

July 2008 Newsletter



What Did You Do for 2008 Fire/EMS Safety, Health, Survival Week?

The members in the department enjoyed the presentations that were offered to them as part of the safety week. We had a guest speaker come in and give a presentation on responding safely and scene safety. In addition, various presentations were given from the [Everyone Goes Home website](#). We will be participating in the future and will be doing this type of training more than 1 time a year. I have incorporated training segments from your site onto our monthly training calendar and we are shooting to have more safety weeks in the future.

- **Dep. Chief Scott Owen, Marshfield Fire & Rescue Dept. (WI)**

We had a personal trainer come in and talk about exercise. He also went through a couple of different exercise programs with us. We also had a dietician come in and talk about healthy eating and healthy living. We talked about scene safety, driving safety, and station safety.

- **Training Ofc. Duane Gerke, Harrisonville Emerg. Svcs. (MO)**

Chief: The Buck Stops Where?

Planning ahead, determining available resources and making choices. That is what this year's Fire/EMS Safety, Health and Survival Week was all about! Every possible resource is available to you, as the Chief, to do all that is possible to keep the wallet pictures smiling. No one else can have the impact that a Chief can when we want to - and the buck stops there.

» **Read:** [The Full Story](#)

*Our department conducted training on the near miss reporting system and refresher training on Traffic Control policies. - **Chief Mike Gallagher, Sneads Ferry Vol. Fire Dept. (NC)***

*The Bethel and Stony Hill (CT) Fire Departments came together on Monday June 23, 2008 to host the Courage To Be Safe(SM) program to kick off Health Safety and Survival Week. During the program, 39 members signed the National Fire Service Seat Belt Pledge. - **Training Ofc. Bill Cadella, Bethel Fire Dept.***

We had three 7 - 8 hours of training, including review of our Safety SOG's, Chief Goldfeder presentation titled: And the Best Goes On. Administration kicks off each session and allows the district Chiefs and Company Officers time to present issues that bring safety forward. Firefighters and Officers review near miss incidents and complete discussion on how to apply skills which would reduce our injuries or death. Our goal is Everyone Goes Home at the end of the shift! - Frank Herndon, Orlando Int'l Airport Fire/Rescue Dept. (FL)



National Fallen Firefighters Foundation Receives Grant for Firefighter Life Safety Program

The National Fallen Firefighters Foundation has received a \$1 million Fire Prevention and Safety Grant to produce firefighter life safety training and materials as part of the *Everyone Goes Home®* Firefighter Life Safety Initiatives Program.

Emergency Response Safety Institute (ERSI) Works to Ensure Everyone Goes Home®

The *Everyone Goes Home®* program relies on many partner organizations to help implement the 16 Firefighter Life Safety Initiatives. These partners offer unique expertise. The Emergency Responder Safety Institute (ERSI) is one of those partner organizations.

Home Fire Sprinklers Save Firefighters' Lives T-Shirts & Decals



Home Fire Sprinklers - A Firefighter's New Best Friend

RB-64 is the proposal to put residential fire sprinklers into the codes for new home construction. The vote on RB-64 will be held at the ICC final action hearings in September. Educating everyone in the fire service on this critical vote is a major focus for the IAFC Fire & Life Safety Section. We urge all who are eligible to register as ICC voting members and attend the hearings.

In support of RB-64, Fire & Life Safety Section has produced an eye-catching sprinkler campaign t-shirt and colorful car decals, both displaying the message Home Fire Sprinklers Save Firefighters' Lives. Both items will be distributed free-of-charge at Fire-Rescue Int'l in Denver to anyone who stops by:

» IAFC-FLSS Residential Sprinkler Booth (Lobby

L6) » Section booth in IAFC Member Services Pavilion

Stop by and visit with them to learn how you can register to vote

and how you can obtain funds to attend the meeting if you are in financial need.

[IAFF Conducts Study to Improve Fire Fighter Safety and Deployment](#)

The IAFF has partnered with four fire service research organizations* to conduct a study to determine what staffing levels, response times and deployment of resources work best when responding to variety of fire or EMS events in an effort to minimize the safety risks to fire fighters, paramedics and the public.

[Courage to Be Safe \(SM\) Comes to Louisiana](#)

Congratulations are in order for Louisiana Advocate Jeff Pardue for putting together the state's first Courage to Be Safe(SM) Train-the-Trainer Program held on June 13, 2008, at the Louisiana State University (LSU) campus in Baton Rouge. Advocate Jeff Pardue dedicated the class to Firefighters Eric Speed and Riley Terrebonne; both Louisiana firefighters who were killed on March 29 and April 21, 2008, respectively.

[N. Dakota Fire Service Endorses the *Everyone Goes Home*® Program](#)

All of the major North Dakota fire service organizations have signed a resolution endorsing the Firefighter Life Safety Initiatives program. Signing the resolution is the North Dakota Firefighters Association, Professional Firefighters of North Dakota, North Dakota Fire Chiefs Association and the North Dakota Metro Chiefs Association. The fire service of ND has taken a stand to help reduce line of duty deaths and injuries by endorsing the FLSI program.



[Everyone Goes Home® Program Welcomes Jake Rhoades](#)

The *Everyone Goes Home*® Program would like to welcome Jake Rhoades to the *Everyone Goes Home*® team. Jake will be representing Oklahoma as an *Everyone Goes Home*® State Advocate.

[Everyone Goes Home® Program Welcomes Tim Reeves](#)

The *Everyone Goes Home*® Program would like to welcome Tim Reeves to the *Everyone Goes Home*® team. Tim will be joining Patrick R. Pauly and Edward Mann in representing Pennsylvania as an *Everyone Goes Home*® State Advocate.





INITIATIVE SPOTLIGHT

Spotlighting one of the 16 Firefighter Life Safety Initiatives each month

Initiative #10 - Grant programs should support the implementation of safe practices and/or mandate safe practices as an eligibility requirement.

More on Initiative #10:

» [Official Site for the Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program](#)

More Information: [16 Firefighter Life Safety Initiatives](#) | **Share a Resource:** editor@everyonegoeshome.com

September 22 - October 3, 2008

Reducing Firefighter Deaths and Injuries: Changes in Concept, Policy, and Practice

by the



PERI
Symposium
Center

www.riskinstitute.org/symposium

SAFETY ADVISORY:

Improper Set-up of Aerial Ladders with a Locking Waterway May Put Firefighters at Risk

NIOSH recommends that all fire departments utilizing aerial ladder trucks with locking (pin-anchored, lever actuated, clamped) waterways immediately take the actions to reduce the risk of firefighters being struck by unsecured waterways or parts of the waterway.

» **Read:** [What Actions to Take](#)

FEATURED Events

Courage to Be Safe(SM) Training

Firehouse Expo - Baltimore, MD
July 23, 2008

Read More: » [About the Event](#)

Courage to Be Safe (SM) Train-the-Trainer

Wright Township VFD, Montain Top, PA
July 28, 2008

Read More: » [About the Event](#)

www.riskinstitute.org/symposium

Courage to Be Safe (SM) Training

Fire-Rescue International - Denver, CO

August 12, 2008

Read More: » [About the Event](#)

Letter to the Editor:

Jen, first off let me say that I hope your father is recovering well. I read your letter in the newsletter and commend you for the 2x4 between the eyes approach to drawing attention to this issue. I suffered from a cardiac related incident this year that I am recovering from. In the long run I believe that the event was a blessing in disguise in that it moved me from the suppression side to the inspection/investigation side. I was the guy who could out eat just about anyone at the firehouse table. I was overweight but not tremendously but enough that I knew it needed to be fixed. Since the event I have really changed my habits with eating and exercise. It forced a few of the brothers to reevaluate their lifestyles too. All but 3 or 4 have reverted back to the old ways of overeating, lack of exercise, and complaining that the department should make a fitness program mandatory. I try to tell them that once it's made mandatory that they'll sit around and complain about having to do it. They are the ones who can effect change and they are the ones to benefit the most but for the most part they can't see it. Just the other day our 14 new hires were made to do 30 push-ups. Only one could do over 20 and the rest struggled to do 5!!! Of the 14, 5 are grossly overweight and they all smoke! Later in the month I get to do a presentation about my incident. And I'm not taking any prisoners with this one. Thanks for the inspiration and the knowledge that there are others that are just as frustrated. My goal is not relapse and go back to the ways of the past. I don't want to be replaced as an escort in Emmitsburg, because someone has to escort my family!

Deputy Fire Marshal John Crist
Hagerstown, MD



Update:

Frank Underwood, (June Newsletter, [He Thought He Was Healthy](#)) is doing well. Just two weeks after his surgery, he was elected President of the Maryland State Firemen's Association. He is continuing to recover and is learning a lot about a healthy diet. We would like to thank everyone for the cards, well wishes, and support.

Do you have an suggestion for the newsletter? Tell us about it! Please send your comments, articles, or news about what your department is doing to keep firefighters safe to editor@everyonegoeshome.com.

Chief: The Buck Stops Where?

Courtesy of [FireRescue1](#)

By Deputy Chief Billy Goldfeder, E.F.O.
National Fallen Firefighters Board Member
[FireFighterCloseCalls.com](#)

It seems that for Firefighters and Chiefs, things have not been real good lately ... related to more line-of-duty deaths. Maybe when it comes to structural firefighting, perhaps we just stop going in.

Never go in? Of course not. Well, then again, maybe that is the reality. Maybe that's how it must be in some communities. After all, you cannot respond to a working house fire with occupants, a fire that absolutely requires 30 firefighters performing specific tasks (which is all pre-plannable and predictable and can't be downgraded until we get there and determine the problem) and expect to have any level of success with only eight firefighters on your first alarm. It just won't work. Maybe allowing your firefighters to "run right in" isn't what the 1st due company does when other resources are not yet on the scene, or haven't even been dispatched.

As a Chief, you MUST constantly think about what is worth it and what isn't. This has nothing to do with your firefighters being brave, dedicated or courageous. It has everything to do with thinking about what you are allowing your personnel to do to get hurt or killed for - and what resources (including firefighters) are deployed to a 1st due fire. As Chief, you can ignore that stuff and hope it doesn't happen or you can lead some cultural and organizational changes, including some that your firefighters absolutely will not like. Fires will still get put out. Lives will still be saved. Your firefighters will just be around longer to do what they do. Sometimes as a Chief you have to take extreme measures and make life-altering decisions to manage the risks your firefighters take for people. But not for those people's belongings. It's LIFE (very big letters) and property (small letters). But you knew that.

We have to always do our best to stop the fire -- and there are many ways that can be accomplished. Sometimes it may mean going in at great risk to your firefighters - and sometimes that is an acceptable risk. But sometimes it may mean not going in. The fire can still get put out. Heck, sometimes maybe the option is to run out of building. I didn't write run out of the building, I wrote RUN OUT OF BUILDING. Meaning, there is nothing left to burn. Sound extreme? I can send you a list of Chiefs who would rather have run out of building on a very specific day than to run an LODD funeral. Naturally, we also have to continue to move forward and think about what is worth it and what isn't when it comes to your responsibility in getting your firefighters hurt or killed. So how do you get "them" to get "it?"

Pictures in wallets

One thing that recently came to mind for me is to think about the people whose pictures are in your and our wallets. Think about who is in your wallet and in the wallets of those you work with at the firehouse. Sometimes you, as the Chief, have to risk your firefighters' lives for people - that's the nature of the business we are in. People trapped? Occupied building? Your members normally must take huge risks and we all understand what can happen. But we also have to look back and think about what is worth it and what isn't.

In so many cases, it isn't. Especially when talking about the things in people's homes and structures compared to the people trapped in those structures. But even then, if there are not enough resources on your 1st alarm

assignment to match and exceed the risk, you may not be able to provide the service levels that the community and elected officials fantasize they have. And speaking of that, as The Chief it is clearly your responsibility to keep your elected officials and community well aware of what capabilities your FD has - and what they may not be able to do. We cannot "do it all," at least without the needed resources.

Make sure they understand what your FD capabilities are during budget time especially when swings, green ball parks and new police cars are being funded. Like most things, it's all about choices. And as Chief, depending upon the choices your elected officials make, you then must make choices as far as what levels of service your FD can provide - and with that come risk management. It is critical to think and make tactical decisions based upon "who we are risking ... for what." We are not advocating not ever going in. Not at all. We just have to do our absolute best to make sure the conditions, size-up and most critically the immediately available resources best match the actions being taken with regard to the firefighters that get sent in.

Planning ahead, determining available resources and making choices. That is what this year's Fire/EMS Safety, Health and Survival Week is all about. Wellness, fitness and vehicle safety are this year's focus in addition to what I discussed above. Wellness and fitness affect everyone, not just firefighters and EMS personnel. However, our personnel are subjected to much more than the typical person in our society and therefore attention to this issue is a critical requirement. By focusing on their wellness and fitness with specific programs, the pictures in the wallets of your firefighters smile a little bit more.

Another way to make the people in the wallet pictures smile? A strict and no-nonsense policy related to how your firefighters will operate and drive your emergency vehicles. And I purposely emphasize POLICY vs. GUIDELINES. Why? Policy should be looked upon as LAW. You must do it as stated, there is no other way. A GUIDELINE allows for some discretion by those who read or follow it. When it comes to driving your FD vehicles, Chief, what do you want? Do you want your officers, drivers and firefighters to have some discretion when it comes to seat belt use, vehicle speed, running red lights and stop signs? If so, what kind of discretion do you want or have? It's a very gray area-and it doesn't have to be. When it comes to the complete qualification, training and operations of any of your FD vehicles, make it POLICY with a clear understanding of what you expect, what the policy and laws are and what the consequences will be if those are not enforced (by the officers) and followed by the firefighters.

When it comes to firefighter safety, health and survival, the warm cozy "management by floating around, hugging everyone and asking their opinion in a democratic participatory manner" doesn't always work. Sometimes, as the Chief, the communications must be clear, direct and no nonsense to insure your internal and external "customers" get what's best for all affected. On the other hand, when it comes to developing those policies and setting up the training for that, there are few better ways than you and your department's participation in this year's Fire/EMS Safety, Health and Survival Week. Every possible resource is available to you, as The Chief, to do all that is possible to keep the wallet pictures smiling. No one else can have the impact that a Chief can when we want to - and the buck stops there.

Chief Billy Goldfeder, E.F.O. is a Deputy Chief of the Loveland-Symmes Fire Department, Ohio, is the Chair-I.A. F.C. Safety, Health & Survival Section and a member of the:

- » Board of Directors-National Fallen Firefighters Foundation
- » Board of Directors-September 11th Families Association
- » Board of Advisors- National Firefighter Near-Miss Reporting System
- » Ohio Fire Chiefs Line of Duty Death Response Team

He can be reached at FireFighterCloseCalls.com

National Fallen Firefighters Foundation Receives Grant for Firefighter Life Safety Program

NATIONAL FALLEN FIREFIGHTERS FOUNDATION NEWS RELEASE

Emmitsburg, MD - The [National Fallen Firefighters Foundation](#) (NFFF) has received a \$1 million Fire Prevention and Safety Grant (FPS) to produce firefighter life safety training and materials as part of the *Everyone Goes Home®* Firefighter Life Safety Initiatives Program.

Fire Prevention and Safety (FPS) grants are funded through the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program (AFGP). Through the [Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program](#) (AFGP), the Foundation has received over \$2.7 million in the past 3 years to help support our efforts to reduce the number of firefighter fatalities by 25% within 5 years, and by 50% within 10 years.

Over the past three years, the *Everyone Goes Home®* Firefighter Life Safety Initiatives Program has produced and distributed two [Firefighter Life Safety Resource Kits](#) to over 35,000 departments nationwide. [A third Firefighter Life Safety Resource Kit](#) is due to be released within the coming weeks. These DVDs/CD-ROM kits contain training videos and articles on firefighter health, wellness and safety.

Numerous training programs have also been developed and delivered across the U.S. including the [Courage to be Safe\(sm\)](#). This provocative and moving presentation is designed to change the culture of accepting the loss of firefighters as a normal occurrence. Building on the untold story of LODD survivors, it reveals how family members must live with the consequences of a firefighter death and provides a focus on the need for firefighters and officers to change fundamental attitudes and behaviors in order to prevent line of duty deaths.

Together with the *Everyone Goes Home®* Firefighter Life Safety Initiatives Program website, [www.EveryoneGoesHome.com](#), these and other safety and wellness resources are made readily available to the fire service.

Through this latest grant, the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation will continue to produce firefighter life safety training materials that ensure *Everyone Goes Home®*. "Funding provided through the Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program is critical to the delivery of such programs, and only through these types of supportive endeavors could the Foundation and other fire service organizations be able to carry on this critical firefighter life safety work", said Ron Siarnicki, Executive Director for the Foundation.

About the *Everyone Goes Home®* Firefighter Life Safety Initiatives Program

Everyone Goes Home® is a national program by the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation to prevent line-of-duty deaths and injuries. In March 2004, a Firefighter Life Safety Summit was held to address the need for change within the fire service. Through this meeting, the 16 Firefighter Life Safety Initiatives were produced and a program was born to ensure that *Everyone Goes Home®*. For more information about the *Everyone Goes Home®* Program visit [www.everyonegoeshome.com](#) or contact us at 1.877.344.0361.

About the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation (NFFF)

The United States Congress created the NFFF to lead a nationwide effort to remember America's fallen firefighters. Since 1992, the nonprofit foundation has developed and expanded programs to honor fallen fire heroes and assist their families and coworkers. With the support of fire and life safety organizations and funding from Fireman's Fund and the Department of Homeland Security, the NFFF launched a major initiative to reduce firefighter deaths. Its goal is to reduce line-of-duty firefighter deaths by 25 percent in five years. For more information on the Foundation and its programs contact us at 301-447-1365 or visit www.firehero.org.

Emergency Response Safety Institute Works to Ensure *Everyone Goes Home*®

By G. Crawford Weistling, Minnesota State Advocate

The *Everyone Goes Home*® program relies on many partner organizations to help implement the 16 Firefighter Life Safety Initiatives. These partners offer unique expertise. The [Emergency Responder Safety Institute \(ERSI\)](#) is one of those partner organizations.

ERSI is sponsored by the Cumberland Valley Volunteer Firemen's Association and was created some 10 years ago after a firefighter was struck and killed while working an incident on an interstate highway in Maryland.

The fire services face a serious problem with the number of firefighters and first responders who are injured or killed while working roadside incidents. A number of nationally recognized experts came together specifically to develop policies and programs to help the emergency services deal with this grave issue.

Today ERSI offers a cutting edge web-site: ResponderSafety.Com. This site is a great resource for free information and training materials related to roadway safety issues involving firefighters, EMS, fire police and others that respond to incidents on our nation's roadways.

ERSI has adopted an effective slogan: "On the Roadway We've Got Your Back." The institute has also developed an outstanding Emergency Responder Roadway Operations Training Program entitled "Managing Roadway Incidents."

ERSI is a member of the National Traffic Incident Management Coalition, (NTIMC) which is made up of 16 major stakeholders including: The International Association of Fire Chiefs', National Volunteer Fire Council, National Association of State Emergency Medical Services Officials and the International Fire Service Training Association. NTIMC has developed a national program identified as the "National Unified Goal", for managing incidents on our nation's roadways. The "National Unified Goal" specifies three key elements:

Responder Safety

- Recommends Practices for Responder Safety.
- Move Over/ Slow Down Laws.
- Driver Training and Awareness.

Safe, Quick Clearance

- Multidisciplinary Traffic Incident Management Procedures.
- Response and Clearance Time Goals.
- 24/7 Service Availability.

Prompt, Reliable Communications

- Multidisciplinary Communications.
- Prompt, Reliable Responder Notification.
- Interoperable Voice and Data Networks.
- Broadband Emergency Communications Systems.
- Prompt, Reliable Traveler Information.
- Partnerships with Media and News Providers.

ERSI has a number of instructors who travel the country and present very comprehensive training programs in "Managing Roadway Incident" and the "National Unified Goal", often free of charge to departments or agencies, depending upon funding.

A number of states are using responder safety training programs as part of the continuing *Courage to be Safe (SM)* program.

Virginia is one example where responder safety training is being presented by the state advocate during the Virginia State Chiefs' Conference.

In Minnesota the MTIMC - NUG program, which included full table top exercises, was used to help implement several of the Life Safety Initiatives. These were supportive of a stand alone program on roadway safety issues developed by a Minnesota Fire Chief and a MDOT Traffic Incident Management Specialist. Programs on responder safety training are also being presented in other parts of the country.

The key issue is the fact that the "Managing Roadway Incidents" training can provide valuable information to our firefighters and EMS personnel on how to protect themselves while working on our nations' roadways. All of the "Best Practices" presented by ERSI go a long way towards helping reduce firefighter deaths and injuries.

The Roles of ERSI in Implementation

The training ERSI can provide will enable the implementation of several of the 16 Firefighter Life Safety Initiatives (FLSI). They include the following:

Life Safety Initiative No. 1 - The responder safety program teaches the cultural changes needed to address firefighter safety and the courage to think about themselves when working on roadway incidents. The training stresses the need for accountability and personal responsibility to help prevent being struck while helping others.

Life Safety Initiative No. 8 - The training introduces new technologies and safety initiatives that can produce higher levels of personal safety.

Life Safety Initiative No. 11 - The program educates firefighters on the latest best practices and initiatives that are designed to help keep them safe. Items such as the new national standard and federal rule requiring high visibility vests to be worn while working on any federally funded highways that goes into effect November 24, 2008 is presented in detail. The new requirements of NFPA 1901 regarding chevron markings, lighting and equipment requirements are discussed. Key issues of apparatus blocking and safety zone distances are included in "Best Practices."

Fire Service Leaders should consider asking the Responder Safety Team to get involved in their state programs. A number of states have already initiated responder safety training in their annual conferences.

The unique expertise of the ERSI organization coupled educational resources available through the *Everyone Goes Home*® program can bring very positive information and messages to your area. Reach out to these organizations and the [Everyone Goes Home® Program Advocates](#) to see what they can do to help you promote the *Everyone Goes Home*® program.

Getting in touch with the Emergency Responder Safety Institute is easy, just go to www.ResponderSafety.com and see what the Responder Safety Educational Team can provide to the state and regional advocates' efforts.

You can contact your State Advocate by visiting: <http://everyonegoeshome.com/partners/advocates.html>.

Related:

» [Emergency Responder Safety Institute - ResponderSafety.com](#)

IAFF Conducts Study to Improve Firefighter Safety and Deployment



The IAFF has partnered with four fire service research organizations* to conduct a study to determine what staffing levels, response times and deployment of resources work best when responding to variety of fire or EMS events in an effort to minimize the safety risks to fire fighters, paramedics and the public.

Funded by a grant from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program (FIRE Act), this study will help develop tools for fire departments to use to better assess the risks in their communities and to deploy resources more effectively and efficiently to match the level of risk.

The results of this study will be especially useful to the many fire departments across the nation that are challenged by budget crises, rising call volume, personnel and equipment shortages, security issues and an overall expectation to do more with less. These and other factors, all too often, lead to an increasing number of line-of-duty injuries and death.

More than 400 fire departments throughout the United States have been selected to participate in this national study. Each department will be asked to participate in the data-gathering effort using a custom-developed web-based form. Although participation is voluntary, all selected departments are strongly encouraged to cooperate so that the integrity of the scientific study is maintained. All data provided will be treated confidentially.

Any fire department not selected for inclusion in the study is still welcome to participate in entering data by signing up at www.firereporting.org. Once a department is registered, it will be issued an ID code and password for data entry. Data entered will be used for validation purposes.

For more information, click [here](#) or contact Dr. Lori Moore-Merrell at (202) 824-1594 or Lmoore@iaff.org.

* *International Association of Fire Chiefs (IAFC); National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST); Worcester Polytechnic Institute (WPI); and the Commission on Fire Accreditation International (CFAI).*

Related:

» [Firefighter Safety and Deployment Website - www.firereporting.org](http://www.firereporting.org)

Courage To Be Safe(SM) Comes to Louisiana

Congratulations are in order for Louisiana Advocate Jeff Pardue for putting together the state's first *Courage to Be Safe(SM)* Train-the-Trainer Program held on June 13, 2008, at the Louisiana State University (LSU) campus in Baton Rouge. Advocate Jeff Pardue dedicated the class to Firefighters Eric Speed and Riley Terrebonne; both Louisiana firefighters who were killed on March 29 and April 21, 2008, respectively.

Seventy firefighters and instructors from around the State attended the eight hour program taught by Texas Advocates Rob Franklin and Danny Kistner. Cathy Hedrick commanded the attention of all with her survivor story and gave powerful testimony to the need for a culture change within the fire service. Opening remarks to the group were provided by Louisiana State University Fire and Emergency Training Institute Director D. Jeffrey Gleason and Louisiana State Fire Marshal H. "Butch" Browning, Jr.

In addition to attending the class, all students signed the National Fire Service Seat Belt Pledge and were challenged to gain compliance within their own departments. Advocate Jeff Pardue took the day one step further and called for ideas on developing a State close call and "Mayday" review program (Life Safety Initiative # 9). A second *Courage to Be Safe(SM)* Train-the-Trainer is being considered for the Shreveport area later in the year.

A Letter from the St. Tammany Parish Fire District #4 Regional Training Institute

Mr. Pardue, attached is a list of officers who attended the first of the "Courage to be safe programs" in our department and in St. Tammany Parish. The program made an impact on many of the new and older officers about their roles as company officers. Because of this program a new day has begun within this department.

At present the chief officers are looking to up minimum manning, increase staffing per unit, and a big push to hire an additional 21 -24 new firefighters over the next two years. Seatbelt awareness has increased to an even greater level from what it was last month. Captains are making everyone aware of its mandate for usage within our department.

Thank you and LSU for hosting this event, and we look forward to increasing the numbers of officers we can make delivery to and to ultimately decrease the number of injuries and line of duty deaths in this state. This has definitely made a difference to me personally as well as on the training officer level.

North Dakota Fire Service Endorses the Everyone Goes Home® Program

The North Dakota fire service has endorsed the Everyone Goes Home® program. All of the major North Dakota fire service organizations have signed a resolution endorsing the Firefighter Life Safety Initiatives program. Signing the resolution is the North Dakota Firefighters Association, Professional Firefighters of North Dakota, North Dakota Fire Chiefs Association and the North Dakota Metro Chiefs Association. The fire service of ND has taken a stand to help reduce line of duty deaths and injuries by endorsing the FLSI program. The North Dakota Firefighters association has received a grant from the ND Work Force and Safety to bring the Courage To be Safe(SM) class to every fire department in the state free of charge. This resolution was originally developed by Billy Hayes, the Region 4 advocate for the Everyone Goes Home® program.

Below is a copy of the resolution:



Pictured left to right: Brooks Martin Region VIII advocate, Allen Berge president of North Dakota Firefighters Association, Bruce Hoover president of ND Metro Fire Chiefs Association, Bill Sadowsky President ND Fire Chiefs Association, Rick Graba ND state advocate for the EGH program, Ed Grossbauer President of the Professional Fire Fighters of ND.

A Resolution by North Dakota Firefighters Association

Whereas, firefighting has been designated as one of the nation's most hazardous professions, and:

Whereas, the nation's fire service encounters a line-of-duty death approximately every third day and an estimated one hundred firefighter fatalities with hundreds of near-misses and thousands of work-related injuries annually, and:

Whereas, 50% of line-of-duty deaths are a result of cardiac related emergencies and 25% are vehicle related by responding to or returning from emergency incidents many involving the lack of use of seat belts, and;

Whereas, since 1984, nearly three thousand, five hundred firefighters, career and volunteer, have given their lives in the line of duty, and:

Whereas, North Dakota has had 5 Firefighter Line of Duty Deaths since 1977:

Whereas, in 2004, two hundred thirty-nine fire service professionals gathered in Tampa, Florida to discuss the issue of reducing line-of-duty deaths, and;

Whereas, the product of that meeting was the development of 16 Firefighter Life Safety Initiatives to help meet the goal of reducing line-of-duty deaths 25% by 2009 and 50% by 2014, and;

Whereas, the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation has created the Everyone Goes Home®campaign to increase firefighter knowledge through public awareness, as well as participation in the Courage To Be Safe training curriculum, and;

Whereas, it is incumbent upon Fire Departments to encourage, educate, and enforce firefighter safety, health, & wellness.

Now, therefore, it be resolved that the North Dakota Firefighters Association on June 7th 2008 adopt the 16 Firefighter Life Safety Initiatives and support the Everyone Goes Home®campaign to help meet the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation's goal of reducing firefighter line-of-duty deaths.

Everyone Goes Home® Program Welcomes Jake Rhoades as Oklahoma State Advocate

The *Everyone Goes Home®* Program would like to welcome Jake Rhoades to the EGH team. Jake will be representing Oklahoma as an *Everyone Goes Home®* State Advocate.

Jake Rhoades has been a member of the Stillwater, Oklahoma Fire Department since 1992. He started his career as a firefighter with the department and has promoted through the ranks to driver/operator in 1995, to lieutenant in 1999, and to training officer in 2005. He is responsible for planning and coordinating all training activities; serves as Health and Safety Officer and oversees all special operation programs that include hazardous materials and technical rescue. He also oversees the development of promotional testing and evaluation processes and the development all recruit training. Jake also serves as Planning Team Manager for the Oklahoma Task Force One where he manages the planning operations during emergency responses; OK TF 1 Instructor for structural collapse and safety, and develops and performs administrative duties during emergency response of OK TF 1.

Jake is also a contract author/developer for Delmar Cengage Learning. Projects include the development of original materials, reviews materials as a subject matter expert, and serve on committees to validate learning objectives for inclusion in fire related manuals and other materials.

Jake is currently enrolled in the Executive Fire Officer program at the National Fire Academy and has certified to the following: FF I and II, Trench Rescue, Confined Space Rescue, Rope Rescue, Structural Collapse, Instructor I and II, Hazardous Materials: Awareness, Operations, and Technician. He has numerous other certifications.

Jake has been married to his wife Brenda for 16 years and has two sons, J.T. and Carter. He enjoys coaching his sons' travelling baseball teams and playing a round of golf now and then.



"I would like to spread the message of the 16 life safety initiatives throughout Oklahoma and the nation. A cultural change must occur so that we are not accepting line of duty deaths and are willing to take a stand to make this happen. This may start at the lowest level of an organization or at the top, but it must start somewhere and organizations must realize they must make changes. Firefighters are not invincible and we are still dying the same old ways, nothing new, but it still happens day in and day out firefighters are dying during responses, heart attacks, lack of seatbelts, lack of training, and lack of situational awareness.

I do not want to be in a position of telling a wife, husband, or children that their parent was killed in the line of duty but it was our fault because there were changes that we could have made as a department that would have kept him or her alive. There is more that can be done on every organizational level and by every member of a

department to ensure that they and everyone they work with are safe.

The mission of my training program at Stillwater Fire Department is *Everyone Goes Home*® because in the long run, the skills that we possess will ultimately save our lives and allow us to return to our spouse and children. Firefighters must realize that they will be replaced, They will leave a mourning brotherhood and gap in their organization, but departments will continue to respond, promotions will be made to replace their position, but I feel that the real effects of a LODD are at home when a firefighter leaves behind a spouse and children."

Firefighter safety should be at the top of every firefighters list and each person should be empowered to stop unsafe situations."

- **Jake Rhoades** *Everyone Goes Home*®
Oklahoma Advocate

Everyone Goes Home® Program Welcomes Tim Reeves as Pennsylvania State Advocate

The *Everyone Goes Home*® Program would like to welcome Tim Reeves to the *Everyone Goes Home*® team. Tim will be joining Patrick R. Pauly and Edward Mann in representing Pennsylvania as an *Everyone Goes Home*® State Advocate.

Tim Reeves is 53 years old and he has been in the fire service since 1969. Starting at the age of 15, he has served in both volunteer and career departments. He has held every position from Lieutenant to Acting Chief, including 7 years as Deputy Chief in a combination volunteer/career department.

In 1982 he became the first paid Firefighter/Paramedic in Bucks County, PA. Currently, he is an active firefighter with the Langhorne-Middletown Fire Company, Bucks County Station 21, and a Life member with the Bristol Consolidated Volunteer Fire Company, Bucks County Station 50.

Retiring from US Steel, Fairless Works, after 25 years, he is currently taking time off before taking on some other work.

Tim and his wife Kathy have been married for 14 years but have known each other since they started first grade together. Their three sons Tim Jr., 35, who is a Patrolman with the Lower Makefield Police Department in Bucks County and a Military Police Staff Sergeant who has served for a year in Fallujah, Iraq; Steve, 30, who is a Patrolman with the Falls Township Police Department in Bucks County and is also the Captain of Bucks County Engine 50; and Christopher, 24, who is a firefighter at both Bucks County Stations 21 and 50. He also has one granddaughter named Gianna.

He enjoys spending time with his wife and playing with their two golden retrievers Doug and Goldie. He's also interested in the history of the Civil War in particular Gettysburg where he goes at least once a year. While he is visiting Gettysburg, he also takes time to pay his respects at the nearby National Fallen Firefighters Memorial in Emmitsburg, Maryland.



"I am excited to be a part of the team that will make a difference in today's Fire Service.

Prior to taking the CTBS course 18 months ago I had not known of the 16 initiatives. The course affected me for many reasons. One is that I have been on scene for 3 LODD's and do not want to see my fourth. Second is that I am a PTSD survivor and I was excited to see that this was being covered in Initiative 13. In March I attended the I-PASS Summit at the NFA in Emmitsburg and was the only representative from Pennsylvania as our two other Advocates had scheduling conflicts and saw an additional need for advocates.

My goals are to carry the message in my state or wherever I am needed to make aware of our problem and, hopefully, stop us from repeating past mistakes so that we may meet our goals in LODD reduction.

I am a 39 year veteran firefighter both in volunteer and career departments. I also have many IFSAAC Pro Board certifications including Fire Instructor I and II which I believe will benefit me in carrying our message."

- **Tim Reeves** *Everyone Goes Home®*
Pennsylvania Advocate