

16

Firefighter Life Safety Initiatives

Adoption & Implementation



EVERYONE GOES HOME
FIREFIGHTER LIFE SAFETY INITIATIVES PROGRAM



Implementation Guidebook



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Emmitsburg, MD 21727
2008

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16 Firefighter Life Safety Initiatives
www.everyonegoeshome.com

The National Fallen Firefighters Foundation
Box 498
Emmitsburg MD 21727

Dear Fire Service Professional:

On behalf of the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation, its Board of Directors and staff, we welcome you to this course on how to implement the 16 Firefighter Life Safety Initiatives—the underpinning principles of our Everyone Goes Home Program®. Because this course deals with how to keep your brothers and sisters safe on the job, it can be argued that this is the most important training you will ever receive.

As you know, firefighters are dying in this country at an alarming and almost totally unnecessary rate. The Everyone Goes Home program, funded almost entirely through An Assistance to Firefighters Grant (commonly known as the Fire Act), was founded by the NFFF to develop programs and generate research into how we can eliminate all preventable firefighter line-of-duty deaths. We are committed to this not only to save your life and the lives of your sisters and brothers, but also to spare your families the grief that only a firefighter's death can deliver. We stand by our promise to bring you the best information on how to stay healthy and to go home after every fire department tour. The rest, however, is up to you.

You must bring the information you learn today back to your departments to begin the conversation on how your organization can adopt and implement the 16 Initiatives. It is not enough to claim that you believe in the Initiatives, you must live them. This will begin with an earnest organizational assessment about your department's gaps or shortfalls where safety is concerned. This introspection will lead you to the development of policies and procedures, training programs and other outreach efforts in order to deliver the message that everyone go home. The springboard for all the Initiatives is the same one—culture change. In order for you to bring the Initiatives home in a meaningful way, your organization will have to commit to profound changes in the way it does business. First and foremost, your department must put the safety of its firefighters at the center of all it does, from fireground operations to procuring the best and safety equipment and apparatus.

When you leave this course, you will be ready to begin your organization's safety assessment. We wish you all good luck in this endeavor and will stand by you in your efforts. At any time, contact the Everyone Goes Home program for more information, or to speak with one of our program managers.

Chief Ron J. Siarnicki, Executive Director
National Fallen Firefighters Foundation

A Short History of the 16 Firefighter Life Safety Initiatives

The U.S. Congress created the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation to lead a nationwide effort to honor America's fallen firefighters—a hundred or more who die annually performing their duties. Since 1992, the non-profit Foundation has developed and expanded programs that fulfill that mandate. The Foundation's mission is to honor and remember America's fallen fire heroes and to provide resources to assist their survivors in rebuilding their lives. In 2003, the Executive Director of the NFFF asked and received permission from the NFFF Board of Directors to expand the mission to include firefighter line-of-duty-death reduction goals. On March 10-11, 2004, an unprecedented gathering of the leadership of the American fire service took place in Tampa, Florida when more than 200 individuals assembled to focus on the troubling question of how to prevent line-of-duty deaths.

The first ever National Fire Fighter Life Safety Summit in Tampa was convened to bring the leadership of the fire service together for two days to focus all of their attention on this one critical issue – the reduction of firefighter injuries and line-of-duty deaths. Every identifiable segment of the fire service was represented and participated in the process. As a result of this unprecedented cooperation, the NFFF was selected to lead a national initiative to reduce firefighter fatalities by 25% within 5 years and by 50% in ten years (2014). The output of the Summit was to produce an agenda of Initiatives that must be addressed to reach those milestones. The Initiatives were based on a root-cause analysis of firefighter line-of-duty injuries and deaths.

The Summit produced a set of initiatives or principles that are increasingly being adopted by fire department organizations as their baseline for promoting firefighter survivability, both in emergency situations and while performing everyday duties. While every Initiative is grounded in common sense, some resulting policies may still cause discomfort and controversy within certain organizations. We urge you to work through these tougher issues and institute as many of the Initiatives that your organization can support. In the end, the benefits you reap will be in direct proportion to the effort put into the process.

A second summit regarding the 16 Firefighter Life Safety Initiatives was held in Novato, California in March of 2007. At these meetings, the 16 Initiatives were once again examined for credibility and their potential for adoption. The assembled leadership concluded that the Initiatives are essential to keeping firefighters safe and from dying unnecessarily.

16 Firefighter Life Safety Initiatives
www.everyonegoeshome.com

16 Firefighter Life Safety Initiatives (Grouped by Common Factors)

INITIATIVES		COMMON FACTOR
1	DEFINE AND ADVOCATE THE NEED FOR A CULTURAL CHANGE WITHIN THE FIRE SERVICE RELATING TO SAFETY; INCORPORATING LEADERSHIP, MANAGEMENT, SUPERVISION, ACCOUNTABILITY AND PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY.	FUNDAMENTAL CHANGE IN FIRE SERVICE CULTURE, ATTITUDES AND BEHAVIOURS
2	ENHANCE THE PERSONAL AND ORGANIZATIONAL ACCOUNTABILITY FOR HEALTH AND SAFETY THROUGHOUT THE FIRE SERVICE	
3	FOCUS GREATER ATTENTION ON THE INTEGRATION OF RISK MANAGEMENT WITH INCIDENT MANAGEMENT AT ALL LEVELS, INCLUDING STRATEGIC, TACTICAL, AND PLANNING RESPONSIBILITIES	
4	ALL FIREFIGHTERS MUST BE EMPOWERED TO STOP UNSAFE PRACTICES	
5	DEVELOP AND IMPLEMENT NATIONAL STANDARDS FOR TRAINING, QUALIFICATIONS, AND CERTIFICATION (INCLUDING REGULAR RECERTIFICATION) THAT ARE EQUALLY APPLICABLE TO ALL FIREFIGHTERS BASED ON THE DUTIES THEY ARE EXPECTED TO PERFORM.	
6	DEVELOP AND IMPLEMENT NATIONAL MEDICAL AND PHYSICAL FITNESS STANDARDS THAT ARE EQUALLY APPLICABLE TO ALL FIREFIGHTERS, BASED ON THE DUTIES THEY ARE EXPECTED TO PERFORM.	
11	NATIONAL STANDARDS FOR EMERGENCY RESPONSE POLICIES AND PROCEDURES SHOULD BE DEVELOPED AND CHAMPIONED.	
7	CREATE A NATIONAL RESEARCH AGENDA AND DATA COLLECTION SYSTEM THAT RELATES TO THE INITIATIVES.	RESEARCH & LEARN FROM EXPERIENCE
9	THOROUGHLY INVESTIGATE ALL FIREFIGHTER FATALITIES, INJURIES, AND NEAR MISSES.	
8	UTILIZE AVAILABLE TECHNOLOGY WHEREVER IT CAN PRODUCE HIGHER LEVELS OF HEALTH AND SAFETY.	OBTAIN AND APPLY TECHNOLOGICAL AND ENGINEERING SOLUTIONS
10	GRANT PROGRAMS SHOULD SUPPORT THE IMPLEMENTATION OF SAFE PRACTICES AND/OR MANDATE SAFE PRACTICES AS AN ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENT.	
16	SAFETY MUST BE A PRIMARY CONSIDERATION IN THE DESIGN OF APPARATUS AND EQUIPMENT.	
12	NATIONAL PROTOCOLS FOR RESPONSE TO VIOLENT INCIDENTS SHOULD BE DEVELOPED AND CHAMPIONED	REDUCE EXPOSURE TO VIOLENT INCIDENTS
14	PUBLIC EDUCATION MUST RECEIVE MORE RESOURCES AND BE CHAMPIONED AS A CRITICAL FIRE AND LIFE SAFETY PROGRAM.	REDUCE EXPOSURE
15	ADVOCACY MUST BE STRENGTHENED FOR THE ENFORCEMENT OF CODES AND THE INSTALLATION OF HOME FIRE SPRINKLERS.	
13	FIREFIGHTERS AND THEIR FAMILIES MUST HAVE ACCESS TO COUNSELLING AND PSYCHOLOGICAL SUPPORT.	REINFORCE NEW CULTURAL NORMS

Adopting and Implementing the 16 Firefighter Life Safety Initiatives

Initiative 1: Define and advocate the need for a cultural change within the fire service relating to safety, incorporating leadership, management, supervision, accountability and personal responsibility.

SUPPORTING STATEMENT: The fire service is proud of its traditions, embedded in its culture, but some traditions place a high value on unsafe and unnecessarily risky behaviors. These behaviors have resulted in over 100 firefighters being killed in the line of duty each year. There were 115 LODDs in the US in 2007.

What Does this Initiative Mean? Cultural change has to begin with informal leaders, managers, and supervisors. From top to bottom: the culture of the fire service must change. You can change your behavior TODAY.

Rate Where You Are Now:

Initiative 1	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
Firefighter health and safety are supported values within my fire department: Firefighter survivability is our Number 1 value.					
Everyone in my department is familiar with health & safety SOPs & SOGs.					
Safety training is embedded in all our training from recruit school through officer training.					
Every manager & supervisor understands their personal responsibility to implement safety policies & procedures.					
People are held accountable for compliance with health & safety policies.					
There is a gap between our stated commitment to safety & our behaviors.					

[FYI: Edgar Schein, one of the most prominent theorists of organizational culture, says: *The culture of a group can now be defined as: A pattern of shared basic assumptions that the group learned as it solved its problems of external adaptation and internal integration, that has worked well enough to be considered valid and therefore, to be taught to new members as the correct way to perceive, think, and feel in relation to those problems.* (Edgar Schein, 1993. Organizational Culture and Leadership. In Classics of Organization Theory. Jay Shafritz and J. Steven Ott, eds. 2001. Fort Worth: Harcourt College Publishers.)

According to Schein, cultural analysis is especially valuable for dealing with aspects of organizations that seem irrational, frustrating, and intractable. He writes, "The bottom line for leaders is that if they do not become conscious of the cultures in which they are embedded, those cultures will manage them."] Sound familiar?

Initiative # 1 Worksheet

Gap Analysis: Are there any examples of where your Department may fall short or have a gap in this area?

How would you begin to implement this Initiative in your Department?

Can you identify any existing barrier & suggest some ways to overcome them?

Notes:

Initiative 2: Enhance the personal and organizational accountability for health and safety throughout the fire service.

SUPPORTING STATEMENT: Seventy-five percent of LODDS can be traced to preventable behaviors—rooted in beliefs and attitudes.

What Does this Initiative Mean? Everyone in the organization must be held accountable for his or her own personal health and safety. The organization must promote and enforce and adhere to safe practices at all times.

Rate Where You Are Now:

Initiative 2	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
SOPs and SOGs are widely available & there is an expectation that everyone will follow them—there are no informal exceptions that undermine safety behaviors.					
Safety is embedded in all training so as to achieve a Train/Learn/Teach ethic in all fire department activities.					
An Incident Scene Safety Officer is designated whenever appropriate					
Vehicle inspection schedules & equipment checks are strictly obeyed.					
My department has a non-negotiable mandatory seat belt policy that, without exception, is enforced.					
Chiefs) and other managers create an environment where safety is paramount.					
Company officers advocate safety & hold their crews accountable.					
Firefighters participate in safety programs & provide feedback on safe practices & policies & procedures relative to safety.					

The Safety Ethic: “...we need a strong ethic for our own self-preservation and long life. He gives us five elements that are key components of a safety ethic that I feel all firefighters and officers must commit to in order to change the culture of the fire service.” (Robert H. Hill, Jr. Ph.D. of the Office of Health and Safety, for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Atlanta GA)

*Elements of the Safety Ethic**

1. I value safety as a positive, integral part of my everyday activities;
2. I work safely by minimizing risks of injury or illness;
3. I prevent at-risk behavior whenever I encounter it;
4. I promote safety to others whenever possible;
5. I accept responsibility for safety as a free act of caring for others.

**Consider the safety ethic as part of a new mission statement for your organization--grounded in safety and concern for your brothers and sisters.*

Initiative # 2 Worksheet

Gap Analysis: Are there any examples of where your Department may fall short or have a gap in this area?

How would you begin to implement this Initiative in your Department?

Can you identify any existing barrier & suggest some ways to overcome them?

Notes:

Initiative 3: Focus greater attention on the integration of risk management with incident management at all levels, including strategic, tactical, and planning responsibilities.

SUPPORTING STATEMENT: Risk-management systems have worked in other organizations substantially reducing accidents and preventing injuries.

What Does this Initiative Mean? Identifying known risks is the single most important process that a department can apply to injury reduction. Learn the concept of “Risk Management”; Ensure everyone understands the difference between and acceptable risk and an unacceptable risk. Develop and implement a system to pre-identify unacceptable risks. (FYI: Risk management is the human activity that integrates recognition of risk, risk assessment, developing strategies to manage it, and mitigation of risk using managerial resources. The strategies include transferring the risk to another party, avoiding the risk, reducing the negative effect of the risk, and accepting some or all of the consequences of a particular risk.)

Rate Where You Are Now:

Initiative 3	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
My department develops pre-incident action plans.					
My department has & utilizes RIT/RIC Teams.					
An Incident Scene Safety Officer is designated where appropriate					
All members understand the principles of situational awareness.					
We have a critique process for post incident analysis & we review every call for safety violations & unsafe behaviors.					
My dept. has developed command teams based on NIMS protocols.					
We periodically review SOPs to reflect environmental changes.					
All members of the department understand the Risk Management protocols					

RISK MANAGEMENT

- #1 EVERYBODY goes home
 - #2 Rescue/Protect exposures, but remember rule #1
 - #3 If it's attainable, go get it, if in doubt, refer to rule #1
 - #4 It ain't our problem, we are there to help, not die...rule #1
 - #5 Any questions, see rule #1
- From a Firehouse.com blog
SPFDRum (10-3-02)**

Initiative # 3 Worksheet

Gap Analysis: Are there any examples of where your Department may fall short or have a gap in this area?

How would you begin to implement this Initiative in your Department?

Can you identify any existing barrier & suggest some ways to overcome them?

Notes:

Initiative 4: All firefighters must be empowered to stop unsafe practices.

SUPPORTING STATEMENT: Other high-risk industries have lowered their accident rates dramatically by empowering all employees to identify & communicate an unsafe practice or a pending environmental change.

What Does this Initiative Mean? Firefighters must be allowed to identify and report unsafe practices. They must be able to stop activities that present imminent harm to themselves or others, without fear of penalty or reprisal. In order for this to have meaning, all firefighters must be trained to recognize unsafe behaviors committed by themselves and others. Fireground commanders and officers must recognize the integrity of those who “see something and say something” and not penalize them.

Rate Where You Are Now:

Initiative 4	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
We understand risk-analysis & apply risk-assessment analysis to every incident.					
We utilize verbal & non-verbal cues to indicate the presence of danger.					
We instruct all firefighters to identify unsafe practices (such a through the adoption of a Red Flag Safety program).					

[Note: Asking questions and noting changes in the environment are the keys here. This initiative has garnered a lot of criticism because, on the surface, it could condone the acceptance of insubordination. The 4th initiative is about empowering (to give power or authority to) our teams to look out for one another]

Crew (or Cockpit) Resource Management (CRM) training originated from a NASA workshop in 1979 that focused on improving air safety. The NASA research presented at this meeting found that the primary cause of the majority of aviation accidents was **human error**, and that the main problems were failures of **interperao[n]l communication, leadership, and decision making** in the cockpit. A variety of CRM models have been successfully adapted to different types of industries and organizations, all based on the same basic concepts and principles. It has recently been adopted by the fire service to help improve situational awareness on the fireground.
(Wikipedia)

Here is an example of a possible CRM conversation:

Opening or attention getter - Address the individual. "Hey Chief," or "Captain Smith," or "Bob," or whatever name or title will get the person's attention.

State your concern - State what you see in a direct manner while owning your emotions about it. "I think we might have fire extension into the roof structure."

State the problem as you see it - "This building has a lightweight steel truss roof. I'm worried that it might collapse."

State a solution - "I think we should pull some tiles and take a look with the thermal imaging camera before we commit crews inside."

Obtain agreement (or buy-in) - "Does that sound good to you, Captain?"

Initiative # 4 Worksheet

Gap Analysis: Are there any examples of where your Department may fall short or have a gap in this area?

How would you begin to implement this Initiative in your Department?

Can you identify any existing barrier & suggest some ways to overcome them?

Notes:

Initiative 5: Develop and implement national standards for training, qualifications, and certification (including regular re-certification) that are equally applicable to all firefighters based on the duties they are expected to perform.

SUPPORTING STATEMENT: National standards for firefighters at virtually all levels of training already exist—however; they are not universally adopted and used as measurements for job readiness or competence.

What Does this Initiative Mean? Fire service departments are recognizing national certification standards as a way to measure the competency of their members. National standards encourage departments to operate at higher levels of effectiveness. It is not an accident that so many of the Initiatives hinge on training. It is only by the introduction of new ideas and material through education and training that we can change our organizational dynamics and culture.

RATE WHERE YOU ARE NOW:

Initiative 5	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
My dept. supports, by allowing time for study and test-taking (as well as financially) efforts of firefighters to seek state and national certifications					
Specific certifications are mandatory for promotion or for assuming new areas of duty.					
In my dept. e-certification understood as an important part of the overall training effort and is sought.					



Initiative # 5 Worksheet

Gap Analysis: Are there any examples of where your Department may fall short or have a gap in this area?

How would you begin to implement this Initiative in your Department?

Can you identify any existing barrier & suggest some ways to overcome them?

Notes:

Initiative 6: Develop and implement national medical and physical fitness standards that are equally applicable to all firefighters, based on the duties they are expected to perform.

SUPPORTING STATEMENT: 50% of all firefighter line-of-duty deaths are heart-related. In many departments, sprains, strains and falls account for over 90% of firefighter injuries. Many of these injuries are related to poor physical conditioning.

What Does this Initiative Mean? In this profession, health and wellness are non-negotiable. Departments should establish and enforce SOPs which support wellness; individuals must embrace wellness as a strategy for successful fire service careers or seek employment elsewhere.

RATE WHERE YOU ARE NOW:

Initiative 6	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
Our department has standards for health and wellness that are linked to performance?					
Personally, I have adopted a heart-healthy lifestyle—including food choices and regular exercise?					
I would feel comfortable telling my supervisor that I need to seek medical attention for an immediate or long-term condition.					
Our department has a non-smoking policy for all employees—on and off the job?					



Fire Service Joint Labor Management Wellness-Fitness Initiative

The International Association of Fire Fighters, in cooperation with the International Association of Fire Chiefs, has committed to an unprecedented endeavor. We have gathered together some of North America's finest fire departments in an effort to build a stronger fire service by strengthening our foundation - the fire fighter.

Fitness physically, mentally, and emotionally requires an effective wellness program available to recruits, active fire fighters, and retirees. The Fire Service Joint Labor Management Wellness/Fitness Initiative is an exciting challenge in what we foresee as a positive process for the fire service. An overall wellness/fitness system must be holistic, positive, rehabilitating and educational. Key issues of the initiative incorporate the following points:

- Overcome the historic fire service punitive mentality of physical fitness and wellness issues;
- Move beyond negative timed, task-based performance testing to progressive wellness improvement;
- Require a commitment by labor and management to a positive individualized fitness/wellness program; and
- Develop a holistic wellness approach that includes: medical, fitness, injury/fitness/medical rehabilitation and behavioral health

Initiative # 6 Worksheet

Gap Analysis: Are there any examples of where your Department may fall short or have a gap in this area?

How would you begin to implement this Initiative in your Department?

Can you identify any existing barrier & suggest some ways to overcome them?

Notes:

Initiative 7: Create a national research agenda & data collection system that relates to the initiatives.

SUPPORTING STATEMENT: We are in danger of emphasizing & correcting the wrong safety behaviors if we don't have data to isolate where things are going wrong in the attitudes, beliefs, & behavior linkage.

What Does this Initiative Mean? We won't know if we are living the Initiatives if we don't collect data. Data analysis is the key to making any course corrections regarding the Life Safety Initiatives.

RATE WHERE YOU ARE NOW:

Initiative 7	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
My department collects NFIRS (National Fire Incident Reporting System) data and forwards it the state every year.					
My dept. uses data (such as vehicle accidents, PPE failures, and absence rates) upon which to base policy decisions.					
My department tracks near-misses, injuries, accidents and develops corrective actions.					

Data collection has to happen at the local level: Provide documentation training to all members:

- ❖ Report Writing
- ❖ Disciplinary documentation
- ❖ Developing Training programs
- ❖ Writing Press Releases to announcement positive changes (such as a decline in firefighter injuries due to a new safety program).

U.S. Fire Administration: TOPICAL FIRE RESEARCH SERIES
 Volume 2, Issue 2 August 2001 (Rev. March 2002) Firefighter Injuries in Structures
FINDINGS

- 45,500 firefighters were injured at the fire scene in 1999. 85% of these injuries occurred responding to or fighting structure fires.
- Total firefighter injuries and injuries per fire have trended down significantly 10 years
- Although 72% of firefighter injuries were at one-and two-family dwellings, risk of injury to the firefighter is higher at apartment fires—34 injuries per thousand apartment fires versus 28 per thousand one-and two-family structure fires.
- Injury risk is even higher at non-residential structures (44 per thousand fires).

Sources: NFPA and NFIRS

◀FYI We wouldn't know any of this stuff if data at the local level hadn't been collected and reported to NFIRS. We make good policies based on good data.

Encourage your dept to collect and report!

Initiative # 7 Worksheet

Gap Analysis: Are there any examples of where your Department may fall short or have a gap in this area?

How would you begin to implement this Initiative in your Department?

Can you identify any existing barrier & suggest some ways to overcome them?

Notes:

Initiative 8: Utilize available technology wherever it can produce higher levels of health and safety.

Supporting Statement: Technologies may already exist that could further the cause of firefighter survivability—but we lack systems of identifying them and bringing them into the fire service.

What Does this Initiative Mean? It is irresponsible not to use technology when it can improve safety outcomes. Technological solutions should be a leverage and a tool for improving fireground safety. This Initiative suggests that you attend conferences to keep abreast of new technologies and take this knowledge back to your department.

RATE WHERE YOU ARE NOW:

Initiative 8	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
My dept. has a research/development committee.					
We have a process for reviewing and adopting new technology,					
We are encouraged to seek new ideas about technological advancements.					
We use local resources to bring in new ideas [such as local colleges and universities]					
My dept. encourages vendors to come to our jurisdiction to demonstrate new equipment and materials.					
I belong to at least one firefighter organizations or receive at least one periodical that focus on technology advancements in the fire service.					



FIRE TECHNOLOGY—

A.A. OR A.S. DEGREE OR CERTIFICATE

Students must fulfill major requirements and all Associate Degree Requirements for the A.A./A.S. degree.

REQUIRED COURSES

Fire Tec 1 Fire Protection Organization - 3 Units

Fire Tec 3 Fire Behavior & Combustion - 3 Units

Fire Tec 4 Fire Protection Equipment & Systems - 3 Units

Fire Tec 5 Fire Prevention Technology - 3 Units

Fire Tec 8 Building Construction for Fire Protection - 3 Units

Initiative 9: Thoroughly investigate all firefighter fatalities, injuries, and near misses.

Supporting Statement: Risk analysts believe that many virtually all accidents are rehearsed many times in near misses.

What Does this Initiative Mean? Even if your organization is uncomfortable with sharing information about a fatality, injury, or near-miss incident, it is a moral obligation to do so. Knowing what happened can prevent it from happening again.

RATE WHERE YOU ARE NOW

Initiative 9	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
We examine every near miss & report them to the National Registry so others may learn & track them internally. Corrective actions are developed to address deficiencies					

Report Number: 07-0000791



Report Date: 03/11/2007

Event Description

Station A [number deleted], Station B [number deleted], and the BC responded to a vehicle fire with residential exposures. Upon arrival, Eng A found a fully involved vehicle fire with an immediate residential exposure to the west (15-20 feet). Upon securing a water supply it was noticed that another vehicle (vehicle #2) was positioned between the fully involved vehicle (vehicle #1) and the residential exposure (less than 5 feet). Vehicle #2 had just started to combust as crosslays were being deployed. As the crosslays were being extended into position, the rescue crew was approaching from the south when a loud “pop” came from vehicle #1. Multiple “pops” occurred throughout the incident until fire control was obtained. The rescue crew observed a missile fly through the air and land parallel to the staging of their rescue (approximately 75 yards from the vehicle). The vehicle fires were declared loss stopped with no damage to the structure.

Lesson Learned

Knowledge, proper training, and situational awareness need to be emphasized along with proper SOG’s. Firefighter’s respond to vehicle fires regularly; a very common call... Where everything goes as planned... Fire goes out; pick it all up and go home. But, add numerous exposures, especially a residential exposure, and it is very easy to misalign priorities. This can cause unsafe actions to be taken on the fire scene. Maintaining distance and remembering the forty-five degree rule, working in teams, keeping up on new vehicle construction and added safety features can help with safe operation while on a vehicle fire scene. Turnouts are fire resistant and not shrapnel proof. Remember the calculated risk management plan: • We will risk our lives a lot, in a calculated manner, to save SAVABLE lives. • We will risk our lives a Little, in a calculated manner, to save SAVABLE property. • We will not risk our lives at all for lives or property that are already Lost.

Initiative # 9 Worksheet

Gap Analysis: Are there any examples of where your Department may fall short or have a gap in this area?

How would you begin to implement this Initiative in your Department?

Can you identify any existing barrier & suggest some ways to overcome them?

Notes:

Initiative 10: Grant programs should support the implementation of safe practices and/or mandate safe practices as an eligibility requirement.

Supporting Statement: The preponderance of grants sought & obtained by fire departments are for equipment & apparatus—there should be discipline in the granting process to restrict funds for safer operations.

What Does this Initiative Mean? There is grant money available for you to begin implementing the initiatives. Grants should, however, be tied to increasing safety measures. No safe practices/no grant.

RATE WHERE YOU ARE NOW:

Initiative 10	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
We have trained at least one person in my department how to effectively write grants and to manage a grant if it is obtained.					
My department has applied for a grant at least once the past two years.					
When we do not get awarded a grant, we seek assistance from the granting agency to improve future applications.					
When we get a grant document the positive changes that came about because of the opportunity.					

[FYI: In order to qualify for a Fire Act Grant, your department must report NFIRS data and use the National Incident Management System (NIMS)].

January 4, 2008

Round 22 of the FY 2007 AFG Awards

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) announced today the twenty-second round of Fiscal Year (FY) 2007 Assistance to Firefighters Grants, awarding 357 grants totaling over \$31 million to fire departments throughout the United States.

January 4, 2008

Awards for 2007 Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) Grants Announced

The Federal Emergency Management Agency today announced awards for the Fiscal Year 2007 Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response Grant (SAFER) awarding 7 grants to fire departments in the United States.

October 19, 2007

Awards for Fiscal Year 2006 Assistance to Firefighters Grants (AFG) Announced

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) announced today awards for the Fiscal Year 2006 Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) awarding three grants to fire departments in the United States.

UPDATES

New Success Story - Owls Head - Mt. View Volunteer Fire Company, Inc.

This Assistance to Firefighters Grant success story discusses Owls Head - Mt. View Volunteer Fire Company (Malone, NY) and how the grant helped purchase equipment which has played a monumental part in making their firefighters and their citizens safer.

Initiative # 10 Worksheet

Gap Analysis: Are there any examples of where your Department may fall short or have a gap in this area?

How would you begin to implement this Initiative in your Department?

Can you identify any existing barrier & suggest some ways to overcome them?

Notes:

Initiative 11: National standards for emergency response policies and procedures should be developed and championed.

Supporting Statement: 25% of all LODDs are related to vehicle un-safety—primarily responding to or returning from an emergency event, or presumed emergency event.

What Does this Initiative Mean? National Standards for emergency response policies and procedures should be developed. At the local level, departments may have to increase response times to “arrive alive.” Departments should develop risk-reduction policies such as no red lights and sirens to routine calls, or “Hot, Warm, Cool” protocols.

WHERE DO YOU RATE NOW:

Initiative 11	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
Our department has response policies which promote unsafe driving behavior, such as an established “arrive time” which is unrealistic.					
My organization has widely available safe driving rules that are promoted and enforced, including tying down all objects within the cab.					
We have and enforce a mandated seat belt policy.					
I would know where to look for model driving & response policies department can use (www.everyonegoeshome.com website).					
Everyone in my department is held accountable for safe vehicle operations—aggressive & dangerous driving is penalized, even when no accident occurs.					
My work culture supports “see something, say something” regarding dangerous vehicle operations.					

FYI: The Everyone Goes Home Program strongly endorses and supports the **National Fire Service and EMS Seat Belt Pledge** name after Firefighter Christopher Brian Hunton (Amarillo, TX, age 27) who fell out of his fire truck while responding to an alarm. He was not wearing his seat belt.*

Take & Live the Seat Belt Pledge:

I pledge to wear my seat belt whenever I am riding in a Fire Department vehicle. I further pledge to insure that all my brother and sister firefighters riding with me wear their seat belts. I am making this pledge willingly; to honor Brian Hunton my brother firefighter because wearing seat belts is the right thing to do.

 (Signature)

Initiative # 11 Worksheet

Gap Analysis: Are there any examples of where your Department may fall short or have a gap in this area?

How would you begin to implement this Initiative in your Department?

Can you identify any existing barrier & suggest some ways to overcome them?

Notes:

Initiative 12: National protocols for response to violent incidents (including terrorism) should be developed and championed.

Supporting Statement: Firefighters & EMT are increasingly at risk for responding to incidents where potential violence exists.

What Does this Initiative Mean? Fire and EMS workers deserve to have policies that will reduce their exposure to all threats of violence. It is imperative that your department has policies to “stage” violent incident responses, removing the pressure to react immediately. SOPs should include “Go” and “no-Go” criteria based on firefighter safety and a risk assessment.

WHERE DO YOU RATE NOW:

Initiative 12	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
My department has policies regarding workplace violence.					
All employees are trained & drilled on what to do if there is workplace violence.					
Our firefighters and EMTs been trained on how to handle incidents regarding domestic disturbances, bomb threats, suspicious packages, and for the potential of danger in large public gatherings.					
My organization is prepared for a terrorist incident and works with our allied public safety departments for a coordinated response.					

**“Six Firefighters Shot, Injured in Indiana Violence
 All Remain Hospitalized, One Seriously”**

**“Memphis: Firefighting Presents More Dangers Than Just
 Fire”**

**“Ky. Firefighter Killed, Second
 Wounded in Shooting at Scene
 of Domestic 'Worst Nightmare': Domestic
 Dispute Call Turns to Tragedy”**

Initiative # 12 Worksheet

Gap Analysis: Are there any examples of where your Department may fall short or have a gap in this area?

How would you begin to implement this Initiative in your Department?

Can you identify any existing barrier & suggest some ways to overcome them?

Notes:

Initiative 13: Firefighters and their families must have access to counseling and psychological support.

Supporting Statement: Like other first responders, firefighters & their families are at-risk for stress-related illnesses. These can impact on work performance & family health.

What Does this Initiative Mean? Firefighting is a high-risk occupation that, from time to time, can put the employee and his or her family under extreme stress. Firefighters and EMTs and their families deserve access to mental health care. Remember, don't tough it out and if you see someone struggling emotionally, help. "See something, say something," can save a life in more ways than one.

WHERE DO YOU RATE NOW:

Initiative 13	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
My department provides an Employee/Volunteer Assistance Program.					
Members of the department are encouraged to take advantage of EAP/VAP as needed.					
We provide stress management, drug and alcohol abuse recognition & treatment.					



Initiative # 13 Worksheet

Gap Analysis: Are there any examples of where your Department may fall short or have a gap in this area?

How would you begin to implement this Initiative in your Department?

Can you identify any existing barrier & suggest some ways to overcome them?

Notes:

Initiative 14: Public education must receive more resources and be championed as a critical fire and life safety program.

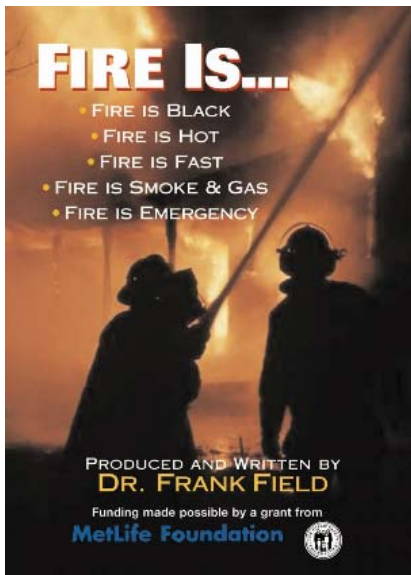
Supporting Statement: Fewer fires mean fewer firefighters are put on the path to a line of duty death; fire prevention is a moral activity that will save firefighters' lives.

What Does this Initiative Mean? Public Education is a responsibility of all fire service personnel. It should not be reserved for one week on October. Increased civilian awareness will decrease firefighter risks. This Initiative encourages you to make communicating the fire prevention message to the community a priority. There is an abundance of material (much of it free) that can be used in a variety of institutional settings. Citizens should understand that they are on the front line of fire prevention and it is their responsibility to protect their families (and their firefighters). **Prevention is a LODD-reduction strategy.**

WHERE DO YOU RATE NOW:

Initiative 14	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
Public Education and Fire Prevention are priorities in my fire department?					
Duty time spent in Pub Ed is recognized as a stepping-stone to promotion.					
My fire chief is a vocal advocate of public education in our dept. & community.					

FYI: The Firefighter Life Safety Resource Kit (2) contains an award-winning school-based program, "FIRE IS..." A teaching guide is also included. If your department did not receive Kit 2, contact the Firefighter Life Safety Initiatives Program at www.everyonegoeshome.com.



Initiative # 14 Worksheet

Gap Analysis: Are there any examples of where your Department may fall short or have a gap in this area?

How would you begin to implement this Initiative in your Department?

Can you identify any existing barrier & suggest some ways to overcome them?

Notes:

Initiative 15: *Advocacy must be strengthened for the enforcement of codes and the installation of home fire sprinklers.*

Supporting statement: There has never been a reported firefighter death in a fully sprinklered residential fire.

What Does this Initiative Mean? The widespread use of residential sprinklers will improve outcomes for civilians and decrease firefighter injuries and LODDs. All firefighters should be taught how fire sprinkler systems operate and the value they bring to reducing LODDs. Fire departments should advocate for sprinkler ordinances in their communities.

RATE WHERE YOU STAND NOW:

Initiative 15	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
My community has a residential sprinkler ordinance (at least for new construction).					
My dept. has actively supported local sprinkler ordinances and takes every opportunity to do so.					
Our firefighters are educated to be residential fire sprinkler advocates & they can effectively counter the following arguments: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Sprinklers lead to additional water damage ❖ They are too costly ❖ Builders are opposed to residential sprinklers 					

By Adam Ross, [County Times](#)

LEONARDTOWN, Md. -- Commissioner Thomas A. Mattingly Sr. (D-Leonardtown) has been a volunteer fire fighter for 42 years, so it was no surprise when he choked up Monday night while urging his constituents to support a residential sprinkler mandate on all newly constructed single and two family home constructions utilizing public or shared water systems maintained by the Metropolitan Commission, and subdivisions with six or more lots.

The commissioners listened intently as Mattingly delivered more than 7-minutes worth of prepared comments, but his conviction did little to sway them: the board vetoed Mattingly's motion by a 4 to 1 vote. Not even Daniel H. Raley (D-Great Mills), Mattingly's confidant, could support the legislation that cost new home constructions on private well systems up to \$12,500 in additional construction costs – 42 percent of the anticipated single and two family home constructions in the RPD next year will beconstructed... on private well systems. That equates to 365 of the 867 planned home constructions next year being on private

Initiative # 15 Worksheet

Gap Analysis: Are there any examples of where your Department may fall short or have a gap in this area?

How would you begin to implement this Initiative in your Department?

Can you identify any existing barrier & suggest some ways to overcome them?

Notes:

Initiative 16: *Safety must be a primary consideration in the design of apparatus and equipment.*

Supporting statement: Apparatus manufacturers are designing safer pieces—fire departments must demand and support “safety through design” initiatives as cost effective for the manufacturers.

What Does this Initiative Mean? Encourage your department to make “safety” the highest priority in equipment and apparatus purchases—as high as design and price.

All departments should have an apparatus committee to determine the department’s policies on equipment and apparatus purchases—always with safety as the highest priority. Use NFPA 1901 (Standard for Automotive Fire Apparatus) as a guide.

WHERE DO YOU RATE NOW:

Initiative 16:	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
My dept. has a formal policy for choosing & outfitting new apparatus.					
Our apparatus & equipment are designed for local use—not cast-offs that ware ineffective in our environment.					
When we purchase new equipment we place firefighter safety as a higher priority than appearance or other bells and whistles.					



Tentative Interim Amendment

NFPA 1901

Standard for Automotive Fire Apparatus

2003 Edition

Initiative # 16 Worksheet

Gap Analysis: Are there any examples of where your Department may fall short or have a gap in this area?

How would you begin to implement this Initiative in your Department?

Can you identify any existing barrier & suggest some ways to overcome them?

Notes:

Appendices

- A. Sequencing for Developing a Firefighter Life Safety Program Based on the 16 Initiatives
- B. Fire Department Life Safety Initiatives Self-Assessment Tool
- C. Brian Hunton Seat Belt Pledge

Appendix A: Sequencing for Developing a Firefighter Life Safety Program based on the 16 Initiatives

Step 1

- Educate your firefighters about the 16 Firefighter Life Safety Initiatives

Step 2

- Conduct a departmental assessment.

Step 3

- Develop an Action Plan for implementation

Step 4

- Review, revise, and implement the recommended changes

Step 5

- Document your findings and share your successes

Appendix B: FIRE DEPARTMENT LIFE SAFETY INITIATIVES SELF-ASSESSMENT TOOL

Initiative 1: Define & advocate the need for a cultural change within the fire service relating to safety, incorporating leadership, management, supervision, accountability & personal responsibility.	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
Firefighter health and safety are supported values within my fire department: Firefighter survivability is our Number 1 value.					
Everyone in my department is familiar with health & safety SOPs & SOGs.					
Safety training is embedded in all our training from recruit school through officer training.					
Every manager & supervisor understands their personal responsibility to implement safety policies & procedures.					
People are held accountable for compliance with health & safety policies.					
There is a gap between our stated commitment to safety & our behaviors.					
Initiative 2: Enhance the personal & organizational accountability for health & safety throughout the fire service.	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
SOPs and SOGs are widely available & there is an expectation that everyone will follow them—there are no informal exceptions that undermine safety behaviors.					
Safety is embedded in all training so as to achieve a Train/Learn/Teach ethic in all fire department activities.					
An Incident Scene Safety Officer is designated whenever appropriate					
Vehicle inspection schedules & equipment checks are strictly obeyed.					
My department has a non-negotiable mandatory seat belt policy that, without exception, is enforced.					
Initiative 3: Focus greater attention on the integration of risk management with incident management at all levels, including strategic, tactical, & planning responsibilities.	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
My department develops pre-incident action plans.					
My department has & utilizes RIT/RIC Teams.					
An Incident Scene Safety Officer is designated where appropriate					
All members understand the principles of situational awareness.					

16 Firefighter Life Safety Initiatives

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We have a critique process for post incident analysis & we review every call for safety violations & unsafe behaviors.					
My dept. has developed command teams based on NIMS protocols.					
We periodically review SOPs to reflect environmental changes.					
All members of the department understand the Risk Management protocols					
Initiative 4: All firefighters must be empowered to stop unsafe practices.	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
We understand risk-analysis & apply risk-assessment analysis to every incident.					
We utilize verbal & non-verbal cues to indicate the presence of danger.					
We instruct all firefighters to identify unsafe practices (such a through the adoption of a Red Flag Safety program).					
Initiative 5: Develop and implement national standards for training, qualifications, and certification (including regular re-certification) that are equally applicable to all firefighters based on the duties they are expected to perform.	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
My dept. supports, by allowing time for study and test-taking (as well as financially) efforts of firefighters to seek state and national certifications					
Specific certifications are mandatory for promotion or for assuming new areas of duty.					
In my dept. e-certification understood as an important part of the overall training effort and is sought.					
Initiative 6: Develop and implement national medical and physical fitness standards that are equally applicable to all firefighters, based on the duties they are expected to perform.	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
Our department has standards for health and wellness that are linked to performance?					
Personally, I have adopted a heart-healthy lifestyle—including food choices and regular exercise?					
I would feel comfortable telling my supervisor that I need to seek medical attention for an immediate or long-term condition.					
Our department has a non-smoking policy for all employees—on and off the job?					
Initiative 7: Create a national research agenda & data collection system that relates to the initiatives.	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree

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My department collects NFIRS (National Fire Incident Reporting System) data and forwards it the state every year.					
My dept. uses data (such as vehicle accidents, PPE failures, and absence rates) upon which to base policy decisions.					
Initiative 8: Utilize available technology wherever it can produce higher levels of health and safety.	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
My dept. has a research/development committee.					
We have a process for reviewing and adopting new technology,					
We are encouraged to seek new ideas about technological advancements.					
We use local resources to bring in new ideas [such as local colleges and universities]					
My dept. encourages vendors to come to our jurisdiction to demonstrate new equipment and materials.					
I belong to at least one firefighter organizations or receive at least one periodical that focus on technology advancements in the fire service.					
Initiative 9: Thoroughly investigate all firefighter fatalities, injuries, & near misses.	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
We examine every near miss & report them to the National Registry so others may learn & track them internally. Corrective actions are developed to address deficiencies					
Initiative 10: Grant programs should support the implementation of safe practices and/or mandate safe practices as an eligibility requirement.	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
We have trained at least one person in my department how to effectively write grants and to manage a grant if it is obtained.					
My department has applied for a grant at least once the past two years.					
When we do not get awarded a grant, we seek assistance from the granting agency to improve future applications.					
When we get a grant document the positive changes that came about because of the opportunity.					
Initiative 11: National standards for emergency response policies & procedures should be developed & championed.	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
Our department has response policies which promote unsafe driving behavior, such as an established "arrive time" which is unrealistic.					

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My organization has widely available safe driving rules that are promoted and enforced, including tying down all objects within the cab.					
We have and enforce a mandated seat belt policy.					
I would know where to look for model driving & response policies department can use (www.everyonegoeshome.com website).					
Everyone in my department is held accountable for safe vehicle operations—aggressive & dangerous driving is penalized, even when no accident occurs.					
My work culture supports “see something, say something” regarding dangerous vehicle operations.					
Initiative 12: National protocols for response to violent incidents (including terrorism) should be developed and championed.	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
My department has policies regarding workplace violence.					
All employees are trained & drilled on what to do if there is workplace violence.					
Our firefighters and EMTs been trained on how to handle incidents regarding domestic disturbances, bomb treats, suspicious packages, and for the potential of danger in large public gatherings.					
My organization is prepared for a terrorist incident and works with our allied public safety departments for a coordinated response.					
Initiative 13: Firefighters and their families must have access to counseling and psychological support.	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
My department provides an Employee/Volunteer Assistance Program.					
Members of the department are encouraged to take advantage of EAP/VAP as needed.					
Members of the department are encouraged to take advantage of EAP/VAP as needed.					
Initiative 14: Public education must receive more resources and be championed as a critical fire and life safety program.	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
Public Education and Fire Prevention are priorities in my fire department?					
Duty time spent in Pub Ed is recognized as a stepping-stone to promotion.					
My fire chief is a vocal advocate of public education in our dept. & community.					
Initiative 15: Advocacy must be	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree

16 Firefighter Life Safety Initiatives

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strengthened for the enforcement of codes and the installation of home fire sprinklers.					
My community has a residential sprinkler ordinance (at least for new construction).					
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<p>Our firefighters are educated to be residential fire sprinkler advocates & they can effectively counter the following arguments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Sprinklers lead to additional water damage ❖ They are too costly ❖ Builders are opposed to residential sprinklers 					
Initiative 16: Safety must be a primary consideration in the design of apparatus and equipment.	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
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