



Volume 9, Number 98

Weekly Fire Drill

National FF Safety Stand-Down

Discussion

The International Association of Fire Chiefs (IAFC) and 13 partnering fire service organizations are calling for all fire departments in the nation to conduct a "stand down" for firefighter safety beginning Tuesday, June 21. As of May 1, there have been 50 line-of-duty firefighter deaths - that is 10 more than at this same time last year. **A stand down is a method used by the military to correct an issue that has been identified as a problem throughout its ranks.** The IAFC and their partners* are urging fire departments to suspend all non-emergency activity on June 21 and instead focus entirely on firefighter safety. * See website for list of fire service partners.

"Fire fighters are being killed at an alarming rate. The fire service simply cannot continue to do business as usual when so many of its own are dying," said IAFC President Chief Bob DiPoli. "We are conducting the stand down to raise awareness of the need for increased vigilance toward fire fighter safety." The IAFC and its partners are urging you and all fire departments throughout the country to suspend all non-emergency activity and focus entirely on firefighter safety. If you are a career or combination department, please stand down beginning **Tuesday, June 21 until all personnel have been covered.** If you are a volunteer department, please conduct a special safety meeting the evening of June 21 or as near to that date as possible. Take the 21st to talk about the causes of line-of-duty deaths; check all apparatus and equipment; discuss health and safety regulations; review fire ground safety issues; and take stock of training exercises and fitness goals.

"We must call attention to the unacceptable number of line-of-duty deaths and injuries plaguing our fire departments," DiPoli continued. "During the Safety Stand Down, fire departments all around the nation will have thorough, honest conversations about firefighter health and safety and maybe we do something to stop these deaths."

Suggested Preliminary Activities for FF Safety Stand-Down Week (Month)

Review Seat Belt Policy	Review Backing of Apparatus Policy	Review Safe Apparatus Positioning on Roadways	Department Level SOG's Relating to Physical Fitness
Discuss Leading Causes of Firefighter Fatalities and Injury	Inspect all components of your protective clothing	Have Your Blood Pressure Checked by Medics	Review NIOSH L/O/D/D Case Studies
Practice SCBA Donning/ Doffing and simulate obstructed area operation	Review Procedures for Emergency Response (Lights & Siren Response)	Discuss Building Const. Trends in Your Area that create operational hazards	Identify situations in which you would call MAYDAY
Review RIT Equipment List and RIT Size-up	Discuss how a PAR works at an incident	Review department accountability procedures	Walk a few laps around the stations and grounds
Reflect on what you can do individually to improve your health & safety	Honor the 2800+ firefighters who have fallen since 1990 by making a commitment to safety and change	Know that you are accountable for your actions	Critique, review, discuss a recent fire and identify safety concerns
Hold a Safety Committee Meeting	Review IAFC Actions to be taken by Trapped Firefighters	Review your Size-up Procedures	Practice tying rescue knots like the handcuff or bowline

**Additional Activities will be Available....Complete All of These Activities This Month!!!
EVERYONE GOES HOME**