Top 10 Common Denominators of Firefighter Line-Of-Duty-Deaths (LODDs)

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Objectives:

• Identify the 10 most common denominators of Firefighter Line-Of-Duty-Deaths (LODDs)

• Define the role of the Fire Officer in reducing LODDs

• Create an action plan to increase the chances for survival for your personnel & yourself
Disclaimer:

This presentation is not meant to second-guess, question, or Monday-morning quarterback anything that has gone on in the past....
Disclaimer:

Instead...

It is meant to honor those that have paid the ultimate sacrifice, by attempting to learn from the mistakes that may have been made....
If we truly want to honor our fallen brothers and sisters, we will do our best to learn from history......to ensure that we do not allow history to repeat itself!
Equal Opportunity:

Firefighters of all ranks and from all types of departments (Volunteer, Career, Combination) are dying in all types of buildings and in all types of incidents
Never Forget?

• 19 – Yarnell Hill 06/30/13
• 9 – Charleston 6/18/07
• 343 – FDNY 9/11/01
• 6 – Worcester 12/04/99
• 27 – Texas City 04/16/47

• 100 average per year
Albert Einstein’s Definition of Insanity:

Doing the same thing over and over again and expecting different results
Don’t Let This Happen!!!
The First-Due Officer:

• Will either set the incident up for success or for failure

• Will either be the “hero” or the “zero”

• Needs to be able to manage the incident from “A to Z”

• Needs to always be thinking 5 steps ahead, 5 minutes ahead, plan b, c, d, etc.
What is the role and responsibility of the fire officer in reducing / eliminating LODDs???
Fire Officer’s Role To Reduce LODDs

• Be the designated adult
• Say “NO” when needed
• Lead by example
• Training
• Not settling for mediocrity
The Top 10 Contributing Factors To Firefighter Line-Of-Duty-Deaths
#1 – Command & Control

- 1st in Officer – Hero or Zero
- Inadequate 360 degree hot lap
- Fixed command post known by all
- Command presence is essential
- If you don’t control your personnel, they will find something to do
- Dedicated Safety Officer
#1 – Command & Control

- Inadequate use of ICS
- Insufficient size-up/risk management evaluation
- Tactics do not match the strategy
- Inadequate Incident Action Plan
- Span of control exceeded
- Knowing when to say when
#1 – Command & Control

- Body Recovery **OR** Rescue?
- Ensuring search crew protected by hoseline
- Sufficient # of command support staff
- Passing / transfer of command issues
- Captains/Lieutenants can’t just rely on Chiefs to arrive
• Flashovers are occurring sooner
• Fires are burning hotter, faster
• Inadequate checking for extension (all 7 sides)
• Where will the fire be in 5 minutes?
• Insufficient initial and on-going training
#3 – Building Construction

- Lightweight construction
- Truss roof / floor assemblies
- Inadequately checking for extension and recognizing type of roofing / flooring
- Structural collapse
- Insufficient initial and on-going training
#4 – Human / Cultural Items

- Personal wellness / fitness
- SCBA / air management issues
- Inappropriate use of FULL PPE / PPE
- Inadequate use of seat belts
- Complacency
- Human error
#5 – Communications

- Inadequate # of radios
- Radios not functioning
- Inability to use radios to fullest extent
- Inadequate # of frequencies
#5 – Communications

- Ineffective and/or Inappropriate communications
- Key items not being communicated
- Key items not being heard
#6 – Safety / Staffing

- Lack of 2 in / 2 out
- Lack of RIC / RIT / RAT / FAST / etc.
- Expecting an inadequately staffed or trained RIC to save the day
- Lack of accountability
- Freelancing
#6 – Safety / Staffing

- Lack of crew integrity
- Inadequate # of personnel or resources
- Lack of a dedicated Safety Officer
- Lack of key command positions
- Lack of air monitoring after fires
#7 – Water Supply

- Continuous water supply issues
- Initial hose lines too small
- Initial hose lines inappropriately placed
- Lack of back-up hose lines
- GPM needs to equal BTUs!
#8 – Fire Prevention

- Lack of pre-planning
- Lack of sprinklers / suppression systems
- Lack of inspections or inadequate locating of & following up on code violations
- Insufficient fire detection systems
- Insufficient codes
#9 – Ventilation

- Lack of ventilation
- Inappropriate use of ventilation
- Positive pressure ventilation (PPV) issues
- Needs to be coordinated with fire attack
- Opening the front door is ventilation
#10 – Training / SOPs / SOGs

- Lack of SOPs / SOGs
- Insufficient training on SOPs / SOGs
- Insufficient accountability on SOPs / SOGs
- Lack of quality training
- Lack of regular training
- Lack of training with neighbors
TRAINING:

• A minimum of **two hours** per day
• Make **every opportunity** to train
• **Be creative,** know what you’re teaching
• Empower personnel, **don’t be only instructor**
• Don’t rely on the Department Training Officer to provide you with all the tools to train you’re personnel - **you are a TO!**
Training Resources

- www.dailydispatch.com
- www.firehouse.com
- www.fireengineering.com
- www.firefighternation.com
- www.firefighterclosecalls.com
- www.firerescue1.com
Training Resources

- www.everyonegoeshome.com
- www.usfa.fema.gov
- www.fire.nist.gov
- www.cdc.gov/niosh/fire/
- www.firefighternearmiss.com
- Underwriter’s Laboratory
Training Resources

PUBLICATIONS:

• Firehouse Magazine
• Fire Engineering Magazine
• Fire Rescue Magazine
• United States Fire Administration
Training Resources

ASSOCIATIONS / ORGANIZATIONS:

• International Association of Fire Fighters
• International Association of Fire Chiefs (IAFC)
• IAFC Safety & Health Section
• Fire Department Safety Officers Association
• International Society of Fire Service Instructors
• National Fire Protection Association
Don’t Give Lip Service To Safety!!!
Resources:

• Soft cover copy; or

• EBook version

• Available at:
  – iTunes
  – Amazon

www.code3firetraining.com
Resources:

» Soft cover

» EBook

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  – iTunes
  – Amazon
  – www.code3firetraining.com
Thank You Very Much!

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