TAKE 5 FOR SAFETY

INSTRUCTOR'S NOTES

5-MINUTE SAFETY DRILL

Risk Management: Bridges are Exposure

Date:_____

Shift:_____

Dept:_____

Station:_____

Training Code:_____

NOTES:

FOCUS: The recent tragedy involving a bridge collapse has brought to light that many of the nation's bridges are of concern from a structural standpoint. This can create response problems for emergency responders.

CHALLENGE

This beautiful bridge serves as a reminder of a recent tragedy. Bridges are located in every city to one extent or another. They not only connect sections of town but are major routes of transportation. Firefighters must be able to get to emergency scenes in order to deliver necessary services.

In the past, private bridges were the focus of concern due to dimensional and weight capacity uncertainties. Our concern about major bridges collapsing was only anticipated in the event of a natural disaster or act of terrorism. Since the recent bridge collapse, studies have revealed that many of the bridges throughout the country are deficient and in need of repair!

With this in mind, it is important emergency service groups reevaluate their service areas. Bridge failure creates another catastrophic exposure that could severely impair the ability to render aid in a timely manner.

DISCUSSION

- How prepared is your department to operate if a bridge is not accessible?
- Do you have alternate modes of transportation?
- What considerations come to mind in the event of a bridge collapse?
- Have you had enough practice drills to be comfortable with water rescues?
- Do you have mutual aid agreements in place to provide assistance to areas where your department won't have timely access?
- What additional issues could arise in this situation?

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

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