TAKE 5 FOR SAFETY

INSTRUCTOR'S NOTES

5-MINUTE SAFETY DRILL

Driving: We Must All Take The Pledge!

Date:_____

Shift:_____

Dept:_____

Station:_____

Training Code:_____

NOTES:

FOCUS: Too many firefighters are injured or die because they were not wearing seat belts. This must change!

CHALLENGE

A career in the fire service has many dangers. As we have learned how to control these exposures, we address them through new policies, better training and improved equipment. Our vehicles and equipment today are much safer than at any time in history. Even with all these improvements, firefighters are still being injured in record numbers.

Driving has consistently been identified as one of the most dangerous tasks for emergency response personnel. This is substantiated by the high rate of injuries that are the result of vehicle crashes. This fact has remained the same for too many years. Despite our intensive efforts to increase our safety awareness, there are personnel who continue to ride in vehicles without wearing seat belts!

How can seat belt usage be an issue in the twenty first century! Almost every state in the country has a seat belt law that many violate daily. The regulatory authorities are beginning to address this issue and in many cases the penalties for violation have been very high and often involve criminal prosecutions. This has resulted because in too many tragedies, investigations revealed that wearing the seat belt could have saved a life. We must adopt a more positive culture regarding seat belt usage. The time has come for everyone to accept responsibility for personal safety and take the first step.

Let's join our brothers and sisters and take the pledge!

DISCUSSION

- Do you buckle up prior to leaving the station every time, if not, why not?
- Do you feel comfortable asking a team mate to buckle up?
- How doest the department handle seat belt violations?
- Have you signed the pledge?
- If not, why not?
- What about your department?
- What do you think can be done to encourage every firefighter to wear their seat belts?
- Do you encourage your family members to buckle up?

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

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