



# Everyone Goes Home<sup>®</sup>

**FIREFIGHTER LIFE SAFETY INITIATIVES**

**NOVEMBER 2007 EDITION**

*Newsletter*

## **KEEPING IT IN PERSPECTIVE...**

**By Chief Billy D. Hayes, Region IV Advocate**

I was just in Washington D.C. this past weekend for a meeting with the International Association of Fire Chiefs. While I had some free time, I was able to spend some time with my good friend Chief Dennis Rubin of DC Fire/EMS Department. We took some time to ride the City and visit the firehouse of Engine 20 and Truck 12.

There was a Community Day being held at the station. The fire safety house, station tours, car seat checks, apparatus and PPE demonstrations, and lots of free food donated by the local community was all just a part of this event. While these types of events may not be new to me, I am always impressed and enjoy these things. But that isn't the point of this article....

On June 7, 2007, DC Fire Technician James J. McRae, driver of Truck 12, passed away on duty from an apparent heart attack. In just a few short months on the job, Chief Rubin already had to make that dreaded call to the family to inform them James wasn't coming home. This is the one thing that any Fire Chief dreads ever happening to them.

It was my honor to meet the family of James J. McRae as they were being recognized at the Community Day by James' co-workers. One of James' Captains composed and read a poem entitled, "The Measure of a Man." A plaque and flag was presented to his widowed wife, and a small stuffed rabbit with a ribbon was given to his daughter. This little girl who had previously been so happy and playful during the day suddenly broke down in tears reflecting once again that her daddy was gone. Tears were flowing from most all in attendance, specifically me.

You've heard that God has ways of sending you messages? Well this experience has re-energized me in my commitment to the mission of Everyone Goes Home.

After my experience on the Whistle Stop Tour and the hundreds of firefighters I helped train with the Courage To Be Safe program, I was losing hope in what we are trying to accomplish. Firefighter LODD's are higher this year than ever before, so many firefighters believe that losing your life to save a building is worth it, and the lack for the sense of urgency of reducing LODD's left me scratching my head and asking myself, "are we ever going to make a difference?"

Why can't we be a better and smarter fire service? Why can't we seem to understand that we are heroes when we take the job, the oath, and pin the badge on our chest without having to die before our time? Why can't we seem to understand that very few are actually dying heroic deaths? Why can't we seem to accept that buckling up can save our life? Why aren't we willing to get our annual physicals whether the department pays for it not?

**This program is made possible through the efforts of the**



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**Homeland Security**



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## **KEEPING IT IN PERSPECTIVE... (Continued from Page 1)**

If you would have been able to see a little girl crying and wanting her daddy back, perhaps understanding the aforementioned questions would come much easier and you too would feel the "sense of urgency" that is needed to reduce LODDs.

So with that being said, I firmly believe progress will be made. I am proud to report that Region IV has many good things happening to accomplish the mission of Everyone Goes Home. Several new faces have been added in Region IV; Jonathan Hile for Kentucky; Joe Ruffenach in South Carolina, Jim Roman in Tennessee, and Jeff Dean in Georgia. I am actively seeking an Advocate for Mississippi for those who might be interested.

A train-the-trainer for the Courage To Be Safe was conducted in Ocala at the Florida Fire College in September. Over 50 individuals were trained to carry the program to the field in Florida, which many departments have already begun conducting. Plans are being worked out to conduct additional workshops in Alabama, South Carolina, and Tennessee. Furthermore, the Courage To Be Safe training was conducted at the International Association of Fire Chiefs' Fire-Rescue International in Atlanta and at the Fire Department Safety Officers Association Conference in Orlando. The program has also been accepted to be taught as a pre-conference offering in Denver, Colorado next year at FRI-08.

I would like to thank Arizona Advocate Ron Dennis for co-presenting many of the aforementioned programs with me. Chief Dennis has a phenomenal passion for firefighter safety and is a huge resource for the State of Arizona.

In summary, reducing LODD's is not a difficult thing to do. A change in culture, which is the first of the 16 Life Safety Initiatives, will yield more success than we can ever imagine. If we can accomplish the 1st initiative, the remaining 15 will occur with great ease. The fire service must simply make a stand and realize that we do not have a duty to die!

\*Note-at the time I was working on this submittal, Engine Company 4 of Washington DC Fire & EMS Department suffered injuries to four firefighters. The

thoughts and prayers of Region IV go out to Chief Rubin, the department, and most importantly the firefighters and their families during this difficult time.



## WHAT IS YOUR DEPARTMENT DOING TO IMPLEMENT THE 16 FIREFIGHTER LIFE SAFETY INITIATIVES?

### Submitted on behalf of Winfield Fire Dept. (KS)

The Winfield Fire Department fully supports the Everyone Goes Home program and has adopted the 16 Life Safety Initiatives. We have implemented the following programs and initiatives:

- \* Developed and implemented the Winfield Fire Department Standard Operating Guidelines with emphasis on: Incident Command, Accountability, Experience and Certification requirements for each level of the organization, Emergency Driver/Operator Training, Two-in/Two-out Policy, Rapid Intervention Teams, Firefighter Mayday protocols, Safety Officer, Rehab, Emergency Evacuation, Technical Rescue & Training, Haz Mat Response, Risk Assessment in Decision Making, Thermal Imager use, and Line of Duty Death Protocols. Department mission statement included that incorporates our values and commitment towards firefighter safety.

- \* Two persons trained as Peer Fitness Trainers
- \* Department Physical Fitness Program established
- \* Annual Fire Department Physicals conducted for all personnel
- \* Department Training completed with the NIMS/IC 100, 200, 700, 800 courses. Training within six months scheduled to be complete NIMS/IC 300 & 400.
- \* Vehicle Design Committee appointed
- \* Fire Department Occupational Health & Safety Committee appointed.
- \* Leadership classes conducted for all fire officer and fire officer candidates
- \* Digital Firefighter Accountability System in-place for emergency scenes
- \* All personnel review NIOSH Firefighter Health & Safety Reports and Near Miss Reports monthly
- \* Post Incident Analysis conducted following working structure fires or incidents of an unusual nature
- \* Monthly Firefighter Health & Safety Class conducted utilizing the Everyone Goes Home Courage To Be Safe Programs
- \* Pre-Fire Incident Plans developed for target haz-

ards throughout the community

- \* Automatic aid agreements have been signed with our neighboring fire departments for automatic reciprocal response to all structure fires in our communities.
- \* Annual fire inspections conducted at target hazard facilities including: public schools, health care & industrial facilities, hotels, core downtown facilities, and public assembly occupancies.
- \* Public Education programs conducted year round with emphasis on residential fire safety and prevention.
- \* Our fire department in partnership with the local county health department has placed approximately 3200 smoke alarms in residential single family dwellings within the community over the past two years.
- \* All department personnel have taken the Brian Hunton Seat Belt Pledge.
- \* Planned activities include: Fire Awareness Training for Community Policy Makers to promote a positive culture change towards firefighter life safety. And the installation of a Firefighter Life Safety Bulletin Board in the classroom.
- \* Future Goals include: Adoption of a local residential sprinkler ordinance. And possibly adding the requirement to firefighter physicals that includes new technology involving Cardiac CT scans for at risk firefighters.
- \* Continually updating policies and procedures to incorporate the latest in technology & training in all fire department functional areas
- \* Promoting a cultural change regarding firefighter safety within our fire department on how we do our jobs in addition and promoting a cultural change within our community regarding fire safety to reduce hazards and the number of fires that occur.

Thanks you for allowing us the opportunity to share our accomplishments and goals.

Gary L. Bowker, Fire Marshal  
Winfield Fire Department



## SICK FIRE STATIONS

By Janet Wilmoth at 10:11 am, 07/20/2007

When five firefighters from one Chicago fire station were diagnosed in 2000 with similar types of cancer, people became concerned that something within the old fire station itself was causing the illnesses. Eventually the fire department tore down the building and replaced it.

Exhaust fumes and air quality frequently are cited as a cause or contributing factor in firefighter cancers, and the list of possible carcinogens gets longer all the time, but a recent outbreak of skin disorders in one California fire station has raised another concern about how firefighters can get sick inside fire stations.

The first California firefighter was told by a doctor that the red, swollen spot on his skin looked like a spider bite. But then another firefighter found a spot, and then so did another. And the spots became worse and more serious. Nine firefighters now are infected with varying severity, including one firefighter who almost lost his leg and another who has an eye swollen beyond recognition.

Two firefighters tested positive for Methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus, or MRSA, an infection caused by staph bacteria. The fire chief told us that the department doctor had never seen this type of infection outside of hospitals. An industrial hygienist explained that the outbreak was a "self-induced problem" and would require cleaning up the fire station and carefully reviewing procedures.

According to the Centers for Disease Control, MRSA is a type of staph infection that occurs most frequently among persons in hospitals and health-care facilities and is resistant to certain antibiotics. The infection usually manifests as a skin disorder, such as a pimple and boil, and can occur in otherwise-healthy people.

"Repeated contact with the healthcare system," is one of several risk factors that increase the potential for exposure and infection. While emergency medical technicians and paramedics are trained in precautions, MRSA is a particularly virulent bacterium. One emergency room nurse said that MRSA

### WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT MRSA

Recently, there has been a growing number of Methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus, or MRSA cases among firefighters and in the United States. We have included this article written by Janet Wilmoth and encourage you to go to the Mayo Clinic's webpage <http://www.mayoclinic.com/health/mrsa/DS00735/DSECTION=2> for more information on MRSA and way to protect against it.

is contracted from bodily fluids, and treatment for the infection requires isolation procedures [gloves, masks, gowns] and intravenous antibiotics for eight to 10 weeks.

If these types of infections or other airborne diseases are present in fire stations, then housekeeping needs to be kicked up several notches. Some recommendations to prevent the spread of staph infections are simple; they include the use of gloves and immediate washing of hands after gloves are removed.

The transmission of diseases raises many questions for a fire chief and demands a review of procedures. Consider procedures for cleaning station wear used by EMTs, paramedics and firefighters. Do firefighters take their uniforms home and throw them in with the kids' jeans and socks? Volunteer departments need to be aware of cleaning turnout gear, as well as their personal clothing, to prevent exposing their families to infection.

Everyone goes home, but be careful of what you might be taking there with you.

[http://blog.firechief.com/mutual\\_aid/2007/07/20/sick-fire-stations/](http://blog.firechief.com/mutual_aid/2007/07/20/sick-fire-stations/)

<http://www.mayoclinic.com/health/mrsa/DS00735/DSECTION=2>



## NVFC AWARDED GRANT FOR NEXT PHASE OF HEART-HEALTHY FIREFIGHTER PROGRAM

The Department of Homeland Security awarded the National Volunteer Fire Council (NVFC) a grant of nearly \$1 million to continue the important work of the Heart-Healthy Firefighter Program. The grant will be used to implement Phase Five of the Program, which features two new components.

The first new component, a state and local train-the-trainer program, is designed to train fire and emergency services personnel how to create and maintain an effective health and wellness program within their fire department, with a significant focus on heart-health. It will include a curriculum that firefighters can bring back to their departments.

The second new component is the Adopt-the-Program feature that allows firefighters and departments to register with the Heart-Healthy Firefighter Program to receive specific tools and information that they can follow to maintain a heart-healthy lifestyle. The tools and resources to be developed as part of this include heart-healthy meal plans, fitness information, and tracking mechanisms to monitor progress.

“We are very excited to be able to add these two important new elements to the Heart-Healthy Fire-

fighter Program,” said Maggie Wilson, NVFC’s Director of Health and Safety. “With every phase of the Program, we have been able to provide even more tools and resources to first responders to help keep them healthy and decrease their risk of heart attacks. With Phase Five, we are going to be able to educate emergency personnel on how they can implement the Heart-Healthy Firefighter Program within their department.”

In addition to developing and implementing these new features of the Heart-Healthy Firefighter Program, this grant will enable the NVFC to continue providing existing Program elements such as free health screenings and heart-healthy cooking demonstrations, as well as valuable heart-health tools and resources such as The Pulse newsletter, the Heart-Healthy Firefighter E-news; the Heart-Healthy Firefighter Cookbook, and the Resource Guide. Through this grant, the NVFC’s Heart-Healthy Firefighter Program will also continue to offer the highly successful FIRED UP FOR FITNESS Challenge and the [www.healthy-firefighter.org](http://www.healthy-firefighter.org) Web site, the emergency services’ leading resource for information concerning heart-health.

## QUICK HIT TRAINING BY ILLINOIS FIRE SERVICE INSTITUTE

**Website:** <http://www.fsi.uiuc.edu>

Illinois Fire Service Institutes website provides Quick Hit Training online Quick Hit Training. IFSI suggests that as one key to a successful fire attack is to get a quick knock on a fire. “Quick Hit Training” works on the same premise. With limited time and manpower in mind they are providing short training segments that can viewed by an individual or a group of emergency response providers. These training modules concentrate on skills and knowledge that are important for both new and seasoned responders. Each module is ideal for new or review training.

Copy and paste the following url into your browser <http://www.fsi.uiuc.edu/content/virtual%20campus/QuickHit.cfm>

You will find 3 training sequences on Modern Wood Building Construction. Check it out. It’s Hot !





## FIRE DEPARTMENT CITY HAS IMPROVEMENTS ON TAP

By ADAM BEAM - [abeam@thestate.com](mailto:abeam@thestate.com)

### IMPROVING FIREFIGHTER SAFETY

Three key improvements the Columbia Fire Department has identified to improve firefighter safety:

- Expand radio channels that are monitored by dispatchers; currently, dispatchers don't monitor or record transmissions on certain channels.
- Computerize all information on major city buildings that could be accessed en route to a fire; currently, that data is in three-ring binders.
- Use GIS technology to locate downed firefighters who cannot tell rescuers where they are inside a building and to monitor their air consumption rates.

If Columbia firefighters get lost in a burning building, they have to search for an orange button the size of a pea to call for a Mayday.

And if they don't remember to change their radio channel, it's possible no one will hear them.

Radio communications is just one of the areas identified by the Columbia Fire Department in an internal memo that takes a hard look at the department's policies and practices following the deadly furniture store fire that killed nine Charleston firefighters in June.

Columbia Fire Chief Bradley Anderson said most of the improvements outlined in the memo — which deals with training, equipment and organization — were in the pipeline before the Charleston fire.

The improvements under way are meant to fine-tune the department's operations.

"When Charleston happened, it really shook us up," said Harry Tinsley, assistant chief of operations, who wrote the memo. "It made it real personal, and it did cause us to speed up."

Firefighters inside a building normally communicate on what's called a "fire ground" channel. Dispatchers don't monitor or record these channels.

If a firefighter calls for a Mayday on a fire ground channel, the incident commander will hear it.

However, the incident commander is "one guy in

charge with two radios and a lot going on," Tinsley said. "Sometimes, you can miss that Mayday."

Firefighters are trained to switch their radios back to the dispatch channel before calling a Mayday, Anderson said, but it is difficult to do in the heat of the moment.

"It's not a safe practice to be changing channels while inside of a fire," said Mike Cosola, president of the Columbia firefighters' union, the International Association of Firefighters.

The fire department hopes to hire two full-time fire dispatchers and reprogram the communication system so dispatchers can monitor the channels at all times.

"If you hit your emergency button, you don't have to worry about switching channels in smoke," Tinsley said.

Tinsley, who has been on the job since June, said he's also looking into buying \$200 upgrades to the Personal Alert Safety Systems firefighters wear.

The upgrades would allow incident commanders to track firefighters' locations and air consumption rates.

"This information could save a life if a down firefighter does not know where in the building they are," Tinsley wrote in the memo.

And, beginning in January, firefighters will be trained on how — and when — to call for a Mayday, along with how to rescue firefighters who signal them.

Part of the training will be to demand that firefighters always respond to a Mayday call or a PASS alarm. Sometimes, Tinsley said, firefighters treat the PASS alarms like car alarms.

"Oftentimes, they are ignored," Cosola said. "Fire scenes are pretty chaotic. Giving the battalion chief ability to know exactly where I am, that's just a huge plus."

Other proposed improvements:

- Computerize information on major city buildings that can be accessed within seconds while responding to a fire.



## **FIRE DEPARTMENT CITY HAS IMPROVEMENTS ON TAP (Continued from Page 6)**

- Hire battalion chief aides who can assist with organizing a fire scene, including driving chiefs to the scene so they can begin directing operations during the first critical moments of a fire.

- Add more thermal imagers to fire trucks.

One change will go into effect Monday when the department starts operating a fifth battalion.

Currently, Richland County is divided into four battalions. Each has a battalion chief who is in charge of various fire stations.

But the growth in Northeast Richland prompted Anderson to start a fifth battalion in the northern part

of the county so Battalion Three can focus more on the Northeast. The department also plans to open a new fire station on Spears Creek Church Road on Nov. 5.

“We have battalion chiefs who are trying to supervise too many people,” Anderson said. “It’s hard for them to keep track.”

It cost about \$250,000 to add three new battalion chiefs, one person to cover each shift. The department did not hire more firefighters; it just reallocated firefighters already working.

## **DO THE MATH: SPRINKLERS = FIREFIGHTER SAFETY TAKE A PROACTIVE APPROACH INSTEAD OF REACTING TO AN INCIDENT**

**BY BRETT LACEY & PAUL VALENTINE**  
**Firehouse.com Contributors**

It seems in the fire service change is always associated with an event and is forced upon us. Take a look at the similarity between fire codes and your department’s SOPS. If you have been around your fire department long enough, you can put a name or an event on almost every written policy or procedure! Look at how our fire codes have evolved from notable fire events such as the Triangle Shirtwaist Fire, Beverly Hills Supper Club and the night club tragedy in Rhode Island. We never tend to take a proactive approach, but wait until something happens that forces either a fire department or elected officials to react.

Following the horrific loss of nine firefighters in South Carolina during the week of our “Safety Stand Down” we must focus our attention on reducing the likelihood of another event by taking a pro-active approach to firefighter safety.

It is commendable that the leaders in the fire service sponsored the third International Fire and EMS Safety Stand Down. The theme “Ready to Respond”, focused on training and preparation before the call.

One of the most effective preventative safety measures to take before the call is commonly overlooked by fire departments. The solution to firefighter safety before the call is simple. Just do the math...Sprinklers = Firefighter Safety.



As a fire service we tend to view sprinklers as protection for the building and the occupants. Sprinklers will not put firefighters out of business as we frequently hear! They are designed to control the fire until firefighters arrive. Sprinklers allow firefighters to enter a burning structure while the occupants have time to evacuate. A properly designed and installed sprinkler system will significantly reduce the likelihood that a firefighter will be caught in a flashover or a building collapse.

Shortly after the tragic fire in South Carolina another similar furniture store fire occurred in Ormond Beach, FL with a different outcome. When the Ormond Beach firefighters arrived at the furniture store, a sprinkler had activated and was controlling the fire until final extinguishment could be completed by the fire department. There were no injuries, no firefighter fatalities or extensive media coverage. The busi-



## **DO THE MATH: SPRINKLERS = FIREFIGHTER SAFETY (Continued from Page 7)**



ness will re-open in a few days.

During the stand down week, did you ask “Is our fire sprinkler requirements adequate for our firefighters and citizens we protect?” Part of prep-

aration before the call entails a risk analysis of existing buildings. Do not overlook sprinkler requirements for existing occupancies. We need to eliminate the “grandfather clause” saying and the practice of continuing to just accept buildings in our response district that present a hazard to firefighters.

Do you have large industrial buildings, hazardous storage facilities or high rise buildings without sprinklers? Understandably a retrofit ordinance can be costly and difficult for the elected officials to overcome the political influence of passing such ordinance. However, as a fire service we are lacking a coordinated effort to ease this burden. One coordinated preventative method overlooked by the fire service is forcing congress to finally pass the proposed Fire Sprinkler Tax Incentive Legislation Initiative. This pending legislation offers tax incentives for the installation of automatic sprinklers. This would ease the financial burden of retrofitting sprinklers and improve fire fighter safety. Have you or your local union sent your congressman a letter of support of passing this legislation as a means to improve firefighter safety?

In fact, how many fire chiefs even use firefighter safety as a primary reason to strengthen fire sprinkler codes? Once the ordinance is approved, is credit given to elected officials who had the courage to “stand up for fire safety”? Illinois is evolving into a very aggressive Midwest fire sprinkler state. There are 65 political entities with a zero square footage sprinkler or zero fire tolerance requirement and 44 entities with a residential sprinkler ordinance. This is a great start! The Northern Illinois Fire Sprinkler Advisory Board frequently recognizes elected officials who have had the

courage to stand up to developers and opponents of sprinklers. Recognition ads are placed in municipal trade journals read by their peers. Does your fire department administration recognize elected officials for taking a tough stand for stricter sprinkler codes? Does your firefighters union support and advocate Sprinklers = Firefighter Safety?

The National Fallen Firefighters Foundation recognized the need to do more to prevent line of duty deaths and launched a national initiative. The initiative focus is on prevention through 16 life safety initiatives. One of those initiatives is “Strengthen advocacy for the enforcement of codes and the installation of automatic sprinklers”. As we mourn the loss of fellow firefighters in South Carolina, take a strong stand for firefighter safety and reduce the likelihood of this re-occurring by passing stricter fire sprinkler ordinances.

It is simple...Sprinklers = Firefighter Safety!



## AS WESTERN FIRES BURN STRONGER, FIGHTERS HESITATE OFFICIALS GROWING RELUCTANT TO RISK LIVES FOR HOMES OWNERS HAVEN'T PROTECTED (Continued From Page 8)



Associated Press  
Updated: 3:20 p.m. ET  
Oct 2, 2007

SALT LAKE CITY - Fueled by drought and development, wildfires in the West are getting

bigger and more aggressive, creating conditions so dangerous that fire bosses are increasingly reluctant to risk lives saving houses — particularly if the owners have done nothing to protect their property.

From Southern California to Montana, seven firefighters have died this year battling blazes that have destroyed more than 400 houses — a dramatic increase from last year.

The firefighters' job has been made more hazardous by an onslaught of houses and vacation cabins being built across the rugged West — some of them inside national forests. An estimated 8.6 million houses have been built within 30 miles of a national forest since 1982.

"There's the frustration of knowing these people aren't taking care of their home, and why do we have to do it?" said John Watson, a Fairfield, Mont., firefighting contractor who uses a 750-gallon fire engine to protect remote houses. "I've asked them, 'Do you understand the danger?' There isn't a whole lot that needs to be done to mitigate the threat, but they won't do it. They say: 'I'd rather have my cabin burn down with the trees than have you cut some down.'"

Fire commanders say they are more likely to walk away from houses without a buffer zone, which can be as simple as raking debris from around a house and leaving a bed of gravel at the foundation, or putting metal roofs on their homes instead of flammable wood shakes.

Until recently, firefighters "saluted and went out and did it," said Don Smurthwaite, a U.S. Bureau of Land Management spokesman and former firefighter. Now, "we will not ask a fire crew in a dangerous fire

to defend a structure that has not taken precautionary steps. That's definitely a change."

### Scientist: Fires now more catastrophic

Wildfires have always naturally swept the landscape, but scientists say they are becoming more catastrophic. There is little dispute that the wildfires are being fueled by a hotter weather, a years long drought, the spread of weeds that burn like oily rags and the buildup of forest debris from decades in which fires were routinely suppressed.

"We at least seem to be having larger and more intense fires," said U.S. Forest Service fire researcher Jack Cohen in Missoula, Mont.

So far this year, wildfires have consumed 8.2 million acres nationwide, an area larger than Maryland, and most of it in the West, according to the National Interagency Fire Center in Boise. That figure is fast approaching last year's record of 9.9 million acres, and the fire season can last through November in many parts of the West, particularly in fire-prone Southern California.



By Sept. 26, wildfires had destroyed 409 houses across the West, more than 1½ times last year's total of 263, federal statistics show. California, as usual, has the biggest toll, with 338 houses burned so far this year.

From the West Coast to a few Plains states, 26 million houses — 40 percent of the housing stock — are in forests or perched on the edge of flammable wildlands, according to Volker C. Radeloff, a professor of forest ecology at the University of Wisconsin at Madison.

"There's more at stake," Radeloff said. "Everybody loves to live close to the wildlands and the houses are getting dispersed, making them harder to defend."



## NFFF WHISTLE STOP TOUR BUS GAINS TOP HONOR

**SUSAN NICOL KYLE**  
**Firehouse.Com News**

Designing a wrap for a motor coach that contained poignant photographs as well as the names of more than 3,000 names was a challenge for all involved.

And, now the people who spent countless hours designing and wrapping the vehicle for the America's Fire Service Whistle Stop tour are being recognized for their efforts.



The design has captured the 2007 BUSride/Avery Dennison Graphics MotorVision award.

In addition to receiving 6,333 online votes, the design also caught the eyes of a panel of judges. The effort will be featured in the November issue of BUSride Magazine.

Designers Amy de Boinville and Patti Odbert were pleased with the recognition.

The women spent hours collaborating on the project. "We wanted to make sure it carried safety messages as well as honoring the firefighters who have died in the line of duty," de Boinville said, adding that they poured over many photographs.

The design also showed firefighters working at a scene, and a commander supervising so everyone goes home at the end of the shift.

"Our hearts were into it. We came up with various concepts, and we worked to make sure everything was correct. I thoroughly enjoyed it," she said. "It



was the least we could do. . . "

Making sure the 3,147 names of the fallen firefighters were correct proved challenging. But, Odbert said it was imperative that they didn't drop a letter here or there.

At first, even officials at U.S. Coachways were skeptical. But, when Joe Jacovino learned what the tour was all about, he vowed to make it happen.

"I was impressed when I saw the artwork," he said. "What made it extraordinary were the 3,000-plus names. It involved a lot of prep work to make sure none were misspelled. We had to get blueprints to go around hinges and keyholes."

It didn't take much to get Jacovino on board either because he recognized some of the names. They were friends killed in the terrorist attack on the World Trade Center on Sept. 11.

"It meant a great deal. It was carrying a powerful message," he said.

The tour started in California, and made stops across the country in major cities as well as rural communities. The staff of the National Fallen Firefighters' Foundation shared the importance of embracing safety so Everyone Goes Home.

Seeing people point to a name or tell a story about their hero made it all worth while, Odbert said.

"Everyone got on board with us," she said, explain-



## **NFFF WHISTLE STOP TOUR BUS GAINS TOP HONOR (Continued from Page 10)**

ing that U.S. Coachways and Applied Advertising flew people in to make sure everything was being done correctly. "There was total dedication."

They had to make sure every single thing on the bus was taken into consideration, including taillights, vents, bumpers, handles and keyholes.

While the women were working on the final PDF, their computer crashed . . . leading to an 18-hour stint. "It was not a good time," de Boinville said, adding that there was never discussion of quitting or cutting corners.

Their artwork was transferred to a pressure vinyl wrap. "What took diligence is to make sure the application stayed true. When you are working in one dimension, and transfer it to another, it can change," said Ross Jacobs, of Applied Advertising Inc.

Jason Bergeron, the company owner, personally worked on the project, making sure the material didn't stretch and cut off a letter or name of a fallen firefighter.

"Everything had to be perfect," Jacobs said. "That's why it took a lot of time. Thinking about what it was all about, it was our honor to work on it."



## **MESSAGE TO THE ADVOCATES**

To all my fellow advocates and Firefighters throughout this great nation, I am pleased and honored to become a State Advocate for Rhode Island. I wanted to become an Advocate for the State and the NFFF because I truly believe in the organization and that we can make a difference. Firefighter Deaths remain too high; it is time for all Firefighters to do something about it.

Think about it, if any other organization had as many deaths as Firefighters people would be outraged and would demand that something be done and I am pleased to know that the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation is doing just that!

It is time for us to eliminate Firefighter deaths and WE MUST DO IT NOW, there are too many Firefighters' children without a parent. The 16 Firefighter Life Safety Initiatives need to be implemented and followed by all of us, unsafe practices need to stop. Through education and training we need to first un-

derstand what an unsafe practice is and second what we can do to prevent them.

These Initiatives were written to help save the lives of our Nations Firefighters and it is the job of all Advocates to help spread the word, I want to be part of this because I know in my heart that we as Advocates will make an impact on the fire service that has never been seen before LET'S JUST DO IT!

Most of Firefighter deaths are preventable and as advocates it is our job to help others understand what can be done to prevent these deaths through a great training program that preaches Safety and Prevention methods.

Thanks for the opportunity!!

Ted Cocco (26 years)  
Training Officer  
Providence Fire Department, Providence RI



## TENNESSEE, SOUTH CAROLINA AND WEST VIRGINIA NAME STATE ADVOCATES FOR THE FLSI PROGRAM

The National Fallen Firefighters Foundation Life Safety Initiatives Program is pleased to announce that Lieutenant Jim Roman, Sr. has been selected as a Firefighter Life Safety Initiatives Program State Advocate for Tennessee, Captain Joseph Ruffenach has been selected as a State Advocate for South Carolina; and Training Officer Dave Donohue has been selected as a State Advocate for West Virginia.

On March 10 - 11, 2004 hundreds of leaders in the fire service industry attended a Summit coordinated by the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation in Tampa, Florida. The collective goal was to come up with an approach that would enable fire departments to achieve the aggressive goal set by the United States Fire Administration, of reducing firefighter line of duty deaths by 50% in 10 years. The Summit produced a unique consensus document that became known as the "16 Firefighter Life Safety Initiatives" or the blueprint to eliminating preventable firefighter line of duty injuries and deaths; [www.everyonegoeshome.com/initiatives](http://www.everyonegoeshome.com/initiatives). The Foundation applied for and received a Department of Homeland Security

Fire Safety and Prevention Grant to fund the Firefighter Life Safety Initiatives Program. The primary mission of this program is to work in conjunction with all the fire service organizations to make every fire department in United States aware of the "blueprint" developed in Tampa, and to provide resources to enable departments to implement them.

In this position these gentlemen will be working to ensure fire departments in Tennessee, South Carolina and West Virginia are aware of the initiatives and assist them in implementation strategies. The State Advocates are the ears and eyes for the national program supporting the mission of eliminating preventable line of duty injuries and deaths through the sharing and implementation of best practices and training programs.

The Life Safety Initiatives Team is pleased to welcome Lieutenant Jim Roman Sr., Captain Joseph Ruffenach and Training Officer Dave Donohue to the program.

For more information on the Everyone Goes Home Program please visit [www.everyonegoeshome.com](http://www.everyonegoeshome.com) or call 1.877.344.0361.

### REGIONAL REPORTS

#### Region V

Chief Nazih Hazime - Currently, we have Advocates in each state except for Illinois. I do have a contact I will pursue for Illinois. I also have potentially 3 additional Advocates in Minnesota. I will be establishing a distribution list for Region 5's State Lead Advocates and a distribution list for all Region 5 Advocates. This will hopefully simplify communication and accountability.

Dearborn Fire Department, MI. is working on 100% compliance for the Safety Belt Initiative. We are about 75% there.

Wayne County, MI is deploying an accountability system. This includes on scene Firefighters identification, medical history, and personal information. This was possible through a Grant.

#### Region VII

Mike Petroff - The Nebraska Fallen Firefighters Memorial Service was held in

Ralston on October 14th. State Advocate Kyle Ienn was the host Chief.

Plans are in motion to deliver the EGH-CTBS train the trainer in Iowa. Tentative delivery is scheduled for Feb 2008. State training Director Randall Novak is the point of contact.

Deliveries of the EGH-CTBS classes continue. A delivery is scheduled at the Kansas State Instructors Conference in October. Regional Advocate Michael Petroff will be the instructor.