TAKE 5 FOR SAFETY

INSTRUCTOR'S NOTES

5-MINUTE SAFETY DRILL

Risk Management: Let's Break the Accident Chain

FOCUS: Accidents present us with an opportunity to improve our existing systems and we should respond with this in mind.

Date:_____

Shift:_____

Dept:_____

Station:_____

Training Code:_____

NOTES:

CHALLENGE

Often we are quick to point out "human error" as the cause of an injury or accident. Rarely is a simple explanation the whole story. It is much more difficult and time consuming to get to the "root" cause of accidents and injuries.

Accidents and injuries are frequently the result of many events that end in a simple human error event, and that is where the blame is placed. Thorough analysis points out that many others may have had "NEAR MISSES", and frequently we find that the behavior is a common practice. In a profession based on speed and risk, we often take risky short cuts. For example, many firefighters pull on turnouts in the rig to save seconds, knowing that they are violating seat belt requirements. All accidents and injuries have at least four major factors to consider in order to break the chain of activities that can lead to injuries and accidents.

DISCUSSION

- Is there a policy concerning the activity and was it violated? If so was the violation common place, or a "cultural drift" where practice and policy no longer coincide?
- Is there adequate training that is frequent enough to perfect behavior? If so was it violated?
- Has the proper environment been established? Do our firefighters have quality, complete "Personal Protective Equipment" or PPE?
- Do our companies act as a professional team of firefighters or do they get a group mind that promotes risk taking?
- Is our command and communication unified, clear, consistent, and competent recognizing safety as a primary function?
- Are all firefighters trained to make appropriate decisions and act as thinking professionals responding appropriately to the chain of command?
- Do firefighters feel empowered to discuss safety concerns and issues?
- What short cuts do you take as routine, What policies do we violate to save time?
- What policies need to change because they can't be followed in practice?
- What training should be improved or offered more frequently?
- What equipment usage is inadequate to provide proper protection?
- Do we have cultural drift that promotes different behavior that our policies require?
- What is our "company story" that we live every day? Is it about the importance of safety and attitude, or is it about short cuts and risk taking?

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

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