TAKE 5 FOR SAFETY

INSTRUCTOR'S NOTES

5-MINUTE SAFETY

Driving: Speed Should Be "Right" For Conditions

Date:_____

Shift:_____

Dept:_____

Station:_____

Training Code:_____

NOTES:

FOCUS: Excessive speed is responsible for far too many accidents. It's important our training and driver evaluations address the issues relating to driving at the correct speed for the conditions we face!

CHALLENGE

Statistic's reveal that fire service experiences roughly 16,000 vehicle accidents annually. The end result of these accidents are thousands of injuries, hundreds of civilian deaths, and approximately 20 to 30 firefighter deaths.

Driving is one of the most dangerous tasks for firefighters. An analysis of many crashes reveal an overwhelming majority of accidents involving emergency responders are the result of operators driving the vehicle too fast for the conditions.

Life threatening speeds may save 10, 15, or maybe 20 seconds over the length of an average run. The risk versus the reward doesn't balance. You cannot fight the fire or save a life if you don't make it to the scene.

We must consider many factors when operating emergency apparatus. The condition of the roads, weather as well as traffic are but a few items that must be included in the equation when driving. We should exercise the same "safety" attitude we practice at emergency scenes when we are behind the wheel. The safety of your crew and the "public" are at risk when you drive at excessive speeds.

DISCUSSION

- Have their been near misses that can be attributed to speed?
- What is our department's policy regarding "code 3"?
- How do we factor in time of day, road, weather and traffic conditions as we respond to calls?
- Is our apparatus training adequate to prepare us for the hazardous situations we may face?
- How can we improve our driving safety activities?

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

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