

UNIT 2: FATALITY AND INJURY DATA



OBJECTIVES

The students will:

- **Describe the impact of a responder fatality or serious injury.**
- **Identify the most common causes of firefighter fatalities and injuries.**
- **Identify common denominators at firefighter fatality incidents.**

INTRODUCTION

- **Incident Commanders (ICs) know that safety is the first priority at any incident.**
- **The Incident Safety Officer (ISO) is usually one of the first Staff positions appointed by the IC.**



WHO IS THE INCIDENT SAFETY OFFICER TODAY?

YOU are!

- You may be called on at any time to fill this critical position.
- Can be the most rewarding professional assignment you will ever have.
- IS THERE A POLICY???
- What do you do?

**The Overriding
Concern for ALL
Fireground Operations
is**

SAFETY

Your Plan

Must meet 3 primary objectives of the IC:

- 1. Get 'em in safe**
- 2. Work 'em safe**
- 3. Get 'em out safe**

CULTURE of SAFETY

- Safety must be an organizational value
- The 95% TO 5% RULE
- You **can't** put a value on safety
- You **can** put a price on the consequences

DON'T SUCK AT BEING SAFE

Safety [Matters](#)

Safety [memo](#)

LODD [review](#)

HVB [form](#)

LINE-OF-DUTY DEATH



- This is a tragedy that we all want to avoid.
- Impact is not just on the immediate family.
- The impact is felt on the entire department and can affect work relations and communications.
- **Rule of 1000's**

[video](#)

4 Major Causes of LODD

1. Under-staffing / under-resourcing
2. Inadequate preparation for adverse events during operations
3. Incomplete Incident Command procedures
4. Sub-optimal personnel readiness

Source: Science Daily 2011

LODD

- **Twice as many LODD in Non-residential as in residential**

WHY??

MAJOR BREAKDOWN

- Failure to recognize when the building changes the rules
- Attempting to fit your “common operation” to all situations
- The 2 -1/2 story frame mentality
 - Lightweight Construction
 - Vacant Buildings
 - Large Area Structures

Decision of 1st-arriving company often makes or breaks the operation

Failure to recognize your own limitations

- **NO firefighters are tougher than:**
 - Fire
 - Electricity
 - Buildings that fall down
 - Moving vehicles

LIFE SAFETY INITIATIVE

16 POINTS--4 CRITICAL TO THE INCIDENT SAFETY OFFICER

- 1. Advocate leadership and personal responsibility for safety.**
- 2. Focus on risk management at all levels: strategic, tactical, and planning.**
- 3. Empower responders to stop unsafe practices.**
- 4. Learn from injuries, fatalities, and near misses.**

[video](#)

[video](#)

[video](#)

EVERYONE GOES HOME

- Program promotes safety and training, and publicizes the need for safety.
- "Sudden cardiac death is consistently the number one cause of on-duty firefighter fatalities in the U.S." (NFPA 2007)



RESPONDER INJURIES

- Firefighter injuries (over 80,000 in 2006), of which approximately half were fireground related.
- International Association of Fire Fighters (IAFF)--August 2008--*Contributing Factors to Firefighter Line-Of-Duty Injury in Metropolitan Fire Departments in the United States.*
 - Situational awareness.
 - Health/Fitness.

TABLE 2-1

QUESTIONS

- **What was the civilian life safety problem?**
- **Were the injuries or deaths predictable?**
- **Could they have been avoided?**
- **Was the most significant problem identified?**
- **Was there an ISO?**
- **Was there evidence of freelancing?**
- **What can responders do differently?**

NIOSH reports

Unsafe actions

- The most unsafe action on the fireground is FREELANCING
- Company and Battalion Level???
- How do you prevent it?????

UNITED FRONT

Task Assignment Model

(Decentralized Command Ops)

1. Stay Together as a Unit
2. Report to C.P. for Assignment
3. Report to Assigned Operational Area
 - Report Progress to Area Supervisor
4. Operate in Assigned Area ONLY
5. When Relieved, Report Back to C.P. for Re-assignment or Rehab
6. If Re-assigned, Go Back to Step #3
7. When Rehab is Complete, Go to Step #2

SET and ENFORCE EXPECTATIONS

ASSIGNMENTS

- **No Self Deployment**
- **No Self Assignment**
- **No Heroes**
- **No Cowboys**
- **ALL assignments go through the Command Post**
- **NO EXCEPTIONS**

SUMMARY

- **The ISO is critical to situational awareness.**
- **Students should find the data, the research, and the reports convincing.**
- **Better data about all response operations, civilians, and responders of all types would be good to know, but we know enough to tell us we can manage incidents better and safer.**
- **There are professional rewards and great satisfaction in doing this job well.**