



# Everyone Goes Home™

**FIREFIGHTER LIFE SAFETY INITIATIVES**

**FEBRUARY 2007 EDITION**

*Newsletter*

## **NATIONAL FALLEN FIREFIGHTERS FOUNDATION LAUNCHES NATION-WIDE WHISTLE-STOP TOUR**

On average two American firefighters die every week in the line of duty, leaving their loved ones (survivors) behind. Many of these deaths are preventable.

The National Fallen Firefighters Foundation is launching a nationwide whistle-stop tour to promote firefighter safety issues, with a key message of "Everyone Goes Home."

This tour will make 20 official stops across the Nation and numerous spontaneous visits to promote firefighter safety and public fire safety with a goal of reducing the number of firefighter line-of-duty deaths by 25% within 5 years. A motor coach bus, accommodating 55 persons, will be wrapped with our message: "Everyone Goes Home." The Everyone Goes Home™ program was founded by the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation to support the United States Fire Administration's goal of reducing firefighter deaths by 50% within the next ten years.

The building blocks of the Everyone Goes Home™ program are the 16 Firefighter Life Safety Initiatives. The 16 Initiatives encapsulate real-world solutions to fire service problems regarding preventable line-of-duty deaths-including management restructure, training improvements, and specific suggestions dealing with the two leading causes of preventable line-of-duty deaths - lack of firefighter fitness and vehicle accidents.

In addition to changing the way they do business, firefighters need equipment, training, and necessary resources to implement the 16 Firefighter Life Safety Initiatives and be able to do their job safely.

The Public can help by ensuring their firefighters have the resources they need and by preventing fires from occurring.

In conjunction with the tour, the Courage To Be Safe... So Everyone Goes Home™ program will be presented in each city along the route. This provocative and moving presentation is designed to change the culture of accepting the loss of our firefighters as a normal occurrence.

The official kick-off of America's Heroes Whistle-Stop Tour will begin in San Francisco, California, on April 5, 2007. The six weekend events will be major points for rallies, preparedness

This program is made possible through the efforts of the



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**Homeland Security**



**Fireman's Fund Insurance Company**

fairs, training opportunities, and speeches given by local dignitaries. The weekday events will highlight local fire departments and training activities.

For additional information concerning this event please contact Andrew Dudek at Anderson Manning Media Group, [adudek@andersonmanning.net](mailto:adudek@andersonmanning.net). Additional sources of information may be found at [www.everyonegoeshome.com](http://www.everyonegoeshome.com) and [www.firehero.org](http://www.firehero.org).



## **2007 FIREFIGHTER DEATHS MOUNT, SHOW THE NEED FOR EXPANDED ADVOCACY AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE 16 FIREFIGHTER LIFE SAFETY INITIATIVES**

Following are the firefighter line-of-duty fatalities, as recognized by the United States Fire Administration, in 2007, as of this writing.

January 5, 2007: Sidney Hall of the Upland (IN) Volunteer Fire Department was the first firefighter of a fire attack crew through the door at a residential structure fire on January 3. Four feet into the structure, he fell through the floor into the heavily involved basement. He was rescue by fellow firefighters and transported to the hospital, suffering from hypoxia and asphyxiation. He died two days later.

January 16, 2007: Jeremy Chris Adams of the Springfield (FL) Fire Department died of a heart attack immediately after responding to an emergency medical call. His heart attack was caused by a blood clot that was dislodged from his lung. He had complained of chest pain a few days earlier, but thought it to be bronchitis.

January 21, 2007: Kevin Reed of the Oakland (CA) Fire Department died of a heart attack while performing on-the-job physical fitness training. He had responded to a residential structure fire the evening before.

January 25, 2007: Kenneth Patrick Fahey of the United States Forest Service – Francis Marion National Forest in South Carolina died from trauma from a vehicle collision while returning from a controlled burn.

January 26, 2007: Shane Daughtee from Highway 58 Fire Department lost his life while rescuing a family of three from a house fire. He apparently went through a floor while battling a blaze at a large home.

January 30, 2007: West Virginia firefighters Craig L. Dorsey and Frederick Burroughs from Ghent Volunteer Fire Department died from an explosion which happened just as a fire truck was pulling into a gas station in response to a reported gas leak.

February 1, 2007: Pennsylvania Firefighter Robert H. Hegney of Se-Wy-Co Volunteer Fire Company responded to a residential fire on February 1. That same evening, he attended drill night, where he complained of not feeling well. He was transported to the hospital with flu-like symptoms. While being transferred for an angioplasty he went into cardiac arrest and died.

February 2, 2007: On January 28, New York Fire Commissioner and Safety Officer Anthony Catania of Middle Island Fire Department, 76 years old, was responding to an EMS call and began to experience the affects of a stroke. He was transported to the hospital, where he underwent surgery, but passed away several days later.

February 2, 2007: Illinois Firefighter Michael Fox of Vergennes Volunteer Fire Dept. suffered a fatal heart on his way to an emergency call.

February 3, 2007: Kentucky Firefighter Shane Todd King of Danville Fire Department was involved in a motor vehicle accident while returning home from department mandated EMT training.

February 4, 2007: Pennsylvania Firefighter Jeremy LaBella of Washington Fire Department was killed battling a blaze after a roof at the rear of a house collapsed, causing a canopy over a nearby sidewalk to fall on him.

February 5, 2007: New Jersey Firefighter David Keltly of the Hamilton Fire Department was killed on the way to a fire when the vehicle he was driving slammed head-on into another vehicle.

February 7, 2007: Michigan Firefighter Joe Torkos of the Detroit Fire Department died after the fire apparatus he was driving to a fire call at a vacant residential structure was struck by a vehicle traveling at a very high speed. Torkos and another firefighter were ejected from the apparatus. They were not wearing seat belts.



## **2007 FIREFIGHTER DEATHS MOUNT, SHOW THE NEED FOR EXPANDED ADVOCACY AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE 16 FIREFIGHTER LIFE SAFETY INITIATIVES (Continued From Page 2)**

February 9, 2007: Racheal Wilson, firefighter/paramedic-apprentice of the Baltimore City (MD) Fire Department, died from injuries sustained during a live-fire training exercise in an acquired structure. The incident is under investigation, under suspicion of improper training/safety procedures.

February 13, 2007: Jeff Murray of the Sharon Township (OH) Fire Department responded to the fire station for an emergency medical call and was placed on standby, manning the radios and shoveling snow,

after which he experienced a heart attack and died in the hospital.

February 19, 2007: Theodore Abriel of the Albany (NY) Fire Department collapsed while searching for victims on the sixth floor at a multiple-dwelling residential fire. Despite on-scene and hospital medical attention, he could not be resuscitated.

## **TAKE THE SEATBELT PLEDGE TODAY...BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE... DON'T LET JOSEPH TORKOS' DEATH BE IN VAIN**

The following is an article from the 2/8/07 edition Detroit Free Press, written by Ben Schmitt. The firefighters in the apparatus were not wearing seat belts:

A five-months pregnant Andrea Torkos couldn't wait to tell her husband the good news after her ultrasound Wednesday morning -- their second child would be a girl. She had planned to tell him as soon as he got home from his job as a Detroit firefighter.

But 47-year-old Joseph Torkos never came home.

Andrea's revelation Thursday was another in a long line of new details that emerged as investigators continued looking into the Wednesday evening traffic accident that killed Joseph Torkos -- along with the driver of the SUV that hit his fire rig -- as he and his colleagues were responding to an emergency call.

According to Detroit police spokesman James Tate, 31-year-old Robert Lee Waller III, who didn't have a license, was driving a Chevy Tahoe at speeds in excess of 80 mph when he crashed into the fire rig Torkos was driving as the rig was turning on to 14th Street from West Grand Boulevard about 6 p.m.

Torkos reportedly was alive for a short time after the accident, telling a bystander who came to his aid: "Tell my family I love them. Tell my wife I love her."

He died when the rig was removed from atop his body. His funeral is Monday.

"He would have been very happy," Andrea Torkos, 35, said Thursday of the ultrasound's finding. "He was waiting to hear about it."

The baby is due in June.

A second firefighter, Lt. Walt Grysko, was thrown through the windshield and hospitalized at Henry Ford Hospital. He was in serious condition Thursday.

In June 2005, Dr. Burton Clark of the National Fire Academy, a former volunteer fire chief, wrote a moving piece entitled "Leadership: We Killed Firefighter Brian Hunton," published on Firehouse.com, in which he used the death of a young Texas firefighter, ejected from his vehicle during a response, to expose the irresponsibility in our leadership and culture in which we fail to demand—at the very least—that all firefighters respond to and return from calls employing the basic and vital protection that seat belts afford. Upon being given a copy of that article, Brian Hunton's father said, "How many more firefighters



## **TAKE THE SEATBELT PLEDGE TODAY...BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE... DON'T LET JOSEPH TORKOS' DEATH BE IN VAIN (Continued from Page 3)**

have to die before they all wear seat belts?"

Dr. Clark reiterated that question in a follow-up article a year later, entitled "Do You Have the Courage To Take the Seat Belt Pledge?" that was published on Firehouse.com. (<http://cms.firehouse.com/content/article/article.jsp?id=49694&sectionId=10>). In that article, he asked each and every firefighter to pledge to wear their seat belts, and included a form that fire departments could use to commit signatures, as a sort of pledge drive.

### **WILDFIRES CLAIMED 24 FIREFIGHTERS IN 2006**

**By JEFF BARNARD**  
Associated Press Writer

Two dozen firefighters died last year battling wildfires across the United States, a number that has increased in the face of drier summers and increased job pressures.

The 2006 death toll is not an all-time high, but is part of a rising trend - double the number in 2005, and six more than the average of the past 10 years. The 10-year average has been rising, too, from 6.6 in the 1930s to 18 in the 2000s, according to U.S. Forest Service statistics.

Experts warn that the size and intensity of wildfires is increasing due to longer, hotter and drier summers and a buildup of fuel. Firefighters face greater dangers, particularly when trying to protect the growing number of homes in the woods.

Dick Mangan, a retired Forest Service fire program leader and author of a report on wildfire fatalities from 1990 to 2005, noted that many of the most dangerous fires were near rural homes outside towns in the West.

Firefighters have the experience and research to justify keeping their distance from explosive fires, but when TV news reports show air tankers on the ground and firefighters sitting on their engines while homes are burning, it creates "tremendous pressure" to attack a fire that would be left to burn if no homes

In the light of Firefighter Torkos' untimely, senseless death, and in light of the fact that our roadway tragedies continue to mount, year after year, we make this call for action, a call all fire department members, from leadership to the rank-and-file, to take responsibility and accountability for wearing seat belts, and pledge to do so. From policy to enforcement to personal responsibility, this must happen, and will if you truly have the courage it takes to do so.

where involved, Mangan said.

Experts point to the five firefighters killed last year in the so-called Esperanza fire when a U.S. Forest Service engine crew was overrun by flames as they tried to protect homes in Southern California.

"The five guys who died on the Esperanza fire - if that had just been a pure Southern California brush field, those guys never would have been where they were. But there were homes to be protected up there," Mangan said.

Bill Gabberet, executive director of the International Association of Wildland Fire, noted that research indicates climate change has made summers hotter and longer, and that drought has afflicted much of the West. In addition, he said, the old Forest Service policy of trying to put out every fire by 10 a.m. has created a buildup of fuels in forests.

"The good news," said Mark Rey, U.S. undersecretary of agriculture in charge of forest policy, is that only 800 homes were lost last year, despite a record 1 billion acres (400 million hectares) burned, compared to 3,000 homes lost in 2003, when 5 million acres (2 million hectares) burned.

Federal, state and local programs have focused on thinning forests, particularly those on the edge of cities and towns, but tens of millions of acres remain to be treated.

Rey said he hopes local communities will impose



## **WILDFIRES CLAIMED 24 FIREFIGHTERS IN 2006 (Continued from Page 4)**

zoning restrictions on building homes in fire-prone forests, the way flood plains are regulated.

Forest Service firefighting spending is skyrocketing - from \$179 million in 1997 to \$1.5 billion in 2006. The agency figures more than half that money goes to wildfires threatening homes, according to a federal audit last year.

Mangan noted that burnovers are not even the biggest category of firefighter deaths. Since 1990, motor vehicle accidents, heart attacks - particularly among aging volunteers - and aircraft crashes killed more.

The 2006 deaths included eight in aircraft crashes,

seven from burnovers, four from motor vehicle accidents, three from heart attacks, one from a falling tree and one who fell off a lookout tower.

It all goes back to trying to put out nearly every fire, rather than letting more burn, said Andy Stahl, executive director of Forest Service Employees for Environmental Ethics.

“We’re sending more troops into these most dangerous fires, so of course we are going to lose more,” he said.

## **WHAT ARE YOU DOING TO MAKE SURE EVERYONE GOES HOME? EGH SAFETY PROGRAMS ARE GAINING TRACTION**

In fire departments throughout the United States, the Everyone Goes Home message and steps to implement the 16 Firefighter Life Safety Initiatives are taking root. Following are some samples of comments/responses to an EGH survey asking how fire departments are spreading the message and adopting greater organizational safety measures. Please tell us what you’re doing to make sure Everyone Goes Home—send us an email at [info@everyonegoeshome.com](mailto:info@everyonegoeshome.com).

Chief E.J. (Ned) McMahon of Basking Ridge Fire Company No. 1 in Basking Ridge, New Jersey, writes:

A Safety and Health Committee has been established. Its chairman reports directly to the chief, and a monthly report is given to the entire company. The committee includes a designated Health Officer who will follow up on injuries and sickness issues, both on and off the job, and who verifies that all firefighter and EMTs are fit to return to duty. A Wellness Officer will provide information/recommendations to the committee on health programs, such as weight loss/nutrition and smoking cessation. A Fitness Officer will provide opportunities for all members to improve fitness, such as memberships at the YMCA, access to a weight room, firefighter obstacle course, SCBA confidence course, etc. A Safety Officer is key to the committee and is making sure Standard Operating Guidelines are followed and everyone is familiar with them. Our deputy chief is chairman of the committee and is using NFPA codes to establish functions and programs. We think it will help in all areas. We started the process in January and we are making this a key priority for 2007.

Assistant Chief Mike Williams of the 132nd FW, Des Moines International Airport Fire Department, lists that his department:

1. implemented a “truck of the month” program where each vehicle is on a rotating schedule and receives a detailed inspection for extended ops performance as outlined in NFPA 414;
2. implemented mandatory annual physical agility assessment (tough pill to swallow);
3. aggressively sends firefighters to available schooling;
4. conducts safety meetings, at minimum, on a semi-annual basis, or as needed;



## **WHAT ARE YOU DOING TO MAKE SURE EVERYONE GOES HOME? (Continued from Page 5)**

5. has a dedicated assistant chief who heads the department safety program;
6. completes annual compliance/non-compliance report on NFPA 1500 and reports deficiencies;
7. has a written risk management plan, reviewed annually;
8. implemented monthly PPE checks of all issued equipment;
9. conducts monthly fire station facility health/safety inspections;
10. posts entries/situations from firefighterclosecalls.com on the fire station bulletin board—"this could happen to you";
11. conducts annual medical exams as outlined in NFPA 1500;
12. maintains safety folders on each firefighter, documenting medical issues that arise, safety training, immunizations, etc.;
13. conducts annual "fit testing" for all SCBA masks and respirators used by the department;
14. forwards quarterly random air samples from SCBA bottles for quality air testing to outside agency;
15. conducts hydrostatic testing on SCBA bottles every 5 years;
16. provides administrative guidelines through operating instructions (OIs) or SOPs, so personnel understand their responsibility and performance expectations as a member of the department;
17. has available an extensive and expensive work out facility for firefighters to stay fit and provide time to use the facility;
18. hosts safety "stand down" day in June of each year in conjunction with neighboring departments and conduct pertinent safety training;
19. provides documented safety training on hazardous situations such as: explosives, hazardous materials, lock out-tag out, blood borne pathogens, power tools, driving emergency vehicle during response, etc.;
20. recognizes members who adhere to safety policies with awards.

Bob Quackenbush, Training Officer of the Cronomer Valley (NY) Fire Department, writes:

The Cronomer Valley Fire Department has recently started posting the firefighter safety quizzes from NIOSH on our website and bulletin board. This has helped stir interest in how firefighters have been dying, brings up conversation, and moves us to research lessons learned. Seeing actual reports and investigations helps bring safety home.

Roger Ritchie of the Wichita Falls Fire Department, writes:

We are using the everyone goes home material in addition to other programs to change the culture of our department. The members of the Wichita Falls Fire Department take pride in their aggressive attack reputation. We are trying to temper the aggressive fire attack and quick response with a safety first attitude and good decision making.

Troy Arndt of the Kutztown (PA) Fire Department, writes:

The Kutztown Fire Company has put a great emphasis on seat belt use, truck backing policies with mandatory spotters, accountability, and additional training on building construction as a starting point. These are things that in the past were not a priority, and the Courage to be Safe program that 6 of our officers and firefighters attended was a real eye opener to our department.



## **WHAT ARE YOU DOING TO MAKE SURE EVERYONE GOES HOME? (Continued from Page 6)**

Wayne Schalich, chief of the Trumbull Volunteer Fire Company in Connecticut, writes:

Briefly, our department membership participated in 6000 man-hours of training in 2006 with 10% of that at live fire exercises. We hosted "Get Out Alive," "The Art Of Reading Smoke," "Large Area Search" and several other nationally recognized programs at our fire department. We adhere to a strict seatbelt policy, require ongoing driver training/evaluation, stop/slow apparatus at intersections with traffic controls regardless of signal, respond "with traffic" to non-emergency alarms, work in teams of two (minimum) at working fires, train regularly with our auto-aid and mutual-aid companies, use a specifically trained RIT company at every working structure fire, check SCBA and PASS devices frequently, have 2-tag accountability, have emergency tone on all portable radios (every member on scene has a portable), have an evacuation tone and on-scene evacuation signal recognized by all auto-aid and mutual companies, require teams to exit with low air warning sounding (RIT goes into operation at the sound of low air or PASS). I could go on.

Ben Thomas, Battalion Chief of the Guilford County (NC) Emergency Services/Fire Service Division, writes:

We have used the resource kit to build training programs and to send the word out to our fire service professionals. I have been able to touch 19 different fire departments with one unique set of objectives. It takes the excuses away because it is readily available and easy to use. We have also brought in Fire Commissioner Ed Mann's program [Courage to Be Safety program] designed for Pennsylvania and built off of the lessons learned in his State. We registered over 80 personnel from all over the State for this class. We have established an Everyone Goes Home class available for all personnel on an annual basis and continue to establish programs to address specific needs. The leadership of my organization has embraced the opportunity the Everyone Goes Home Program provides, including the reporting of near miss incidents and follow up investigations.

Edwin Schaefer, former chief of the Muskego (WI) Fire Department, took this dim view of fire service culture change and firefighter safety, in writing:

I just completed your survey and have some concerns. I was chief here for four years and was voted out for trying to impose safety rules and other issues. I tried to make changes and meet an enormous amount of resistance, which led to me being voted out of my position. If you intend on gaining any ground on firefighter safety, you need to find a way to support chiefs who support your program. I was trying to impose a health program where everyone needed to go for physicals yearly to wear an SCBA. I see that NIIMS is also going to require physicals but that has no meat to it. What will we lose if we don't comply? Basically nothing. We just can't write for a grant that we probably would not get, anyway.

OSHA, FEMA, or who ever governs fire safety, needs to audit fire departments to ensure they are following proper safety guidelines. Until that happens you will not have much of an impact. Early this past year, a report was sent in about a captain on our department to firefighterclosecalls.com and firefighterne-armiss.com. I tried to train that individual and our fire department about what was wrong with the situation but I was proved wrong because they now made him an Assistant Chief.

Until you can make what you are recommending mandatory and require firefighters and officers to be properly trained this problem will continue. This is what I feel we will need to do to make this all happen. We are going to need supervisors, directors, rules and regulations, and money, and it will take a lot of it. Most fire services are so poor that they can barely keep the doors open. But then there are departments like ours where we have the ability to do it right but choose to do it like 1950. We argued for weeks about a



## **WHAT ARE YOU DOING TO MAKE SURE EVERYONE GOES HOME? (Continued from Page 7)**

blood-born pathogen policy that never happened, nor did we do the training for it.

To close, someone has to accept responsibility to police, organize and structure the fire service. It's all about holding someone accountable prior to an incident occurring rather than playing catch-up after it happens. Yes, it can be done because if you read enough incidents on [firefighterclosecalls.com](http://firefighterclosecalls.com) or [firehouse.com](http://firehouse.com) they all have something in common—lack of accountability, training, faulty equipment, insufficient personnel, or personnel on scene with severe health problems who shouldn't be there at all. Hopefully, NIMS will address all of this and they will have the resources to assure compliance with the standards they are purposing.

### **NOT EVERYONE GOES HOME: A PERSPECTIVE**

**By Deputy Chief Billy Goldfeder, E.F.O.**

Member-Board of Directors, National Fallen Firefighters Foundation

A week doesn't go by where I don't get an e-mail from someone saying that "all this firefighter death and injury stuff...it isn't changing...we are spinning our wheels."

Hmmm. Well, as far as the numbers dropping drastically, they are slowly changing but I don't think we'll ever totally eliminate the death and injury from our job. Reduce it—yeah. We are now and are aggressively continuing. Anyone half awake can see that there is a "smarter" attitude than we had years ago. We still go to fires. We still go inside. But these days we're better trained (as long as you show up for training), we're learning from those who were killed before us, and, generally, we're operating safer. We're not totally there yet but we're doing better. Just look around. From the firefighters to the leadership to equipment to training...it's generally better around the fireground. Generally.

But eliminate death and injury from this job? It's not going to happen. Not everyone goes home. Sometimes all firefighters are not going to go home. Sometimes we do get hurt and we even lose our lives when we are doing what should be done. Sometimes. One of the best examples of that was the tragic Line of Duty Death of Firefighter/Foreman Kevin Apuzzio on April 11th, 2006. Kevin, as you remember, was killed earlier this year while rescuing a woman (with his crew) who was trapped in a working house fire. By all current accounts, Kevin and his fire department, East Franklin Fire Company in New Jersey, did the right stuff...fully geared up, functioned as a team, no freelancing, command had accountability of them, they had a thermal imager and as the victim was being dragged out, the floor, with the fire burning below, gave way and took Kevin with it. When the firefighters arrived, there were good indications that the risk was worth the benefit. Kevin was just one example of several truly heroic firefighters in the United States and Canada who gave their lives in 2006.

So when we (at the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation along with the entire fire service community) say "Not Everyone Goes Home"...that's what I am talking about. Once in a while, on that rare occasion where we do have to risk our lives to attempt to save the life of another, we may not go home. That's why we took that oath. We are willing to lose our lives when it matters—when the indications are that our risk is worth the benefit. For a person, not for stuff. Do you want to give your life in the line of duty for a building, a shed, or something like that? Not me...at least not these days. A few years ago back, in the '70s, sure, I operated in the kamikaze sector, like most (we all knew it but just didn't have fancy ICS day-glo I.D. vests back then), but attitudes have changed and we are smarter these days. Or we should be smarter. I want to





## ***NOT EVERYONE GOES HOME: A PERSPECTIVE (Continued from Page 8)***

keep going to fires as long as possible. But give your life to possibly save a person? Right now. That's what we are expected to do when conditions indicate the risk is worth it.

So what about "Everyone Goes Home"? That is and **MUST BE THE ATTITUDE**. With that attitude, we will continue to educate and think in order to reduce the injuries and deaths where firefighters died **NEEDLESSLY**. What is needlessly? A wall collapsing and killing firefighters during overhaul. A firefighter driving apparatus stupidly fast and killing one of our own. A firefighter responding to the firehouse and hitting another car when attempting to pass. A firefighter getting ejected because they were not secured in the apparatus. A firefighter operating without or improperly worn PPE. A fire department attempting to operate at an obvious 30 firefighter fire with only five firefighters. A company unable to properly stretch a line onto the fire...quickly and effectively. Unsupervised probies and trainees getting hurt or killed during training or at calls. A 5'10" 350-pound firefighter who gets out of breath at the mention of stretching a line. Companies operating on a road without blocking, diverting and protecting personnel from C.D.C.M.'s (Clueless Driving Civilian Morons).

Simple stuff. No degree required. We know it.

Here's some really simple stuff that will allow you and your crew to **KEEP** going to fires a little longer. Make them your resolutions for the whole year.

**BUNKER GEAR/PPE:** No "exposed skin and stop breathing" crap. We know that burns suck and that smoke (smoke and soot **IN** you or **ON** you) contains cyanide-why take a risk? Just wear it (and officers: enforce it) in 2007.

**DRIVING: FIREFIGHTERS CHARGED WITH MANSLAUGHTER:** Stop at stop signs and red lights...always. Slow way down while driving when conditions (such as weather, traffic, etc.) warrant it. Currently there are three firefighters in the United States being charged with manslaughter related to deaths by fire apparatus they were driving. The **LAST** thing any firefighter wants to do is to be held responsible for killing someone while responding to help someone else. Officers: Supervise your drivers. Fire apparatus drivers: Don't make your fire officers have to do their job...drive sane in 2007 and beyond.

**SHUT UP, SIT DOWN, BUCKLE UP, HOLD ON:** While we know it is difficult to use seat belts and gear up in some apparatus, we are no good if we get ejected before we get to the fire. Led by good fire officers like FDNY's Lt. Mike Wilbur, there are national changes coming to the seats and seat belts used in fire apparatus. Until then, belt up anyway in 2007.

**STRETCHING HOSE LINES:** The experts have told us for years: Getting a hoseline on the fire is often the top priority. Yet, time and time again, we read about the difficulties (almost always due to training) of companies getting their line on a fire quickly. Make 2007 the year when easy, simple and rapid deployment of attack handlines becomes a source of pride at your fire department.

**COLLAPSE ZONES DON'T IMPROVE WITH AGE:** Firefighters have died within the last year due to them being in collapse zones, well after the fire has been declared under control. These were all completely predictable and unnecessary deaths. If it will collapse now, it will collapse later...**STUDY** the issues of building construction and collapse in 2007.

**HEART ATTACKS ACCOUNTED FOR 50% OF THE FIREFIGHTER LODDs** (and 50% of those were smokers...but that's for another day's discussion): The solutions are pretty obvious. Eat better food, less portions, exercise regularly, and get physicals in 2007.



## ***NOT EVERYONE GOES HOME: A PERSPECTIVE (Continued from Page 9)***

**TRAINING:**...every shift, every week (for the volunteer firefighters), and as much as possible. What should we train on? Look at the apparatus you ride...look in all the compartments and then look at your district. Train to be an expert on every single tool and task you might be asked to perform in your district. No great mystery. We have a busy year ahead.

**STAFFING:** It takes firefighters to perform tasks. No magic here. When the elected and appointed city hall dwellers want to cut staffing, make sure they clearly understand what the fire department will not be able to do, such as some tasks that you used to be able to do simultaneously...or at least make sure they know how much longer it will take your firefighters to do "that" now water, entry, stretch lines, vent, search, rescue etc.). At some point, they (and we!) gotta understand that without the right staffing (no matter where that staffing comes from), we cannot do more with less on the fireground...and then expect good customer service...and everyone to come home.

**ROADWAYS:** Expect civilian motorists to hit you and your crew. Expect them to run your butts over and ruin your lives. Now that you expect it, plan for and avoid it. ResponderSafety.com will show you how.

Going to fires? We have to be ready and the above stuff will probably help. Want to keep going to fires as long as possible?...Well? Do ya? The above is your PASSPORT to doing the job we all love doing....for as long as possible.

As I was writing this, my pager was beeping away, reporting a serious fire. I had a chance to talk with Philadelphia Fire Department Deputy Chief Bill Shouldis about that fire. It was an early morning four-alarm fire in an occupied high-rise apartment building in Philadelphia. The news media coverage ([www.WPVI.com](http://www.WPVI.com) or [www.KYW.com](http://www.KYW.com)) contained some learning points for us all about the evacuation of large numbers of people (in this case more than 225 tenants). Without a doubt, a four-alarm fire on the 14th floor is always difficult, but a non-sprinklered, fire-resistive concrete building has numerous risks to firefighters! That morning, the stakes increased as a Philly firefighter went down at that fire. ...MAYDAY. Only the activation of the emergency signal on the portable radio made "early warning" possible to others. The member was quickly found and transported for medical treatment...and is doing well. You'll hear and see Philly Fire Commissioner Lloyd Ayers' response related to HIS downed firefighter. Although a direct fire attack on the fire floors, ventilation of the stairs and search/evacuation /accountability of occupants are important operational lessons... managing the mayday message is often the greatest challenge. Not sure about MANAGING THE MAYDAY? Google that and you'll find excellent information....it's a start.

Working high-rise fire? It requires a lot. How is your fire department prepared for that kind of fire? What about the single-family dwelling fire...start small. After all, if the single-family dwelling fire throws your fire department for a loop, how will you do with the...well, you understand. Know the job... before the "next job."



## **INDIANA KICKS OFF FIRST “COURAGE TO BE SAFE” TRAIN-THE-TRAINER CLASS**

On January 26, 2007 in conjunction with the Indiana Fire Instructors Conference & Annual Meeting the first “Courage to Be Safe” train-the-trainer course was conducted in Merrville, Indiana for Indiana fire departments. The class drew more than 75 participants, representing the largest career departments to the smallest volunteer fire departments from throughout the state. Response to the class exceeded expectations—facilitators Chief John Buckman, German Township Fire Department, and Division Chief Brian Kazmierzak, Clay Fire Territory-South Bend/State of Indiana Everyone Goes Home Advocate, called the response “spectacular.” The discussion was spirited, dynamic, and proactive, and participants embraced the critical need for a safety culture change at all levels of the fire service if we

are to reduce line-of-duty death rates and injuries.

Future classes are being scheduled at the District 3 Regional Training Center in Auburn, Indiana, and at the Sugar Creek Fire Department in Central Indiana. A class in southern Indiana will also soon be scheduled. If you are interested in scheduling a Courage to Be Safe Train-the-Trainer in your area of Indiana, please call or email Brian Kazmierzak at 574-272-2144 or [bpk@clayfd.com](mailto:bpk@clayfd.com).

In addition to the successful launch of the Courage to Be Safe programs, Rob Barker, chief of training for the Warsaw (IN) Fire Department, has assumed a leadership role as the second state advocate for the Everyone Goes Home program in Indiana.

## **2007 EDITION OF NFPA 1982, STANDARD ON PERSONAL ALERT SAFETY SYSTEMS (PASS), NOW AVAILABLE**

### ***PERFORMANCE ISSUES ADDRESSED IN NEW EDITION***

(February 9, 2007) - The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) today announced that the 2007 edition of NFPA 1982 Standard on Personal Alert Safety Systems (PASS) is now available online at [www.nfpa.org/pass](http://www.nfpa.org/pass). In addition, NFPA has posted an alert notice on its Web site regarding PASS. The new edition of the standard addresses issues raised regarding performance issues of PASS certified to previous editions of the standard.

In late 2005, NFPA published an alert notice entitled “PASS alarm signals can fail at high temperatures” on the NFPA website advising emergency responders, especially fire fighters, of high temperature exposures causing the loudness of PASS alarm signals to be reduced and making the alarm signal indistinguishable from background noise at the incident scene. This problem was brought to the attention of the NFPA Technical Committee on Electronic Safety Equipment (the Technical Committee) by the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health’s (NIOSH) Fire Fighter Fatality Investigation

and Prevention Program.

NIOSH reported that during the investigation of four fire fighter fatalities that occurred from 2001 to 2004, the PASS alarm signals were not heard or were barely audible. The PASS had been certified as compliant to NFPA 1982, Standard on Personal Alert Safety Systems (PASS), 1998 Edition, and involved both stand-alone PASS and SCBA-integrated PASS.

Laboratory testing of PASS by the National Institute for Standards and Technology’s (NIST) Fire Research Division showed that this sound reduction begins to occur at temperatures as low as 300° F (150° C) and affected all PASS evaluated by NIST that were certified to the 1998 edition and earlier editions of NFPA 1982.

### **Principal Changes to NFPA 1982**

Once notified of the possible deficiencies in PASS, the NFPA Technical Committee on Electronic Safety Equipment, in cooperation with NIOSH and NIST, studied the issue and incorporated revisions into the



## **2007 EDITION OF NFPA 1982, STANDARD ON PERSONAL ALERT SAFETY SYSTEMS (PASS), NOW AVAILABLE (Continued from Page 11)**

2007 edition of NFPA 1982. The new edition of NFPA 1982 contains revisions providing for strengthened performance requirements and testing addressing the alarm signal degradation issue and also addresses other issues including problems caused by vibration, probably during transportation, and water ingress into the electronic and power supply compartments. The principal changes contained in the 2007 edition of NFPA 1982 are:

- new water immersion requirements and testing for PASS where PASS is exposed to 350° F for 15 minutes and then to water submersion in 1.5 meters (4.9 ft) also for 15 minutes for each of 6 cycles; and PASS examined to determine no water ingress, all PASS signals must function properly, and electronic data logging functions must operate properly; following this, PASS is re-immersed in the test water for additional 5 minutes with the power source compartment(s) open, and following the 5 minutes the PASS is removed from water and wiped dry, then the electronics compartment is opened and examined to determine no water ingress;
- new high temperature functionality requirements and testing to now have PASS mounted in a circulating hot air oven at 500° F for 5 minutes and the PASS alarm signal must function at or above the required 95 dBA sound level, electronic data logging functions must operate properly, and no part of the PASS can show evidence of melting, dripping, or igniting;
- new tumble-vibration requirements and testing for PASS where PASS is “tumbled” in a rotating drum for 3 hours and the PASS alarm signal must function at the required 95 dBA sound level and electronic data logging functions must operate properly;
- new “muffling” of the alarm signal requirements and testing for PASS where PASS is mounted on a test subject and evaluated in five positions (face down w/arms extended, supine left, supine right, fetal right w/knees drawn to chest, fetal left w/knees drawn to chest), and the alarm signal must function at or above the required 95 dBA sound level

### **Reporting PASS Malfunctions**

Emergency services organizations and emergency responder personnel are encouraged to report any PASS malfunctions and other problems with proper functioning of PASS directly to both the certification organization whose certification mark appears on the PASS, and to NIOSH – NPPTL. They can be reached at:

- SEI, the Safety Equipment Institute (certification organization), e-mail at [info@seinet.org](mailto:info@seinet.org) .
- NIOSH – NPPTL, the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health – National Personal Protection Technical Laboratory at [NPPTL\\_PASS@cdc.gov](mailto:NPPTL_PASS@cdc.gov).

### **Important Safety Recommendations for the Fire Service and other PASS users**

In spite of the problems with PASS, NFPA believes that PASS remain an important tool for fire fighters and other emergency responders. NFPA recommends that, at least until PASS designed and certified to the new 2007 edition of NFPA 1982 become available, emergency responders continue to maintain and use existing PASS. Users are cautioned, however, that both the existing as well as the new PASS (when available) should always be considered a last resort call for help for emergency responder personnel who are unable to otherwise notify others that they are in distress. Fire fighters and other emergency responders should continue to activate and wear PASS whenever in hazardous areas of any incident, but should also be aware of the possibility that hostile conditions may adversely affect the operation of PASS. Incident command should continue to apply all personnel accountability measures at all incidents to assure the safe entrance and exit of personnel from hazardous areas. Direct supervision of operating companies or teams should provide for the safe operating locations of personnel and ensure that members do not “freelance” on the incident scene.



## CONTRIBUTING FACTORS IN NEAR MISSES & CREW RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

From the guidebook *Crew Resource Management*, from the International Association of Fire Chiefs, available for free at [www.iafc.org](http://www.iafc.org).

It is important to note that the most frequently occurring contributing factors in near-miss reporting are situational awareness, human error and decision making. These three factors are also the underpinning components of crew resource management (CRM), which is the practice of effective use of all resources. CRM creates a force multiplier for fire department leaders and teams that employ its concepts and principles. Crews trained in CRM learn skills that enhance communication, maintain situational awareness, strengthen decision making and improve teamwork.

There are five CRM principles: communication, situational awareness, decision making, teamwork and task allocation. Training in the five principles creates a better performing work group and more informed leader.

Communication is the key to success in any endeavor. CRM teaches people to focus on the communication model (sender-message-medium-receiver-feedback), speak directly and respectfully and communicate responsibility. Situational awareness focuses on the need to maintain attentiveness to an event. It involves the effects of perception, observation and stress on person-

nel. In the emergency services, situational awareness is particularly important because emergencies are dynamic and require our full attention.

Decision making is based on information. Emergency service decision making relies heavily on risk/benefit analysis. Too little information results in poor risk assessment by the decision maker and can lead to errors, injury and death. Too much information overloads the decision maker and makes it difficult to make effective decisions. CRM training concentrates on giving and receiving information so appropriate decisions can be made.

CRM emphasizes the importance of teamwork through group exercises and informal crew performance evaluations. It focuses on two elements in teamwork, leadership and followership, so all members understand their place on the team. It also focuses on the need for mutual respect and the benefits of working together.

Task allocation focuses on knowing the strength and weaknesses of team members, so work can be assigned to the team member most capable of successfully completing the task. It also emphasizes dividing labor so no single team member is overworked.

CRM is not an attempt to undermine the legal, ranking fire/rescue officer's authority. It is not management by committee. In fact, CRM enhances personal au-

thority. All team members will direct information flow to the officer. While opinions are valid, the final decision on a course of action still rests with the officer.

For CRM to succeed, leaders must make a commitment to change the department's traditional, standard operating culture. It requires leaders to remain flexible and receptive to input and be prepared for an initial shift in some perceptions of department structure.

CRM's success in minimizing the effect that human error has on operations and maximizing human performance is irrefutable. The lessons learned and success experienced by the aviation industry's development and adoption of CRM speak for themselves. The same successes are being realized in the medical industry, shipping industry and the U.S. military. Adopting and practicing CRM for the nation's emergency services seems like the next logical step toward a safer, more effective service.



## **FIREFIGHTER SAFETY AND HEALTH RESOURCES**



### **WESTERN CHIEFS DEVELOP SAFETY DRILLS**

The Western Fire Chiefs Association, a division of the International Association of Fire Chiefs, has produced a series of five-minute safety drills for all fire departments, called "Take 5 For Safety." The downloadable drills are based on safety research and national accident data and are a good resource for maintaining mentally fit and ready firefighters who think "safety." To date, WFCA has published four sets of five-minute drills on a wide variety of subjects. See <http://wfca.com/default.asp?pageid=401&deptid=1>



## Firefighter Life Safety Events

March 3-4, 2007

**Second National Line-of-Duty Death Prevention Summit**  
Fireman's Fund Insurance Company Headquarters (Novato, CA)

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March 10, 2007

**Courage to Be Safe**  
Clatsop County Fire Chiefs - Astoria, OR

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March 24, 2007

**Courage to Be Safe/Taking Care of Our Own®**  
Georgia State Firefighter Weekend - Forsyth, GA

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April 27, 2007

**Courage to Be Safe**  
Crest Forest Fire District (OR)

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May 5, 2007

**Courage to Be Safe**  
Central Oregon Fire Instructors Association - Madras, OR

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**For More Firefighter Life Safety Events Visit:**  
**[www.everyonegoeshome.com/events](http://www.everyonegoeshome.com/events)**