TAKE 5 FOR SAFETY

INSTRUCTOR'S NOTES

# 5-MINUTE SAFETY DRILL

# Driving: Vehicle Maintenance Can't Be Ignored

**Date:**_____

**Shift:**_____

**Dept:**_____

**Station:**_____

**Training Code:**_____

NOTES:

**FOCUS: In order to respond to emergencies, our equipment must be in the best condition. To ensure this, we must have a thorough and consistent inspection policy.**

## CHALLENGE

A sidelined emergency vehicle does little good for anyone. A blow out creates an extremely dangerous situation. This is especially true when the emergency vehicle is traveling at a high rate of speed or the road conditions are less than desirable.

Driving is one of the most dangerous tasks firefighters are involved in. Each year there are approximately 16,000 vehicle accidents. These accidents result in injuries to thousands of firefighters and civilians.

Unfortunately a significant percentage are attributed to the operation of unsafe vehicles. This is a sad commentary to our inspection and maintenance program. It is important our departments develop comprehensive apparatus maintenance programs in accordance with manufacturer's specifications and instructions.

These programs should include regularly scheduled inspections, documentation and procedures for removing apparatus from service until major defects are repaired. Once the procedures are in place, they must be followed without exception for the safety of all concerned.

## DISCUSSION

- When is equipment red-tagged?
- How do we control vehicle use?
- Do you feel there are adequate safeguards in place?
- Is communication between shifts adequate regarding equipment and vehicle issues?
- Have you ever operated a vehicle that you felt was unsafe?
- Are equipment and vehicle issues communicated to safety committee?
- How can we improve our inspection and maintenance documentation?

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

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