

# December 2009 Newsletter

## [Everyone Goes Home® Past Efforts Improve Future Results](#)

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## ["True Change" Occurs with Diligence and Time](#)

Over the past 33 years of my fire service career, I have paid close attention to the number of annual line-of-duty deaths (LODDs) and have always strived to learn the lessons, chain of events, and causes that led to each situation. As a fire service instructor and safety officer, I have educated and trained fellow firefighters about the inherent hazards of our profession with the hope of preventing a LODD in my department and in the greater St. Louis area.

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You've just attended this year's Safety Summit, returned home to your fire department and wonder how you can spread the safety messages you have just learned to firefighters and officers in your department. Here's how: participate in the *Everyone Goes Home®* Advocate Outreach Program.

## **A Safety Shout Out To: Georgia and Ohio**

### Great Ideas to Get the Everyone Goes Home Message to Fire Service

Last year, I sent a personalized letter to every fire department in Georgia. I called it the "seat belt blitz." Eighteen departments joined the seat belt blitz with 100 percent participation and signed 2,700 pledges. On another front, the *Courage To Be Safe®* curriculum was implemented in the basic firefighter program, in chief officer orientation and as a stand-alone class at the state level. Within my department, it is a stand-alone class and is mandated as part of our acting officer program. We've reached roughly 600 people with the *Courage To Be Safe®* class in Georgia within the last year.

I have an ongoing relationship with one of the local colleges that gives me a forum to present every few months with an open registration. Within the last year

At Lakeland Community College in Ohio, the *Courage to Be Safe®* program will be part of the fire science degree program curriculum. It will be taught in segments throughout the year.

The Ohio Bureau of Workers' Compensation (BWC) is considering implementing the *Everyone Goes Home®* program as a way for fire departments to reduce BWC costs. Details to follow.

- Deputy Chief Ron Terriaco, Region V Advocate  
Concord Twp Fire Department

I've been able to put together a team of four advocates that are spread out over the state for coverage and have been able to present at several seminars and regional meetings. I also put on a conference every year and direct [www.fireserviceslt.com](http://www.fireserviceslt.com) where I post a lot of *Everyone Goes Home*® materials.

There are several other things that the folks in Ga. are doing to spread the word. I look forward to meeting with you at the Safety Summit. If I can be of any assistance, please don't hesitate to contact me.

- Brian Ward, Georgia State Advocate  
Gwinnett County Fire & Emergency Services



### Safety Ideas Also Spread Holiday Cheer

Freddy Howell, Georgia State Advocate, creates holiday bookmarks every year that include a safety message for his firefighters.

» [See Freddy's Holiday Bookmarks](#)

Please share with us how you spread the **Everyone Goes Home**® safety message with your fire department.



## INITIATIVE SPOTLIGHT

Spotlighting one of the 16 Firefighter Life Safety Initiatives each month

Initiative #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.

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



# FULL THROTTLE SUPPORT 2



***Install. Inspect. Protect. Campaign Resources***

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).

# Everyone Goes Home® Past Efforts Improve Future Results

Rich Marinucci

**Everyone Goes Home®** Program Manager

As 2009 winds down and we begin a new year, there is no better time to take a look back to evaluate the past year and look forward to where we can go. The preliminary data for line-of-duty deaths (LODDs) in 2009 shows a reduction in this area. This clearly indicates that all our efforts - associations and individuals - are having a positive impact on preventable LODDs. The magnitude of our challenge requires the involvement of everyone.

From a statistical perspective, there is not enough data or a track record to really establish any trends. However, we continue to hear success stories that indicate anecdotally that many are receiving the message of safety, whatever their source. Everyone involved with *Everyone Goes Home®* can take pride in the past five-year's accomplishments. Regardless of your role, you did something to help and it is appreciated and making a difference.

Looking forward, the most important thing to remember is that this is no time to stop or get complacent. Even though the number of LODDs were reduced in 2009, no one can claim that our job is done or that fire service culture is permanently changed. Continued diligence is needed as we attempt to institutionalize the programs and concepts of *Everyone Goes Home®*. While we pause to reflect and acknowledge some of the successes, we must press forward to reach those yet to be reached.

So many challenges remain. The vastness of the United States and the diversity of the fire service create unique challenges. We know that one size does not fit all. We know that command officers, company officers, and firefighters do not always see things the same way. Urban, suburban, and rural organizations have different challenges just as career, combination, and volunteer fire departments do. I would even suggest that regional differences exist that require different approaches to deliver the message. Regardless, the cause is too important to let up on the gas.

I ask that everyone involved with the *Everyone Goes Home®* program, and all our partner organizations, remain diligent. In 2010 we all have the opportunity to build upon past successes and demonstrate that the improvements made to date are legitimate and the result of the energies expended by many. Stay focused on the job and don't let anything divert your commitment to this noble cause. Best wishes to all of you during this holiday season. Have a happy, healthy, safe New Year.

# "True Change" Occurs with Diligence and Time

Steve Arnold  
Retired Fire Chief, Pattonville Fire Protection District  
Missouri State Advocate

Over the past 33 years of my fire service career, I have paid close attention to the number of annual line-of-duty deaths (LODDs) and have always strived to learn the lessons, chain of events, and causes that led to each situation. As a fire service instructor and safety officer, I have educated and trained fellow firefighters about the inherent hazards of our profession with the hope of preventing a LODD in my department and in the greater St. Louis area.

When the *Everyone Goes Home*® program was nationally launched, I was relieved to know that national fire service leadership was finally paying attention to health and safety. I was passionate enough about *Everyone Goes Home*® to become a state advocate to help spread the word about the 16 Firefighter Life Safety Initiatives.

I dove in headfirst, full steam ahead, speaking to everyone I knew in the St. Louis area about the initiatives. I sent out personal letters to fire chiefs all over the state of Missouri announcing I was personally available to assist them with educating their firefighters about the 16 Firefighter Life Safety Initiatives. I was ready to effect change right now, right away. I was surprised, let down to say the least, because the response to my efforts and letters was very poor even to the point of a lack of interest. I didn't let this discourage me. I kept plugging away, picking up a department here and there, speaking to those who were willing to listen to me. I began to realize this was going to be a long, slow process that would take a lot of time to effect "true change" on how we, in the fire service, look at our own health and safety.

The definition of "change" is: to become different; to become altered or modified; to become transformed or converted; to pass gradually into; and the substitution of one thing for another. As we all know, major changes in the fire service always meet stiff resistance because it is a challenge to the status quo - 200 years of tradition unimpeded by progress. Look how long it took the fire service to upgrade personal protective clothing from rubber coats, pull up boots, flimsy thin shell helmets, and orange rubber fireball gloves to the state-of-the-art protective clothing of today.

Thinking about the word "change," I recently had the privilege of delivering the *Courage to Be Safe*® class to the St. Louis County 78th Fire Recruit Class on April 13, 2009. The recruits were brand new to the fire service and just starting out with their careers. Their minds were ready to receive new ideas, knowledge, and health and safety concepts about the job of a firefighter before anyone else had the opportunity to contaminate them. I presented the initiatives by making them personal to each and every recruit and appealing to their common sense.

To my pleasant surprise, I received an email from one of the recruits several days after my presentation wanting permission to put the *Everyone Goes Home*® logo on their class T-shirts. We ran the request up the *Everyone Goes Home*® chain of command and the request was approved. This class wanted to support the 16 Firefighter Life Safety Initiatives and promote the *Everyone Goes Home*® message by placing the logo on their t-shirts.

I attended their graduation on June 24th. The 78th recruit class president spoke about commitment to education, training, good health, and never allowing complacency to affect them throughout their career so that "Everyone Goes Home." I was on cloud nine. The future of our fire service talking about, living, and promoting the very idea of change that all of us have been working so hard to instill in the corporate mind of the fire service.

The class honoree, Pattonville Fire Protection District retired Deputy Chief Mike Price, was honored with a class plaque that will hang on the fire academy wall for all future recruit classes, as well as, fire service personnel to see. On the plaque was the *Everyone Goes Home*® logo to remind us that "true change" is beginning to happen in the greater St. Louis area, no matter how gradual it seems to us.

My message to all state advocates is to keep plugging away. Keep trying to effect change in your local departments. Think about devoting as much time as possible with new recruits. This is where there is fertile

ground. This is where true change will happen as these young men and women enter the service and eventually work into leadership positions. We will then start seeing a dramatic reduction in LODD.

On a side note, I am happy to report the *Courage to Be Safe*® training program has been accepted as part of the class curriculum for the St. Louis County Fire Academy and St. Louis City Fire Department Academy. We are also working on placing it in the St. Charles County Fire Academy class curriculum. My fellow Missouri advocates and I will continue to work hard for change. How about you?

# Checklists Provide Uniform Processes, Consistency and Positive Outcomes

Michael Petroff  
Regional Advocate

Checklists provide a systematic approach to actions necessary to complete a task. The fire service has long used checklists for daily equipment readiness and service. The use of command checklists has broadened with the *Incident Management System and Field Operations Guidebook*. An excerpt from the *2007 Firescope Field Operations Guide* is as follows:

The following is a checklist applicable to all ICS personnel:

1. Receive assignment from your agency, including:
  - a. Job assignment, e.g., Strike Team designation, overhead position, etc.
  - b. Resource order number and request number
  - c. Reporting location
  - d. Reporting time
  - e. Travel instructions
  - f. Any special communications instructions, e.g., travel frequency

The need for incident documentation lends itself to the use of checklists to record action taken. Some fire officers voice the opinion that checklists diminish the intelligence level of the officer and that training and experience outweigh the need for checklists. However, normal and abnormal situations call for the use of checklists to ensure consistency and to assist less experienced personnel.

The safety and loss control efforts of the fire service are similar to those of service, transportation and manufacturing occupations. Studies of accidents or near misses show similar "acts of omission" across all occupations. Situational awareness and lack of training/experience lead the list of contributing factors. Checklists could be considered a risk management tool. Three recent events brought these issues to my attention. Two of the events were aircraft incidents, one successfully concluded, and one fatal.

Pilot experience, training and situational awareness were cited as potential causes of the crash of Continental Connection Flight 3407, February 2009, in Buffalo, New York. The pilot and copilot were heard on cockpit voice recorders sharing their fear of flying in icy conditions and remarked on how much ice was on the wings. Fifty lives were lost at this incident. During the investigation, the instructions contained in the aircraft flight manual and checklists will be reviewed thoroughly.

The "Miracle on the Hudson" involving U.S. Airways Flight 1549, January 2009, resulted in no loss of life. The training and experience of Captain Chesley "Sully" Sullenberger were a significant factor that resulted in the successful landing of the plane on water. During a television interview, Captain Sullenberger stated that after hitting the water, he and the copilot expressed their surprise that the landing was not as violent as expected and immediately went to the evacuation checklist. In an interview with [Air & Space Magazine](#), Captain Sullenberger commented on the use of other checklists throughout the emergency including the "loss of thrust" and "ditching" checklists.

Captain Sullenberger said, "Not only did we not have time to go through a ditching checklist, we didn't have time to even finish the checklist for loss of thrust in both engines. That was a three-page checklist, and we didn't even have time to finish the first page. That's how time-compressed this was."

Despite the lack of time to complete the checklists, Captain Sullenberger and his crew followed those checklists until the passengers had been evacuated.

1. THROTTLE OFF
2. FIRE LIGHT: DEPRESS
3. FIRE EXTINGUISHER READY LIGHT: DEPRESS

These are the first steps of the "Immediate Action Procedures" that are part of an emergency situation checklist for aircraft similar to the Airbus 320 flown by Captain Sullenberger. The steps are listed in BOLD on the

checklist and are Immediate Action Procedures. These items must be performed immediately to prevent a problem from becoming a catastrophe. In an article by Matt "Boom" Daniel, in *Industry News*, Daniel spoke of crew selection, training, and discipline as factors needed for safety in times of critical failure. In aviation, the steps called for in an emergency checklist are far too important to be left to memory. Only "Immediate Action Procedures", usually only three to four steps are "memory items". The following important steps require the use of checklists.

Near the end of the run of the television show "ER," Dr. John Carter was about to undergo kidney transplant surgery. The overanxious, almost arrogant surgeon in charge was about to proceed when Dr. Peter Benton stepped in and insisted on the use of a pre-surgery checklist. The use of the checklist revealed a critical "omission" that was discovered before surgery. That omission would have had fatal results.

David Dodson lists the benefits of fire service checklists in *Fire Department Incident Safety Officer*, 2nd edition Cengage Delmar.

1. A reminder of things that need to be done
2. Keep you on track in a "distracting" environment
3. Lend themselves to uniformity when transfer of "command"
4. Archiving (documentation) simplified
5. Format easy to use and easy to modify when needed.

Dodson also lists limitations of checklists including:

1. Over simplification
2. Failure to revisit items once "checked"
3. Limitations of checklists specific to incidents (a separate checklist for hazmat or confined space)
4. Checklists imply an order or importance, when completion of the tasks may need to be prioritized.

Checklists are useful and can be valuable for individuals assigned to unfamiliar positions or situations. Checklists provide a discipline to the task being performed for a seasoned officer. No matter the familiarity of the situation, checklists should serve as a reminder of the importance of the task and lead to a safe outcome.

# Advocates Wanted for the **Everyone Goes Home®** Program

You've just attended this year's Safety Summit, returned home to your fire department and wonder how you can spread the safety messages you have just learned to firefighters and officers in your department. Here's how: participate in the *Everyone Goes Home®* Advocate Outreach Program.

As you know, our efforts hope to reduce the number of preventable line-of duty-deaths (LODDs) each year - and we are succeeding. To continue this positive trend, we need firefighters like you to spread the word locally and statewide. The Advocate Outreach Program's goal is to have advocates meet with 400 individual fire departments by July 31, 2010. We need you to meet directly with firehouse chief officers, senior staff, and firefighters about firefighter life safety issues and to introduce and/or discuss the *Everyone Goes Home®* program. We are trying to reach to firefighters, officers, and departments that typically do not go to conferences, tradeshows, and other in-service opportunities.

To do this, we need to recruit *Everyone Goes Home®* advocates nationwide. We want to understand how the *Everyone Goes Home®* message, communication and training efforts are received and delivered to a typical firefighter or officer. We will provide you with the information to present the program, questions to ask firefighters, and a feedback tool to understand how to better serve the firefighter community. As an incentive, *Everyone Goes Home®* is offering \$150 for your time and efforts.

If you are interested in participating the Advocates Outreach Program, please email Linda Stone at [LStone1970@earthlink.net](mailto:LStone1970@earthlink.net).