

**INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FIRE CHIEFS
2006 FIRE-RESCUE INTERNATIONAL
DALLAS, TX**

“Implementation of Model Policies and Procedures for Emergency Vehicle Safety”
Kevin Roche and Adam Thiel
September 15, 2006

COURSE DESCRIPTION

The IAFC has developed a complete set of model policies, procedures and guidelines for the implementation of the *Emergency Vehicle Safety Initiative*, which was published by the *U.S. Fire Administration* and the *U.S. Department of Transportation*. Attend this session to obtain a copy of the CD that includes all of the model documents and learn how to implement them in your fire department.

COURSE GOALS

- Review the problem;
- Introduce the *IAFC Model Policies and Procedures for Emergency Vehicle Safety*;
- Discuss strategies for implementing the *IAFC Model Policies and Procedures*;
- Hand out your CDs!

COURSE OBJECTIVES

- At the end of this session, you will:
 - Be able to explain the problem to your department members;
 - Be familiar with the *IAFC Model Policies and Procedures for Emergency Vehicle Safety*;
 - Have some ideas for implementing the *IAFC Model Policies and Procedures* in your department;
 - Have a CD with multiple resources to assist you in this endeavor.

WHAT’S THE PROBLEM?

- Emergency vehicle response is one of our most dangerous activities.
- Accident and injury statistics
- Firefighter line-of-duty-death (LODD) statistics
- Related issues:
 - Community perception
 - Media attention
 - Risk management attention
 - Insurance
 - Premiums
 - Insurability
 - Deployment

THE IAFC’S ROLE

- Develop model policies and procedures for safe emergency vehicle response.
- Provide easy customization for the *IAFC Model Policies and Procedures*.
- Aggregate information on state motor vehicle codes relating to emergency vehicle response.
- Provide you with a comprehensive resource to implement the *IAFC Model Policies and Procedures* in your department.



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IAFC MODEL POLICIES AND PROCEDURES FOR EMERGENCY VEHICLE SAFETY

- Incorporate international best practices.
- Meet relevant National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) standards.
- Are not “one-size-fits-all.”
- Are easily customized for your department.

IMPLEMENTATION

- “Implementation may be viewed as a process of interaction between the setting of goals and actions geared to achieving them.” [Pressman, J.L. & Wildavsky, A. (1984) Implementation, 3^e]

IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY

- Identify the problem...using every opportunity:
 - Safety Stand-Down
 - Company training
 - Department meetings
 - Daily/weekly apparatus checks (preventive maintenance)
 - Weekly/monthly training sessions
 - Fundraisers
 - Family events
 - Awards ceremonies
 - Officer installations
 - Current events/news articles
- Leverage existing resources
 - United States Fire Administration (USFA)
 - International Association of Fire Chiefs (IAFC)
 - Local, regional, and state fire chiefs’ associations
 - National Volunteer Fire Council (NVFC)
 - International Association of Fire Fighters (IAFF)
 - Cooperative local and state law enforcement agencies/organizations
- “Tone at the Top”
 - Chief officers can set the tone...
 - Leadership by example
 - Networking
- Build “grassroots” support
 - Drivers
 - Company officers
 - Firefighters
- Include members in customizing the model policies and procedures for your department.
 - Volunteer
 - Career
 - Paid-on-call
 - Support staff
- Consider all types of vehicles
 - Heavy apparatus
 - Specialized apparatus
 - Staff vehicles
 - Personally-owned vehicles (POVs)



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- Enlist member support for adopting your (customized) policies and procedures for emergency vehicle safety
 - Career
 - Volunteer
 - Paid-on-call
 - Support Staff
- Labor-Management cooperation
 - Safe emergency vehicle operation is a key issue for both labor and management
- Training, training, training...
 - Provide all members with training on your policies and procedures before, during, and after implementation
 - Reinforce safe vehicle operation during other types of training activities
- Technology
 - Traffic signal preemption
 - Apparatus design
 - Adjuncts
 - Rear-view cameras
 - Remote speedometers
- Swiftly address violations of policies and procedures for emergency vehicle safety
- Report near-misses (www.firefighternearmiss.com)
 - Identify “lessons learned”
 - Share “lessons learned” with all members
 - Share with neighboring departments
- Celebrate positive accomplishments
 - Safe driving awards
 - Individual “on-the-spot” recognition

CONCLUSION

- “...implementation, under the best of circumstances, is exceedingly difficult.”
- “If no action is begun, implementation cannot take place.” [Pressman, & Wildavsky (1984)]
- You are not alone...

FOR ADDITIONAL COPIES OF THE CD-ROM

- During FRI 2006, visit:
 - The *IAFC Safety, Health, and Survival Section* booth (#5145) on the exhibit floor at the Dallas Convention Center.
- After FRI 2006, contact:
 - International Association of Fire Chiefs
 - Sheila Jarboe (sjarboe@iafc.org)
 - Derek Floyd (dfloyd@iafc.org)



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RESOURCES

- United States Fire Administration (2004) *Emergency Vehicle Safety Initiative/FA-272*, Emmitsburg, MD: www.usfa.dhs.gov
- United States Fire Administration (1999) *Guide to Developing Effective Standard Operating Procedures for Fire and EMS Departments/FA-197*, Emmitsburg, MD: www.usfa.dhs.gov
- United States Fire Administration & The National Volunteer Fire Council (2006) *Emergency Vehicle Safe Operations for Volunteer & Small Combination Emergency Services Organizations*, Washington, DC: www.nvfc.org/evsp/index.html
- United States Fire Administration & The International Association of Fire Fighters (2006) *Improving Apparatus Response and Roadway Operations Safety in the Career Fire Service*, Washington, DC: www.iaff.org/evsp/home.html

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- United States Fire Administration
- United States Department of Transportation
- International Association of Fire Chiefs
 - President William D. Killen
 - Vice President James B. Harmes
 - 2nd Vice President Steven P. Westermann
 - IAFC Board of Directors
 - Garry L. Briese, Executive Director
 - Victoria Lee, Program Manager
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All hyperlinks operational at time of submission; cannot be verified beyond August 1, 2006.

