

Dragon, Karen E. (CDC/NIOSH/EID)

From: mjcollins@bex.net
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To: NIOSH Docket Office (CDC)
Cc: Chen, Jihong (Jane) (CDC/NIOSH/EID) (CTR)
Subject: 063-B - Stakeholder Comment on the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) Fire Fighter Fatality Investigation and Prevention Program (FFFIPP) Progress and Future Direction Comments

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Comments

I would like to see increased attention paid in two areas when investigating traumatic fire ground deaths or injuries.

First, A review of the victim(s) continuing education. Most investigations list the victim(s) certifications. What is missing is how much time they and/or their department spend on continuing education for firefighting. Did they drill on a firefighting topic every shift, week or month? Many times a lack of basic firefighting tactics and procedures is a cause of LODD. How many departments are basically relying on training classes that may have been completed many years prior to the fatal incident?

Secondly, an investigation into basic attack line operations. Does the department have an SOP/SOG for attack lines, minimum GPM for interior attack/pump discharge pressure? What size attack line was used? How many GPM does it flow? What type of attack was used? Many rapid fire increase events such as flashover could be prevented with proper application of water at a proper rate of flow. It seems that many departments have no idea what the flow is from their attack lines. Increased attention in LODD reports may lead to increased attention and making needed changes for many fire departments.

Thank you for accepting these comments and input for the NIOSH FFFIPP. You do important work for the fire service. Thank you for your efforts.

Capt. Moe Collins
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