



**Texas Department of Insurance**  
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## **Texas Launches Lifesaving Training Program Developed by National Fallen Firefighters Foundation**

(June 18, 2007 AUSTIN, TX) -- The Texas State Fire Marshal's Office has joined a statewide partnership to present new lifesaving training developed by the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation (NFFF) to Texas volunteer and career firefighters.

With the national observance of Stand Down Week June 17-23, 2007, all Texas fire departments are urged to examine how they can better ensure that "Everyone Goes Home" from the scenes of fire and medical emergencies. Stand Down Week promotes safety, and proper use and preparation of lifesaving equipment by firefighters and emergency medical technicians.

The first Texas presentation of the NFFF's "The Courage To Be Safe - So Everyone Goes Home (CTBS)" Train-the-Trainer program was made in Austin on May 11, 2007. Sixty-eight participants representing 44 departments and organizations attended the program, enabling them to offer CTBS's life-saving curriculum to members of their own departments and other departments in the state that requested the course. CTBS provides course certification hours for volunteer and career firefighters.

The Austin course was led by Assistant Chief Danny Kistner of the Garland Fire Department. Chief Kistner was assisted by Captain Rob Franklin of the Lancaster Fire Department.

Partnering with the fire marshal's office in offering the training in Texas are: NFFF-Regional and State Everyone Goes Home (EGH) Advocates; Texas A & M University; and the TEEEX Engineering Extension Service (TEEX) Emergency Services Training Institute (ESTI).

The next "Courage To Be Safe" Train-the-Trainer course will be held in February 2008 at the Texas Fire Chief's Association's (TFCA) Annual Conference and Convention in Galveston, Texas.

For more information about the National Fallen Firefighter Foundation or any of their programs, visit their website at [www.firehero.org](http://www.firehero.org) or the Everyone Goes Home website: [www.everyonegoeshome.org](http://www.everyonegoeshome.org)

For more information, contact one of the Texas State Advocates by e-mail.

### **Everyone Goes Home - Texas Life Safety Advocates:**

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## What Is The Courage to Be Safe?

Recognizing the need to do more to prevent line-of-duty deaths and injuries, the **National Fallen Firefighters Foundation** has launched a national initiative to bring prevention to the forefront.

In March 2004, the **Firefighter Life Safety Summit** was held in Tampa, Florida, to address the need for change within the fire and emergency services. Through this meeting, 16 Life Safety Initiatives were produced to ensure that *Everyone Goes Home*.

The first major action was to sponsor a national gathering of fire and emergency services leaders. Organized by the **National Fallen Firefighters Foundation**, the held in Tampa, Florida, in March 2004 produced **16 major initiatives** that will give the fire service a blueprint for making changes.

The **National Fallen Firefighters Foundation** will play a major role in helping the **U.S. Fire Administration** meet its stated goal to reduce firefighter fatalities by 25% within 5 years, and by 50% within 10 years. The Foundation sees fire service adoption of the summit's initiatives as a vital step in meeting this goal.

The **Firefighter Life Safety Initiatives Advocates (FLSIA)** will play a key role in helping to bring about awareness of the Initiatives and act as a conduit for resources to enable departments to implement and advocate them.

The **Regional Firefighter Life Safety Initiatives Advocates (RFLSIA)** for the *Everyone Goes Home™* Firefighter Life Safety Initiatives Program have been appointed for the ten designated FEMA regions. The regional advocates develop a communication system with the state advocates to channel information about the Firefighter Life Safety Initiatives Program.

The **State Firefighter Life Safety Initiatives Advocates (SFLSIA)** will play a key role in helping to bring about awareness of the Initiatives and act as a conduit for resources to enable departments to implement and advocate them.

## It Takes Courage -

Firefighters must have the courage to face a multitude of risks in order to save lives and protect their communities. But a different type of courage is required to stay safe in potentially dangerous situations, avoiding needless risks and tragic consequences. That different type of courage is the subject of "**The Courage to Stay Safe - So Everyone Goes Home**" program. This provocative and moving presentation is designed to change the culture of accepting the loss of our firefighters as a normal occurrence.

At the heart of "The Courage to Stay Safe" are the gripping, **untold stories of LODD survivors**, revealing how family members must live with the consequences of a firefighter death. The program graphically underscores the need for firefighters and officers to change fundamental attitudes and behaviors in order to prevent line of duty deaths, and promotes the courage to do the right thing so that "*Everyone Goes Home™*" at the end of the day.

**"The Courage to Stay Safe"** Program was conceived and developed by the **National Fallen Firefighters Foundation's Firefighter Life Safety Initiatives Program Team**, with assistance from **Deputy Chief Billy Goldfeder** of the Loveland-Symmes (OH) Fire Department and **FDNY Battalion Chief John Salka** in response to a request by **Pennsylvania Fire Commissioner Ed Mann** to develop a program aimed at **Line-of-Duty Death Prevention**.

## **The Courage to Be Safe in Texas**

The unique partnership of the NFFF-Regional and State EGH Advocates, the Texas State Fire Marshals' Office and TEEEX-ESTI will assure statewide program availability and put future delivery of the Texas "Courage To Be Safe" Program in the forefront and will provide course certification hours for both the career and volunteer firefighter training programs.

The **Texas A & M University, TEEEX Engineering Extension Service (TEEEX) Emergency Services Training Institute (ESTI)**, based in College Station, has been providing fire training for emergency responders since 1929, when the State Firemen's and Fire Marshals' Association of Texas selected Texas A&M University as the site for a permanent firefighter training school.

**TEEEX-ESTI** is the **National Fire Academy** - recognized State Fire Training agency for the State of Texas and offers high-quality emergency response training and instruction in more than 130 specialty areas. ESTI conducts over 150 NFA Field and Direct Delivery programs each year to departments across Texas. NFA course deliveries are coordinated through the ESTI Extension program and are taught in various locations throughout the year. Over 90,000 hours of training occurs annually through the Extension program. TEEEX trains more than 81,000 emergency responders from all 50 states and 45 countries each year.

For more information about the National Fallen Firefighter Foundation or any of their programs, visit their website at [www.firehero.org](http://www.firehero.org) or the Everyone Goes Home website: [www.everyonegoeshome.org](http://www.everyonegoeshome.org)

For more information about the NFFF Everyone Goes Home – Courage to Be Safe Program, contact one of the Texas State Advocates by e-mail listed below.

Everyone Goes Home - Texas Life Safety Advocates:

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