TAKE 5 FOR SAFETY

INSTRUCTOR'S NOTES

5-MINUTE SAFETY DRILL

Accident Investigation: Create Opportunities For Change

Date:_____

Shift:_____

Dept:_____

Station:_____

Training Code:_____

NOTES:

FOCUS: Accidents present us with an opportunity to improve our existing systems and we should respond with this in mind. Our aim should be to "fix" the problem. This can't happen if we don't take personal responsibility for our safety.

CHALLENGE

Accident investigations should be conducted when accidents occur. The reason should be to prevent recurrence of a similar incident. This can only be done if we get to the true cause or causes of the accident. Accidents and injuries are often blamed on human error. Thorough analysis points out that many others may have had "NEAR MISSES", and frequently we find that the unsafe behavior is a common practice. In a profession based on speed, we often take risks that are not wise. All accidents and injuries have several actors that should be considered.

1. Is there an effective policy that addresses the activity and was it violated?
2. Is violation of the policy the norm?
3. Is training adequate?
4. Does the culture support safety and compliance?
5. How effective is command personnel?

It's important to get to the "root" cause of an accident if we truly want to prevent recurrence! Our culture must embrace safety as a priority always. Sadly, accidents too often are the means for organizations to make the needed changes that create a safer environment.

DISCUSSION

- How effective is the accident analysis process in our department?
- Who is involved with the analysis process?
- Does the analysis result in findings that provide recommendations for change?
- Are we sure we have gotten to the 'root" cause, how can we be sure?
- How involved is the safety committee and do they make recommendations?
- Do we have cultural drift that promotes different behavior than our policies dictate?
- What can we do to develop a stronger safety culture?

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

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