

June 2010 Newsletter



2010 Fire/EMS Safety, Health and Survival Week - June 20-26, 2010

Advancing the 16 Firefighter Life Safety Initiatives, 18 Holes at a Time

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» **Visit:** golf.firehero.org

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Experience - A Wise Teacher

I would like to take this opportunity to recognize Tim Brumfield as the newest Kentucky State Advocate to the *Everyone Goes Home®* program. Tim is originally from Nicholasville, KY, and serves as the Deputy Chief in charge of Staff Development, Compliance, and Safety with the Danville, Kentucky Fire Department. Recently, Tim and I were able to attend the *Everyone Goes Home®* Safety Summit at the National Fire Academy in Emmitsburg, Maryland. It was a great experience with a lot of learning and a lot of networking. During our stay, we were invited to submit a proposal on how to better spread the Courage to Be Safe® program across the entire Commonwealth. The Courage to Be Safe® program addresses the most serious threats to the health and safety of all firefighters. There will be more to come on this project as we work to develop this program for statewide delivery.

Two Firefighters Saved - Thanks, Captain!

I just wanted to pass along a message from my buddy in Kansas who you taught a while back. He called me last night and told me that one of his department's tenders rolled over while responding to a rural grass fire.



INITIATIVE SPOTLIGHT

Spotlighting one of the 16 Firefighter Life Safety Initiatives each month

Initiative #8 - Utilize available technology wherever it can produce higher levels of health and safety.

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

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.

Advancing the 16 Firefighter Life Safety Initiatives, 18 Holes at a Time

» **Visit:** [The National Fallen Firefighters Memorial Golf Tournament Website](#)

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The National Fallen Firefighters Foundation golf tournaments are not only effective fundraising opportunities for the Foundation, but also serve as a venue for bringing the message and the mission of the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation directly into the community. The Foundation strives to connect all National Fallen Firefighters Foundation local partners - advocates for *Everyone Goes Home*®, state coordinators for Local Assistance State Teams (LAST), corporate sponsors, fire service survivors, and others - through the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation golf program. Interested individuals may contribute to the overall effort as tournament coordinators, committee members, volunteers, sponsors, golfers, or speakers, and add a very important local connection to the programs and services of the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation. Their presence and participation is a testimonial to the Foundation's past, present, and future work of honoring our fallen firefighters, providing support and resources to their survivors and preventing future firefighter casualties and fatalities.

National Fallen Firefighters Foundation Golf National Coordinators Phil McLaughlin and Charlie Dickinson strongly encouraged regional tournament coordinators to incorporate the Foundation's firefighter line-of-duty injury and fatality prevention efforts into their events. In 2008 and 2009, at their suggestion, many tournaments held National Fire Service Seat Belt Pledge signings to support the efforts of the NFA and Dr. Burt Clark's Buckle Up® program. This year, at the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation golf coordinators meeting held at the Foundation's headquarters in Emmitsburg, MD, in January, Phil McLaughlin urged tournament coordinators to find creative new ways to get the message out about the *Everyone Goes Home*® program and the 16 Firefighter Life Safety Initiatives at their events.

Steve Kimple, assistant advocate manager for the *Everyone Goes Home*® program, also serves as coordinator for the Central Ohio Fallen Firefighters Memorial Golf Tournament. He said, "the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation Golf/*Everyone Goes Home*® partnership is a personal quest because of my role with the *Everyone Goes Home*® program." To tie *Everyone Goes Home*® to golf at his local tournament, each of the "hole sponsorship" signs will feature one of the 16 Firefighter Life Safety Initiatives. Steve is also coordinating efforts at the national level to make sure that every golfer at every National Fallen Firefighters Foundation event receives *Everyone Goes Home*® promotional materials, including brochures, bracelets, and bookmarks, in their golf goody bags.

In the past, many NFFF tournaments featured speakers that were fire service survivors or National Fallen Firefighters Foundation board members. Increasingly those with a firefighter safety focus are being added to the day's events. This year, Steve Kimple, as a representative of the *Everyone Goes Home*® program, will be addressing tournaments in South East Ohio and Angel Fire, NM. The Tucson, AZ, tournament led by Coordinator

Gary West, has gone a step further and devoted an entire day to firefighter health and safety programming. This year's safety seminar will feature a keynote presentation on "Fire Safety Culture" by Janet Wilmoth, editor of *Fire Chief* Magazine. Also, on the agenda for the day are: "Highway Safety for Responders" by Gary West; "The Who, What, and How of Fireground Safety & Effectiveness" by Tim Sendelbach; and "My Personal Battle with Cancer" by Jim Morgan. At the same event in 2008 and 2009, Dr. Gordon Graham, who worked with Chief Billy Goldfeder to develop FireFighterCloseCalls.com, was the featured presenter.

The development of partnerships with United States Air Force Fire Protection has become an important growth area for the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation national golf program. In 2009, the first National Fallen Firefighters Foundation international event was held at Kyoto Air Force Base in Japan. This year, Air Force/ National Fallen Firefighters Foundation joint ventures have been confirmed for Peterson Air Force Base in Colorado and Mountain Home Air Force Base in Idaho. These tournaments present not only an added venue for our fundraising efforts, but also present a promising way to spread the message of the *Everyone Goes Home*® program to military firefighting personnel.

Director of Fire Service Programs Victor Stagnaro summed up the *Everyone Goes Home*®/Golf partnership this way. "In 2004, the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation sponsored a summit that developed 16 Life Safety Initiatives. This was also the same year that the first National Fallen Firefighters Memorial Golf Tournament was held to raise awareness and to help sustain the programs of the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation. As the tournaments have grown, so has the momentum of the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation efforts to reduce the number of line-of-duty deaths. In the coming months the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation will make even greater efforts to reach every fire department across the country and strengthen and support so many of you who have assisted with the fulfilling the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation in its mission to make sure that every firefighter has the training, equipment, and support to make sure that he or she goes home at the end of their shift." There are a variety of ways that you can get involved with the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation national golf program in your community:

- Coordinate a tournament in your area.
- Volunteer at a local tournament.
- Become an individual, business, or corporate sponsor. Sponsorships may be dedicated to the memory of a fallen family member or coworker.
- Make an in-kind donation of a meal, service, auction item, or prize to your local tournament. Please consider donating your time and talent to this important outreach and help us to continue to support the work of the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation.

For information about National Fallen Firefighters Foundation Regional Golf Tournaments, please visit golf.firehero.org or contact Tricia Hurlbutt at golf@firehero.org or 410.353.0216.

Everyone Goes Home® Program Sparks Culture Change

Dave Casey, Deputy Fire Chief, Seminole Tribe of Florida

On the last day of the Battalion Captain Orientation, we had the Courage to Be Safe® program presented by Brett Pollock, Florida's Courage to Be Safe® Advocate, Southeast United States Coordinator, and Deputy Chief of West Manatee Fire-Rescue.

Recognizing the need to do more to prevent line-of-duty deaths (LODD) and injuries, the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation launched a national initiative to bring prevention to the forefront.

In March 2004, the Firefighter Life Safety Summit was held in Tampa, Florida to address the need for change within the fire and emergency services. Through this meeting, 16 Life Safety Initiatives were produced to ensure that *Everyone Goes Home*® that gave the fire service a blueprint for making changes.

The National Fallen Firefighters Foundation (NFFF) is playing a major role in helping the U.S. Fire Administration meet its stated goal to reduce the number of preventable firefighter fatalities. The Foundation sees fire service adoption of the summit's initiatives as a vital step in meeting this goal.

Courage to Be Safe® focuses on the initiative that firefighters must have the courage to face a multitude of risks in order to save lives and protect their communities. Their courage allows them to willingly risk their own lives so that others can be saved. A different type of courage is required to stay safe in potentially dangerous situations, avoiding needless risks and tragic consequences.

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. The central theme promotes the courage to do the right thing in order to protect yourself and other firefighters and ensure that *Everyone Goes Home*® at the end of the day.

Experience - A Wise Teacher

Chief Marc A. Muench

***Everyone Goes Home*® Kentucky State Advocate**

I would like to take this opportunity to recognize Tim Brumfield as the newest Kentucky State Advocate to the *Everyone Goes Home*® program. Tim is originally from Nicholasville, KY, and serves as the Deputy Chief in charge of Staff Development, Compliance, and Safety with the Danville, Kentucky Fire Department. Recently, Tim and I were able to attend the *Everyone Goes Home*® Safety Summit at the National Fire Academy in Emmitsburg, Maryland. It was a great experience with a lot of learning and a lot of networking. During our stay, we were invited to submit a proposal on how to better spread the Courage to Be Safe® program across the entire Commonwealth. The Courage to Be Safe® program addresses the most serious threats to the health and safety of all firefighters. There will be more to come on this project as we work to develop this program for statewide delivery.

In this issue, I will address Initiative #7 - "Create a National Research Agenda and Data Collection System That Relates to the Initiatives" - as it relates to the collection of data to line-of-duty injuries and deaths and the circumstances that lead to them.

There is a saying that goes something like, "experience is the best teacher," which is very true, however, in the fire service many of those experiences come from being placed in life threatening situations. Whether it is during an interior fire attack, a haz-mat incident or operating on an interstate, the situations we encounter everyday teach us through our experiences. The "classroom" that we learn in is extremely dangerous. What if we had the opportunity to learn from the experiences of others, without being placed in these situations? What if we could discover some of the circumstances surrounding line-of-duty injuries and deaths so that we could do something about them before they happen? Could we learn from the experiences of fellow firefighters who were placed in life threatening situations and lived to tell about it? We have all heard the stories around the kitchen table. These stories are shared information that is experienced by only a few members of a shift or a department. What if this same information could be collected and placed in one location so that all of us could reference these experiences to learn what went well and what went...not so well. That is the proposal made by Initiative #7 - that we might be able to go to a central source to read and study the experiences of others before we are exposed to these same dangerous situations. By being able to study these experiences beforehand, we may be able to prevent getting into these situations to begin with, as well as examples of how we might react if we are placed in a life threatening circumstance.

While not a mandatory reporting site, there is a website that you can visit to review the experiences we have discussed here. www.firefighternearmiss.com is supported by the IAFC, the IAFF and Aid to Firefighters Grants. The site has a search engine that allows you to search for and drill down to just about any specific incident type or situation that you can imagine. Topics include: fire events, health events, training events, responding events and haz-mat events, just to name a very few. There are thousands of events listed for your reference and learning experience. An additional website is: www.firefighterclosecalls.com. This site will also supply you with hundreds of examples of how to prevent firefighter injuries and death. Both of these websites also allow you to submit your own stories so that your fellow firefighters from across the nation can learn from your experiences.

Firefighting is a dangerous job and unfortunately, we have depended on experience as our primary learning tool for many years, however, if we can study the experiences of others, we can use their lessons to assure that each of us "keeps going home, after each run and after each shift."

Two Firefighters Saved - Thanks, Captain!

Hey Captain,

I just wanted to pass along a message from my buddy in Kansas who you taught a while back. He called me last night and told me that one of his department's tenders rolled over while responding to a rural grass fire.

My first thought, upon hearing what the story was about, was that most tender rollovers result in usually serious injuries or death. However, I learned that both the driver and passenger were wearing their seatbelts and were able to self-extricate with minor injuries after the tender rolled twice.

My buddy, after meeting you and learning more about the *Everyone Goes Home*® Firefighter Life Safety program, felt strongly about delivering that message back to his department. Although he faced strong resistance, he was able to institute a new way of thinking in a strongly traditional fire department.

This incident is an example of how the simple act of wearing a seatbelt has made a big impact in this department. Matt had informed me on numerous occasions before their introduction to Firefighter Life Safety program, wearing a seatbelt in his department. He feels that with the *Everyone Goes Home*® program, has helped the department evolve in understanding the importance of safety. This new outlook saved two firefighters' lives yesterday morning.

My friend is grateful for the lessons of the *Everyone Goes Home*® program. I am too, because he is a very close friend of mine. We both realize yesterday's events could have had a different outcome.

Have a good day! Thanks.



