TAKE 5 FOR SAFETY

INSTRUCTOR'S NOTES

5-MINUTE SAFETY DRILL

DRIVING: SEAT BELTS MAKE SENSE!

FOCUS: Firefighters continue to suffer serious injuries or death when crashes occur because they weren't wearing seat belts. This must change!

Date:_____

Shift:_____

Dept:_____

Station:_____

Training Code:_____

NOTES:

CHALLENGE

Of the many dangers in the fire service, driving poses one of the greatest threats to life. The apparatus provided today has tremendous safety features to protect fire fighters in the event of a crash. Despite these improvements, firefighters are still being injured in record numbers.

It is a proven fact that wearing seat belts saves lives. It's hard to believe that there are personnel who continue to ride in vehicles without wearing seat belts! The fire service has embraced 'safety" as a key component of its operational policies and procedures. Safety awareness is an integral part of the training and drills departments engage in daily!.

How can seat belt usage continue to be an issue? We must continue to emphasize the necessity to wear seat belts at all times. Our culture must embrace wearing seat belts as a crucial part of our operational guidelines. Leadership must coach staff on the importance of being belted in at all times. Our incident and accident reviews should always include seat belt usage when determining contributing causes of accidents.

The time has come for everyone to accept responsibility for personal safety. A key component is the wearing of seat belts each and every time we ride in any vehicle. As we end this year, let's make a commitment to fully embrace this important aspect of safety. There are many people depending on you!

DISCUSSION

- Do you buckle up prior to leaving the station every time, if not, why not?
- Do you feel comfortable asking a team mate to buckle up?
- How doest the department handle seat belt violations?
- Have you signed the Seat belt pledge?
- What about your department?
- What do you think can be done to encourage every firefighter to wear their seat belts?

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

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