



## FAQ PAGE

1. What is the goal of the NFFF & the EGH Programs?

The Foundation's mission is to lead a nationwide effort to honor America's fallen firefighters who died in the line of duty and to provide necessary resources to assist their survivors in the rebuilding of their lives. This goal is to be met through changing the culture of the fire industry.

To work on a national agenda that will assist the American fire service in reducing the number of firefighters who die in the line of duty each year. The Line-of-Duty Death Prevention Project will include preventive initiatives that address the two leading causes of firefighter deaths: heart attacks and vehicle accidents. Additionally, the Project will look at global initiatives to reduce the occurrences of fires in this country, thereby reducing potential incidents at which a firefighter may be injured or killed.

2. What is the history of the NFFF?

In 1992, the U.S. Congress created the non-profit National Fallen Firefighters Foundation and directed it to support efforts to honor fallen firefighters and provide programs to assist their survivors. The Foundation has successfully undertaken several major programs, including management of the annual National Fallen Firefighters Weekend, which attracts thousands and receives national media attention. Congress also charged the Foundation with expanding the official national fallen firefighter's monument site into a permanent National Memorial Park.

3. Where does funding for the NFFF come from?

When Congress created the Foundation, it provided neither funding nor financial assistance. Therefore, the Foundation must rely on donations from corporations, foundation grants, small businesses, and caring individuals to maintain its programs and services. The Foundation encourages donations of all sizes to help honor the brave men and women who have sacrificed their lives in duty to their country and to assist the families left behind.

4. What is the EGH Project?

The NFFF developed the EGH program to support the United States Fire Administration's goal of reducing firefighter deaths by 50% over the next ten years. In an unprecedented gesture of solidarity, virtually every major



fire service organization had input regarding the EGH program via a series of major- and mini- subject-matter summits. The building blocks of the EGH program are the 16 Firefighter Life Safety Initiatives. The 16 Initiatives encapsulate real-world solutions to fire service problems regarding preventable line-of-duty deaths—including management restructure, training improvements, and specific suggestions dealing with the two leading causes of preventable duty deaths - lack of firefighter fitness and vehicle accidents. In short, the culture of the fire service must change in order to stop preventable deaths. We believe the 16 Initiatives have provided the blueprint necessary to accomplish this culture change.

5. What indications do you have that this program will work?

Initial feedback indicates that the Everyone Goes Home Program has tremendous potential to reduce firefighter injuries and on-duty fatalities. One of the program's major marketing goals rests on the belief that the 16 Initiatives must "touch" every firefighter in the United States—career and volunteer, in a meaningful way. To that end, numerous trade publications have published articles about the summits and the EGH initiatives, but these are not enough.

6. What are the 16 Initiatives?

1. Define and advocate the need for a cultural change within the fire service relating to safety; incorporating leadership, management, supervision, accountability and personal responsibility.
2. Enhance the personal and organizational accountability for health and safety throughout the fire service.
3. Focus greater attention on the integration of risk management with incident management at all levels, including strategic, tactical, and planning responsibilities.
4. All firefighters must be empowered to stop unsafe practices.
5. Develop and implement national standards for training, qualifications, and certification (including regular recertification) that are equally applicable to all firefighters based on the duties they are expected to perform.
6. Develop and implement national medical and physical fitness standards that are equally applicable to all firefighters, based on the duties they are expected to perform.
7. Create a national research agenda and data collection system that relates to the initiatives.
8. Utilize available technology wherever it can produce higher levels of health and safety.



9. Thoroughly investigate all firefighter fatalities, injuries, and near misses.
  10. Grant programs should support the implementation of safe practices and/or mandate safe practices as an eligibility requirement.
  11. National standards for emergency response policies and procedures should be developed and championed.
  12. National protocols for response to violent incidents should be developed and championed.
  13. Firefighters and their families must have access to counseling and psychological support.
  14. Public education must receive more resources and be championed as a critical fire and life safety program.
  15. Advocacy must be strengthened for the enforcement of codes and the installation of home fire sprinklers.
  16. Safety must be a primary consideration in the design of apparatus and equipment.
7. Where did the 16 Initiatives come from?

An unprecedented gathering of the leadership of the American fire service occurred on March 10 - 11, 2004 when more than 200 individuals assembled in Tampa to focus on the troubling question of how to prevent line-of-duty deaths. Every year approximately 100 firefighters lose their lives in the line of duty in the United States; about one every 80 hours. The first ever National Fire Fighter Life Safety Summit was convened to bring the leadership of the fire service together for two days to focus all of their attention on this one critical concern. Every identifiable segment of the fire service was represented and participated in the process.

The National Fallen Firefighters Foundation hosted the Summit as the first step in a major campaign. In cooperation with the United States Fire Administration, the Foundation has established the objectives of reducing the fatality rate by 25% within 5 years and by 50% within 10 years. The purpose of the Summit was to produce an agenda of initiatives that must be addressed to reach those milestones and to gain the commitment of the fire service leadership to support and work toward their accomplishment.

The Summit marks a significant milestone, because it is the first time that a major gathering has been organized to unite all segments of the fire service behind the common goal of reducing firefighter deaths. It provided an opportunity for all of the participants to focus on the problems, jointly identify the most important issues, agree upon a set of key initiatives, and



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develop the commitments and coalitions that are essential to move forward with their implementation.