



NIOSH Fire Fighter Fatality Investigation and Prevention Program Stakeholders' Meeting

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**Crown Plaza Hotel – Chicago O’Hare
November 19, 2008**



NFPA's Stake in this Program

- **NFPA's annual firefighter fatality study**
- **NFPA's fire service health & safety standards**
- **OSDS requests for information on firefighter health and safety issues**



What do the investigations provide?

For the firefighter fatality studies:

- thorough reports on factors in deaths
- relevant recommendations
- often, details not available from other sources
- consistent format



What do the investigations provide?

For codes and standards development:

- Details to justify new requirements in the standards
- Details to evaluate existing requirements against
- NIOSH staff with expertise to assist technical committees in understanding problems



What do the investigations provide?

For data requestors:

- NIOSH investigation reports provide anecdotal details that flesh out the statistics we have available;

We often provide links to NIOSH reports along with the trend data for the problem of interest.



At the 2006 stakeholders' meeting, NFPA provided comments on 13 questions in seven areas where NIOSH requested stakeholder input.

Here, NFPA will focus on the future directions NIOSH set out after that meeting.



Investigations and Fatality Reports

**NFPA supports NIOSH's decision to
maintain the intensity of investigations
at the current level.**

**The posting of priorities is helpful, but
why are sudden cardiac death incidents
at fires not a priority?**



Traumatic and Non-Traumatic On-Duty Fatalities 2003-2007

Traumatic Injuries

- Crushing/Internal Trauma
- Asphyxiation/Smoke
- Burns
- Drowning
- Gunshot/Projectile wounds
- Electrocution

Total -- 255

Non-Traumatic Injuries

- Sudden cardiac death
- Stroke/CVA/Aneurysm/
Embolism
- Drug overdose
- Heat Stroke
- Septic shock
- Seizures
- Pneumonia
- Hydrogen sulfide fumes

Total -- 235



Investigations and Fatality Reports

Issues to be documented are very relevant to our efforts to pass on lessons learned:

- training of IC's and officers;**
- the fire department's OS&H program;**
- more details on fire development and behavior**



Investigations and Fatality Reports

NFPA supports the effort to investigate some non-fatal cardiovascular disease (CVD) incidents, as long as the primary focus remains on-duty fatalities

We encourage investigation of non-CVD fatalities that result from other medical problems



Outreach Efforts

NFPA endorses NIOSH's outreach efforts, particularly:

- **NIOSH's participation on NFPA technical committees is very much appreciated;**
- **NIOSH's inclusion of statistical analyses (using data from NFPA's firefighter fatality database)**



Outreach Efforts

**NFPA will continue to publicize
NIOSH investigation reports on
our website and in our
communications with our
members**



Research

NFPA supports efforts to foster research that builds on the NIOSH investigative findings in coordination with other NIOSH Divisions, other governmental agencies, and the private sector.



Concluding Remarks