

Implementation of Model Policies and Procedures for Emergency Vehicle Safety



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2006 FIRE-RESCUE INTERNATIONAL



Course Description

508—Implementation of Model Policies and Procedures for Emergency Vehicle Safety

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.

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and Kevin Roche, Assistant to the Fire Chief, Phoenix (AZ)
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 for Emergency Vehicle Safety*
- 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
- Crashes and injuries
- Firefighter fatalities
 - Average 15 per year from vehicle-related incidents over the past decade
 - 2nd leading cause of firefighter fatalities



What's the Problem?

- **Related issues:**
 - **Community perception**
 - **Media attention**
 - **Risk management**
 - **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



The IAFC's Role

- Provide you with a comprehensive resource to implement the *IAFC Model Policies and Procedures* in your department



IAFC Model Policies and Procedures

- Incorporate international best practices
- Meet relevant NFPA standards
- Not “one-size-fits-all”
- 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 and explain the problem...**
 - **Safety Stand-Down**
 - **Company training**
 - **Department meetings**
 - **Daily/weekly apparatus checks (preventive maintenance)**
 - **Weekly/monthly training sessions**



Implementation Strategy

- **Identify and explain the problem...**
 - **Fundraisers**
 - **Family events**
 - **Awards ceremonies**
 - **Officer installations**
 - **Current events/news articles**



Implementation Strategy

- **Leverage existing resources:**
 - **Department of Homeland Security (DHS)/United States Fire Administration (USFA)**
 - **International Association of Fire Chiefs (IAFC)**
 - **Local, regional, and state fire chiefs' associations**



Implementation Strategy

- Leverage existing resources:
 - National Volunteer Fire Council (NVFC)
 - International Association of Fire Fighters (IAFF)
 - Cooperative local and state law enforcement agencies/organizations
 - Websites
 - www.firefighternearmiss.com
 - www.respondersafety.com



Implementation Strategy

- “Tone at the Top”
 - Chief officers can set the tone...
 - Leadership by example
 - Networking



Implementation Strategy

- Build “grassroots” support:
 - Drivers
 - Company officers
 - Firefighters



Implementation Strategy

- Include members in customizing the model policies and procedures for your department
 - Volunteer
 - Career
 - Paid-on-call
 - Support staff



Implementation Strategy

- **Consider all types of vehicles:**
 - Heavy apparatus
 - Specialized apparatus
 - EMS vehicles
 - Ambulances
 - Staff vehicles
 - Personally-owned vehicles (POVs)



Implementation Strategy

- Enlist member support for adopting your department's (customized) model policies and procedures.
 - Career
 - Volunteer
 - Paid-on-call
 - Support Staff



Implementation Strategy

- Labor-Management cooperation...
 - Safe emergency vehicle operation is a key issue for both labor and management



Implementation Strategy

- **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



Implementation Strategy

- **Utilize available technology**
 - Traffic signal preemption
 - Apparatus design
 - Adjuncts
 - Rear-view cameras
 - Remote speedometers



Implementation Strategy

- **Verify knowledge of, and compliance with, your department's policies and procedures for emergency vehicle safety:**
 - **Initial driver qualification**
 - Testing
 - Direct observation
 - **Annual requalification**
 - Testing
 - Direct observation



Implementation Strategy

- Report near-misses
(www.firefighternearmiss.com)
 - Identify “lessons learned”
 - Share “lessons learned” with all members
 - Share with neighboring departments



Implementation Strategy

- Swiftly address violations of policies and procedures for emergency vehicle safety

BUT...



Implementation Strategy

- **Reward compliance with policies and procedures for emergency vehicle safety**
- **Celebrate positive accomplishments**
 - Safe driving awards
 - Individual “on-the-spot” recognition
 - Peer recognition
 - Company recognition
 - Department recognition



Summing it Up

- "...implementation, under the best of circumstances, is exceedingly difficult."
- "If no action is begun, implementation cannot take place."
 - Pressman, J.L. & Wildavsky, A. (1984)
Implementation, 3^e
- Remember...you are not alone...



Resources

- DHS/United States Fire Administration (2004) *Emergency Vehicle Safety Initiative/FA-272*, Emmitsburg, MD: www.usfa.dhs.gov
- DHS/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



Resources

- **DHS/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



Resources

- **DHS/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



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Questions & Discussion

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For Additional Copies of the CD

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

