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Sent: Saturday, April 15, 2006 1:11 PM
To: NIOSH Docket Office
Cc: Troup, Bill
Subject: Docket Number NIOSH-063

NIOSH Stakeholders Meeting

March 22, 2006

Topic: Usefulness of the NIOSH Fire Fighter Fatality Investigation and Prevention Program (FFFIPP) program and products in USFA efforts to improve fire fighter safety and health

- Each year there are a quarter of a million visitors to the firefighter fatality section of the USFA web site. A link to the NIOSH Firefighter Fatality Investigation and Prevention Program reports is included for every individual case where an investigation has been completed.
- The annual USFA Firefighter Fatalities in the United States report includes an appendix with a brief summary of each incident. Where available, we include a link to the more detailed NIOSH reports.
- USFA firefighter fatality incident summaries are brief by design. We rely on the NIOSH reports for details that can expand our understanding of the challenges and help direct our prevention efforts.
- Cross referencing to USFA research and reports in NIOSH firefighter fatality investigations reports to the extent practicable would be welcomed.
(<http://www.usfa.fema.gov/research/safety/>) USFA POC this item: Mr. Bill Troup (Bill.Troup@dhs.gov, (301) 447-1231)
- At the National Fire Academy, NIOSH reports are used as case studies in several courses and are required reading for some class assignments.
- The USFA's National Fire Data Center and our research partners have used NIOSH reports in studies of health and wellness initiatives, roadway operations safety, and emergency vehicle safety. In turn, the resulting reports are used by NIOSH as references.
- NIOSH reports recently helped to identify potential problems with PASS devices. USFA and partners will use this information to drive research designed to develop improved performance standards.
- Burt Clark, staff member of the USFA, references NIOSH reports in his work on mayday and seatbelt doctrines, and vice versa (NIOSH references Burt's work).
- Captain Willie Mora of San Antonio, Texas used almost twenty NIOSH firefighter fatality reports on firefighters who were caught or trapped, to study firefighter disorientation leading to firefighter fatalities. His report, The U.S. Firefighter Disorientation Study, has been linked from the USFA Firefighter Fatality section of the USFA website for several years. By bringing attention to this subject, Captain Mora is saving firefighters' lives. The NIOSH reports were the critical source for Captain Mora's analysis.
- A Memorandum of Understanding between USFA and NIOSH exists for the purpose of sustaining and promoting this sharing of information and lessons learned. USFA and NIOSH support a mutual goal of improving firefighter health and safety ...and ultimately, saving firefighters' lives.
- This NIOSH Stakeholders Meeting was a great success in the numbers and composition of attendees from all across the fire service spectrum. The discussions, both formal and open

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session, were very informative. What a great group of folks gathered together, hopefully, NIOSH will consider this type of event on a regular periodic basis. USFA's Deputy Administrator, Charlie Dickinson appreciated the opportunity to present as did USFA staffer Mark A. Whitney to attend and participate.

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