

FIREFIGHTER SAFETY



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Objectives 1 of 3

- Define risk management.
- List the leading causes of death and injury in the fire service.
- List the NFPA standards pertaining to firefighter safety.
- List the five components that make up the accident change.

Objectives 2 of 3

- List the three components of the safety triad.
- Discuss the differences between formal and informal procedures.
- Name the three factors that influence the equipment safety portion of the safety triad.

Objectives 3 of 3

- Name the three factors that influence the personnel portion of the safety triad.
- Name the three partners that work together to achieve firefighter safety.



Introduction

- Firefighting is filled with the potential for getting seriously injured or killed.
- Today's firefighter understands that certain risks have no tangible benefit.
- The firefighter needs to look at the causes of injuries and deaths associated with firefighting.

Safety Issues

- It is important to understand what events and circumstances lead to injury.
- Standards and regulations directly affect some of the training and tactics the fire service uses today.
- Firefighters need to understand the importance of accident prevention steps.

Firefighter Injury and Death Causes

- One-half of all duty deaths and injuries occur at the incident site.
- Other half occur while training, responding to/from an incident and other duties.
- Heart attacks the leading cause of death.
- Trauma is the second leading cause of death.
- Deaths are slowly decreasing.



Firefighter Deaths and Injuries

Safety Standards and Regulations 1 of 2

- In 1970, OSHA was created.
- OSHA is responsible for safety-related workplace regulations.
- Regulations are part of CFR.
- Originally public agencies were exempt from OSHA's CFRs.
- In 1980, States began state OSHA plans that included public agencies.

Safety Standards and Regulations 2 of 2

- Firefighting did not fit OSHA procedures and processes.
- Fire service wrote safety and health standard for the fire service.
- NFPA 1500 written to help fire departments address safety issues.
- While other NFPA standards address safety, NFPA 1500 focuses on safety issues.

Accident Prevention

- Any action designed to break the accident chain is called an intervention.
- Usually a reactive action.
- Mitigation is designed to reduce the potential of creating an accident.
- Mitigation is proactive.



The Safety Triad

- Fire service operational environments are made up of:
 - Procedures.
 - Equipment .
 - Personnel.
- Each component must be addressed to mitigate injuries.

Procedures

- Structure from which all incident activity begins.
- Formal procedures are written as SOPs or SOGs.
- Informal procedures are operations that are part of the routine but are not in writing.

Equipment

- Vast amounts of new equipment have been introduced into the fire service.
- Most equipment designed to meet an safety standard.
- Equipment must be maintained and serviced.
- Guidelines are often developed for essential equipment.

Guidelines

- Guidelines should include:
 - Selection.
 - Use.
 - Cleaning and decontamination.
 - Storage.
 - Inspections.
 - Repairs.
 - Criteria for retirement.

Equipment Should Be Checked Regularly





Personnel 1 of 2

- Human factors often cited as cause of injuries and death.
- Training, fitness/health, and attitude impact safety.
- Proper training and drills will prevent injuries.
- A firefighter's body must be able to handle stress.
- Mental health is also an important aspect.

Personnel 2 of 2

- Many factors affect safety attitudes, including:
 - Department's safety culture.
 - Department's history.
 - Examples set by others.
- Create a positive safety attitude:
 - Practice good safety habits.
 - Learn from others.
 - Be vigilant.



Training

- Regular training is important!!



Exercise



- Regular exercise is essential to keep up with the demand of the job.



FIREFIGHTER SAFETY RESPONSIBILITY

- Firefighter safety is dependent on the efforts of everyone.
- This includes:
 - The department.
 - The team.
 - The individual firefighter.

The Department 1 of 2

- Safety ultimately rests on department's leadership.
- NFPA 1500 outlines occupational safety and health.
- Proper and expected levels of of procedures or behaviors must be defined.
- SOPs or SOGs should be in place.
- Proper selection of equipment is important.



The Department 2 of 2

- NFPA has standards addressing equipment.
- Department should deliver hazardous awareness training.
- All training is designed for safer operations.
- Training is the best means to identify hazards that will be faced.

The Team

- Team approach very important to ensure safety.
- As a team the following should be followed:
 - Use the Incident Management System.
 - Work together and remain intact.
 - Look after each other.
- Working as a team reduces the chance of injury.



REMEMBER:

The Separation of members within a team is a contributing factor to firefighter fatalities.

The Individual Firefighter

- You hold the final key to safety.
- Do not try to work while injured.
- Stay within the IMS system.
- Do not perform tasks not trained to do.
- Training should be done ahead of time.
- Working alone endangers you and the team.

Wrap-Up

- One-half of all duty deaths and injuries occur at the incident scene.
- OSHA and NFPA regulations designed to help minimize injury and illness.
- Using proper procedures, equipment , and trained personnel are important.
- The department, team, and individual must work together.