



Fire Fighter Line-of-Duty Death and Injury Investigations and Prevention Programs

Position of the International Association
of Fire Fighters on the NIOSH FFFIPP

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The IAFF

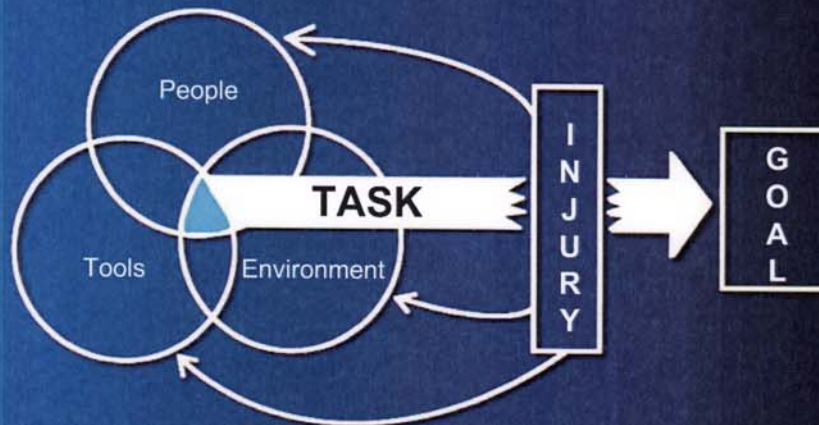
- Labor Union representing 272,000 Fire Fighters and Emergency Medical Personnel
- 3,500 communities in the U.S. and Canada
- 2,900 Affiliates
- Members protect the lives and property of 85 percent of the Nation's population.



The Investigation Process

- Accident vs. Incidents
- Interested Parties/Sources of Bias
- Pre-Planning
- Conducting the Investigation
- Follow-Up

System Interaction Diagram





The Investigation Team

- Assembling and Training
- Simulation



Preserving the Scene

- Physical Evidence
- Evidence Position Mapping



Physical Evidence

- Chain of Custody
- Examination and Testing



Incident Time Line Sequencing & Analysis

- Steps in Diagramming
- Incident Photography



Witnesses

- Management/Labor
 - Interviewing
 - Written Statements
 - Analyzing Testimony
 - Sample Questions



Communications/Public Relations

- The Community
- The Fire Department



Incident Management

- Staffing
- Incident Commander Responsibilities
- Command Staff Responsibilities
- Safety Officer
- Emergency Incident Rehabilitation



Incident Management

- Emergency Incident Communications
- Evaluating the Command Structure
- Training
- Personnel Accountability
- Rapid Intervention Teams



Fire Department Communications

- INTER vs. INTRA Operability
- Evaluating Message Content
- Management Functions
- Dispatch Functions
- Communications Equipment
- Fireground Communication



Fireground Tactics

- Pre-Planning and SOP's
- Search and Rescue
- Apparatus Placement
- Assignments and Water Delivery
- Ventilation
- Aerial and Ladder Operations



Medical Aspects of the Investigation

- Autopsies
- Occupational Medicine Programs
- IAFF/IAFC Fire Service Joint Labor Management Wellness/Fitness Initiative



Documenting the Condition of Protective Clothing and Equipment

- SCBA
- PASS Device
- Protective Clothing



The Importance of Training and Training Records

- Training Fatalities



Regulations & Standards

- OSHA Fire Brigade
- OSHA Respiratory Protection
- OSHA PPE
- OSHA Hazwoper
- NFPA Professional Qualification Standards
- NFPA Hazmat Standards
- NFPA Safety and Health Standards
- NFPA PPE Standards
- NIOSH Respirator Standards (CBRN)



Preparing the Investigation Report

- Writing the Report
- Preparation Tips
- Presentation
- Sample Outline



NIOSH Program

- In his FY '98 Budget, President Bill Clinton proposed that NIOSH examine line of duty fatalities among the nation's fire fighters
- \$2.5 million authorized and appropriated by Congress



NIOSH Fire Fighter Fatality Investigation and Prevention Program

- Trauma Fatalities - Division of Safety Research, Morgantown, WV
- Cardiovascular Fatalities - Division of Surveillance, Field Studies and Hazard Evaluations, Cincinnati, OH



NIOSH Program

- Data Base - Develop national data base on fatalities
- Intervention Research Projects - Evaluate effectiveness of specific equipment, practices, and programs
- Applied Laboratory and Field Research Project - Initiate and fund field and laboratory studies.
- Information Dissemination - Investigations available through NIOSH and on Internet: <http://www.cdc.gov.niosh.firehome>



NIOSH Program

- IAFF immediately informs NIOSH of all line-of-duty deaths of IAFF members.



Future Directions of FFFIPP

- NO reduction in Investigations!
 - No event is the same!
- Follow-up Investigations
 - Significant Impact
 - Implementation of Recommendations



Future Directions of FFFIPP

- Dissemination
 - Log all fatalities/investigations
 - None
 - Pending
 - Complete



Future Directions of FFFIPP

- Outreach
 - Support of NIOSH participation, but coordinate with other NIOSH participation (DSR, DSHEFS, NPPTL)



Future Directions of FFFIPP

- Research
 - Partner with other federal departments/agencies
 - DHS (FEMA, USFA)
 - NIH
 - DOT



Future Directions of FFFIPP





Future Directions of FFFIPP

You can't ask people to go out and save lives if you don't give them the tools to make sure they are able to conduct these activities without putting their own lives unnecessarily at risk!

*Secretary Michael Chertoff
Department of Homeland Security
March 20, 2006*



Future Directions of FFFIPP

- Program Evaluation
 - No Reinventing Wheel
 - Example of W-F Initiative
 - Partner for Outside Funding
 - Follow-up Investigations
 - Make Specific Recommendations to OSHA

