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FROM : National Wildfire Coordinating Group
REPLY TO : NWCG@nifc.gov
DATE : 06/17/2005
SUBJECT : SAFETY ADVISORY : Firefighter Safety Stand Down Talking Points

The following Safety Stand Down is a nation-wide effort to focus on firefighter safety throughout the United State's fire service. Although we are not asking for full participation in the effort, the NWCG Safety and Health Working Team would like to encourage our member organizations to support this Safety Stand Down to the degree possible within their agency's wildland fire management programs.

To assist wildland fire agencies in this effort, a list of talking points pertinent to Wildland fire been created and is attached.

Signed,

Gene Madden
Chair, NWCG Safety and Health Working Team

Firefighter Safety Stand Down

Homeland Security Presidential Directive-7 designated the Emergency Services Sector (ESS) as a national critical infrastructure. Logically, ESS personnel are foremost among the internal critical infrastructures of emergency organizations. Nevertheless, the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation reports there have been almost 50 line-of-duty firefighter deaths related to an emergency incident or mandated training during the first four months of 2005. Therefore, the EMR-ISAC is pleased to announce that in partnership with at least 13 fire service organizations, the International Association of Fire Chiefs (IAFC) has called for all fire departments nationwide to conduct a "stand down" for firefighter safety beginning Tuesday, 21 June.

The IAFC and its partners urge all fire departments throughout the country to suspend non-emergency activity on 21 June and instead focus entirely on firefighter safety. This is NOT a stoppage of emergency firefighting activities, but a specific concentration on injury and death

prevention while on duty during the stand down. Career or combination departments are requested to stand down beginning Tuesday, 21 June, until all personnel and duty nights have been covered. Volunteer departments are requested to conduct a special safety meeting the evening of 21 June or as near to that date as possible.

"We are conducting the stand down to raise awareness of the need for increased vigilance toward firefighter safety," said IAFC President Chief Bob DiPoli. "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." An entire webpage has been devoted to this important issue. Click on the following link and use the resources contained within to plan activities for the stand down: <http://www.iafc.org/standdown>.



SafetyStandownTalkingPoints.doc

National Firefighter Safety Stand Down June 21, 2005

The following are some suggested talking points for Wildland fire

Moment of silence for LODDs

Fire Ground Safety

- Review the principles of firefighter safety (10 Standard Fire Orders, Watch Out Situations)
- Review Risk Management Process
- Review communication procedures and problems
 - Radio SOP's
 - Narrowbanding issues
- Review roadside response protocols for engines

Personal Protective Equipment

- Check all PPE for obvious defects
 - Hardhats
 - Clothing
- Emphasize use of safety glasses and hearing protection

Fire Environment

- Review any seasonal fuel or weather concerns that may be anticipated.

Apparatus and Equipment Check

- Check all fire apparatus (engines, helicopters, jumpships) and equipment stowed on fire apparatus.
- Address MANDATORY seat belt use in engines and chase vehicles

Physical Fitness

- Discuss your local fitness program. Have all members of your unit adopted it fully, at all, in part?

Training

- Review minimum training requirements for refresher. Was it enough? Should it be a continuing effort throughout the year?
- Does your unit use After Action Reviews (AAR's) as a form of training?

Behavioral Health

- Review and address your agency's EAPs, CISM, and other related programs
- Address attitudes relating to safety, both positive and negative
 - Includes aggression, judgment, ability to execute assigned tasks safely, age/experience/physical conditioning