TAKE 5 FOR SAFETY

INSTRUCTOR'S NOTES

5-MINUTE SAFETY DRILL

Driving: Defensive Driving is the Way of Pros

FOCUS: Despite the size of fire apparatus, we can't depend on the public to acknowledge us. It's hard to believe that sirens and flashing lights don't have an impact. We must anticipate the public will make mistakes and drive defensively every day.

Date:_____

Shift:_____

Dept:_____

Station:_____

Training Code:_____

NOTES:

CHALLENGE

We know driving is one of the most dangerous tasks firefighters engage in.
Our roadways are becoming more congested every day. Issues such as weather changes, construction, holidays and tourists make it even more difficult to travel the streets and highways safely to accomplish our tasks.

Defensive driving techniques must be practiced to anticipate the errors made by other drivers on the roads we share if we are to get there safely! As professional drivers, we must excel at defensive driving. In order to accomplish our tasks safely we must anticipate driver errors and common mistakes.

We must expect the unpredictable and make the necessary adjustments to protect ourselves and the public. When in doubt we should slow down and yield the right of way and maintain safe distances from other vehicles in our path. We must always expect the unexpected and drive accordingly. Remember, we are the pros.

Failure to do this can have deadly results!

DISCUSSION

- Let's talk about some unpredictable actions we have encountered lately.
- What did you do to prevent a collision?
- How much do you think your level of driving experience assisted in the decisions you made?
- What defensive driving techniques do you practice routinely?
- How can we transfer this knowledge to less experienced drivers?
- What affect do you think lights and sirens have on the common driver?
- How can we better educate the public about safety protocols they should practice when emergency vehicles are responding to emergencies?
- How can we improve our defensive driving training?

The greatest asset of the fire service is our people; protect them!

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