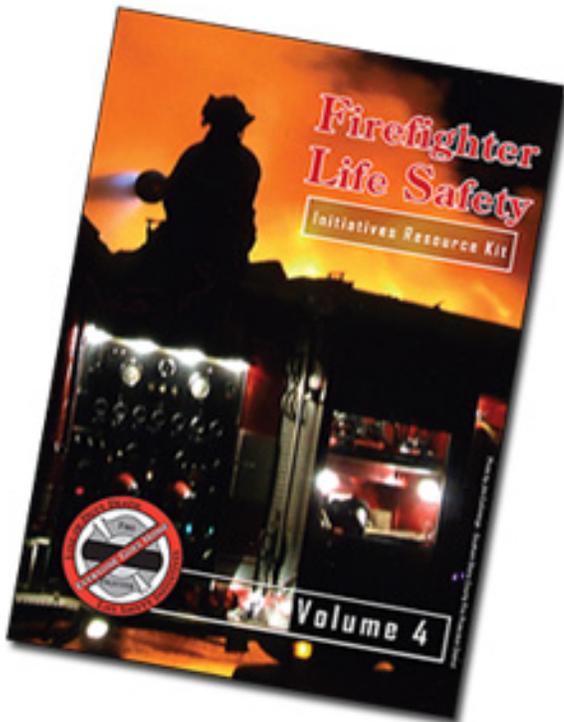
## National Fallen Firefighters Foundation News Release

Watch: [Firefighter Life Safety Resource Kit Volume 4 Preview](#)

Emmitsburg, MD - The National Fallen Firefighters Foundation (NFFF) through the Everyone Goes Home® Firefighter Life Safety Initiatives Program is proud to announce the upcoming release of the Firefighter Life Safety Initiatives Resource Kit Volume 4.

Firefighter Life Safety Initiatives Resource Kit Volume 4, which will be mailed out in summer of 2009, is the latest in the Firefighter Life Safety Initiatives Resource Kit series. The first Firefighter Life Safety Initiatives Resource Kit was released in the summer of 2006. These kits include video training and resources designed to help reduce firefighter line-of-duty injuries and deaths.

Volume 4 includes easily deployable fire service training on two DVDs and one CD. Some of the video training materials include: Smoke Reading, Rapid Intervention Teams, Calling the Mayday, Seatbelt Use, Pre-Planning and Fitness. CD resources also include support materials for each of the video training modules included.



The Everyone Goes Home® program will be shipping this kit to over 35,000 U.S. fire departments. Once the kit is released, departments who have not received a copy may request a copy online. Previous versions of the Firefighter Life Safety Resource Kit are available for download on the EveryoneGoesHome.com website at: <http://www.everyonegoeshome.com/kits/>.

Each year over 100 firefighters die in the line of duty, and 10,000 firefighters are seriously injured. The National Fallen Firefighters Foundation created the Everyone Goes Home® program, based on 16 Firefighter Life Safety Initiatives, to reduce the number of preventable firefighter line-of-duty deaths.

National Fallen Firefighters Foundation Executive Director Chief Ron Siarnicki notes "This is the fourth video in the series that has been produced by the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation. Through our partners and the Assistance to Fire Act Grant program we continue to carry the safety message

throughout the fire service community. It is our hope that as departments view this excellent training medium they continue to display the courage it takes to be safe."

## About the Everyone Goes Home® Firefighter Life Safety Initiatives Program

Everyone Goes Home® is a national program by the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation to prevent line-of-duty deaths and injuries. In March 2004, a Firefighter Life Safety Summit was held to address the need for change within the fire service. Through this meeting, the [16 Firefighter Life Safety Initiatives](#) were produced and a program was born to ensure that Everyone Goes Home®. For more information about the Everyone Goes Home® Program visit [www.EveryoneGoesHome.com](http://www.EveryoneGoesHome.com) or contact us at 1-877-344-0361.

### **About the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation (NFFF)**

The United States Congress created the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation to lead a nationwide effort to remember America's fallen firefighters. Since 1992, the nonprofit foundation has developed and expanded programs to honor fallen fire heroes and assist their families and coworkers. With the support of fire and life safety organizations and funding from Fireman's Fund and the Department of Homeland Security, the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation launched a major initiative to reduce firefighter deaths. Its goal is to reduce line-of-duty firefighter deaths by 25 percent in five years. For more information on the Foundation and its programs contact us at 301-447-1365 or visit [www.firehero.org](http://www.firehero.org).

### **Related:**

- [Everyone Goes Home® Program to Release Firefighter Life Safety Initiatives Resource Kit Volume 4](#)
- **Video:** [Preview Firefighter Life Safety Initiatives Resource Kit Volume 4](#)
- **Volume 1:** [View & Download Resources](#)
- **Volume 2:** [View & Download Resources](#)
- **Volume 3:** [View & Download Resources](#)
- [All Firefighter Life Safety Initiatives Resource Kits](#)