

# May 2008 Newsletter



## 2008 Fire/EMS Safety, Health, Survival Week is Around the Corner - Have You Adopted a Health & Safety Culture Yet?

The [National Fallen Firefighters Foundation](#) and the [Everyone Goes Home® Firefighter Life Safety Initiatives Program](#) is pleased to once again participate as a partner in the **IAFC/IAFF 2008 Fire/EMS Safety, Health and Survival Week, scheduled for June 22-28, 2008**. The Everyone Goes Home® Program was founded on the need for a cultural change within the fire service. This year's Safety, Health and Survival Week theme, **Committed to Long Term Results**, is meant to encourage strong culture of health and safety within the Fire/EMS service. We encourage you to adopt a health and safety culture and practice it every day, so Everyone Goes Home.

**Let EveryoneGoesHome.com get you started with resources that focus on this year's key areas:**

- » Emergency Vehicle Safety
- » Wellness-Fitness
- » NFPA 1500

**Remember Change Starts With YOU - Have the Courage  
to Be Safe So Everyone Goes Home**

## Firemen Taking Health to Heart

According to national statistics, 44 percent of all firefighter deaths are caused by heart failure a disturbing trend that the township's four volunteer battalions have decided to fight.

## Firefighters Have to get Killed; it's Part of the Job

In 1976, my lieutenant said, "Firefighters have to get killed; it's part of the job."\* His statement frightened me. Does the fire service and society believe this statement? Do you agree or disagree with this statement?

## Moving Water in Prince George's County, Maryland

On a wet and dreary day - April 20th to be exact - over 150 firefighters from six different Maryland counties got together in Baden, Maryland to hone their skills at moving water in



the "non-hydranted" environment. The drill was actually the Spring drill of the Maryland State Fireman's Association's Rural Water Supply Committee and was hosted by the Baden VFD, located in southern Prince George's County.

» [Read Full Article](#)

## [Responding Wisconsin Tanker Rollover-Seat Belts](#)

### Used

One Firefighter remains in the hospital in good condition this morning after an Orfordville tanker truck rolled Monday about 5 miles west of Beloit on the way to a fire. The passenger in the apparatus, FF Chad Cleasby, 31, Orfordville, was in good condition at Rockford Memorial Hospital. The driver, FF Michael Ponkauskas, 54, Orfordville, was treated and released today at Beloit Memorial Hospital.

» **Previous Article:** [10 Deadly Tanker Mistakes](#) (from December 2007 Issue)

» **More Seatbelt News:** [Beatrice, Neb. Fire Department Takes Seat Belt Pledge](#)

## [Wichita and Sedgwick County, Kansas Adopt the 16 Life Safety Initiatives and Create Roadmap for a "Safety First" Culture](#)

In January of 2008, Wichita was honored to host Chief Ronald Siarnicki, the Director of the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation. Chief Siarnicki addressed select members of the Wichita and Sedgwick County Fire Departments. The topic was the 16 Life Safety Initiatives and their regional implementation.

## [Rhode Island Names Advocate For \*Everyone Goes Home\*® Program](#)

The National Fallen Firefighters Foundation Life Safety Initiatives Program, is pleased to announce that Kevin D. Quinn has been selected as the Firefighter Life Safety Initiatives Program State Advocate for Rhode Island. Deputy Chief Quinn of the Union Fire District will join Stephen Hay, Warwick Fire Department and Teddie Cocco, Providence Fire Department as Rhode Island State Advocates.

## [North Carolina Names Advocate For \*Everyone Goes Home\*® Program](#)

The National Fallen Firefighters Foundation Life Safety Initiatives Program, is pleased to announce that Tony Bailey has been selected as a Firefighter Life Safety Initiatives Program State Advocate for North Carolina. Captain Bailey of the Nashville Fire Department will join Scott McCollum, Fire Chief, Swift Creek Fire Department, in representing North Carolina. Captain Bailey is dedicated to working locally in his home county on getting 100% compliance on seat belt use with completion of the seat belt pledge.

» **Also:** [A Message from Tony Bailey, North Carolina's Newest Advocate](#)

## [Help a Firefighter to Go Home...to a Nice House](#) [Nominate a Deserving Firefighter for a New House](#)

Extreme Makeover: Home Edition is looking for a firefighter whose house and family need help. The show is

accepting nominations for a firefighter who has displayed heroism or has proven to be a positive role model within the community, but whose family is in dire need of a new home. If there is a firefighter within your department or community that can benefit from a home makeover, nominate them today.



# INITIATIVE SPOTLIGHT

Spotlighting one of the 16 Firefighter Life Safety Initiatives each month

**Initiative #5 - Develop and implement national standards for training, qualifications, and certification (including regular recertification) that are equally applicable to all firefighters based on the duties they are expected to perform.**

**Research on Initiative #5:**

- [Firefighter Life Safety Initiatives Research Database - Initiative #5](#)
- [Firefighter Life Safety Initiatives Research Database](#)
- **Video:** [Billy Goldfeder on Leadership: Promote Safety & Training](#)

**More Information:** [16 Firefighter Life Safety Initiatives](#) | **Share a Resource:** [editor@everyonegoeshome.com](mailto:editor@everyonegoeshome.com)

**Online TRAINING**

**Maryland Fire & Rescue Institute (MFRI) Drill of the Month - May 2008**



» **Download:**  
[Instructor's Guide](#)



**Illinois Fire Svc. Institute - Ethanol & Renewable Alternative Fuels Resources**

» **Download:**  
[White Papers & FAQs](#)



**COMING SOON**

VOLUME 3  
**FIREFIGHTER**  
LIFE SAFETY INITIATIVES RESOURCE KIT

**FEATURED Events**

**Safety Through Leadership Train-the-Trainer Workshop**

National Emergency Training Center - Emmitsburg, MD  
May 27 - 30, 2008  
**Read More:** » [About the Event](#)

In the Spirit of  
**SAFETY**



Fire departments and organizations across the U. S. are proudly showing their support for the Everyone Goes Home® Program.

**Featured Department**  
**Medina Twp. Fire Dept. (Ohio)**



**Safety Management System**

National Emergency Training Center -  
Emmitsburg, MD  
May 30 - 31, 2008

**Read More:** » [About the Event](#)

**Courage to Be Safe**  
**Train-the-Trainer Course**

Somerset County Fire Academy -  
Somerset County, NJ  
June 3, 2008

**Read More:** » [About the Event](#)

**Courage to Be Safe**  
**Train-the-Trainer Course**

Gloucester County Fire Academy -  
Gloucester County, NJ  
June 7, 2008

**Read More:** » [About the Event](#)

**Correction**

Chief Brian McMahan is the new Region X Advocate. He has proudly served as a State Advocate for the state of Washington for several years. The *Everyone Goes Home*® Program would like to apologize for the misprint and thank Brian for his dedication and service.

**Do you have an suggestion for the newsletter? Tell us about it!** Please send your comments, articles, or news about what your department is doing to keep firefighters safe to [editor@everyonegoeshome.com](mailto:editor@everyonegoeshome.com).

# 2008 Safety, Health and Survival Week Resources



The National Fallen Firefighters Foundation and the Everyone Goes Home® Firefighter Life Safety Initiatives Program is pleased to once again participate as a partner in the IAFC/IAFF 2008 Fire/EMS Safety, Health and Survival Week, scheduled for June 22-28, 2008. The Everyone Goes Home® Program was founded on the need for a cultural change within the fire service. This year's Safety, Health and Survival Week theme, Committed to Long Term Results, is meant to encourage strong culture of health and safety within the Fire/EMS service. We encourage you to adopt a health and safety culture and practice it every day, so Everyone Goes Home.

Let EveryoneGoesHome.com get you started with resources that focus on this year's key areas:

## Emergency Vehicle Safety

**Initiative #11 - National standards for emergency response policies and procedures should be developed and championed.**

### » IAFC Safety, Health and Survival Section Recommended Resources

(Keep watching [www.iafc.org/safetyweek](http://www.iafc.org/safetyweek) for more resources by the IAFC Safety, Health and Survival Section)

### Always buckle up.

- » Take the Seatbelt Pledge [Click Here to Download the Pledge Form](#)
- » Watch: [All of the Seat Belt Safety PSAs](#)
- » Download: [A Seat Belt Poster](#) | [Desktop Wallpaper](#)
- » Dr. Clark Article: [Flaw in Our First Line of Defense](#)
- » Sample SOP: [Seat Belt Usage SOP \(Union Fire Division, NJ\)](#)
- » Take 5 Safety Drill - Driving: Seat Belts Are The Key - [\(Handout\)](#) | [\(Instructor Notes\)](#)

Firefighter Life Safety Research Database - » [Emergency \(Vehicle\) Response Safety - Seat Belts](#)

### Apparatus/POV Response:

- » Always stop at red lights and stop signs.
- » Always drive at speed limits and defensively.

### Firefighter Life Safety Resource Kit Volume 1

- » Apparatus Response: [PowerPoint](#) | [Instructor Guide](#)
- » Apparatus Driving & Safe Operations: [PowerPoint 1](#) | [PowerPoint 2](#) | [Instructor Guide](#)

- » [Emergency \(Vehicle\) Response Safety](#)
- » [Response Policies](#)
- » [Vehicle Response Practices](#)

### Learning Media:

- » [Driving Apparatus - Part 1](#)
- » [Driving Apparatus - Part 2](#)
- » [NIOSH Report: Firefighter LODD 12/2/2005 \(LA\)](#)
- » [10 Cones of Highway Safety](#)
- » [Attitude Awareness & Driving Emergency Vehicles](#)
- » [Changing the Nation's Fire Service \(Part I\)](#)
- » [Changing the Nation's Fire Service \(Part II\)](#)

### Model Policies and Procedures:

- » [IAFC Policies and Procedures for Emergency Vehicle Safety](#)
- » [Vehicle Operations](#)

### PowerPoint Presentations:

- » [Responding in POVs](#)
- » Mass. Fire Academy - [Part 1 \(Zip\)](#) | [Part 2 \(Zip\)](#) | [Instructor Guide \(MS Word\)](#)

### Take 5 Safety Drills:

**Defensive Driving:**

- » [Driving: Defensive Driving is the Way of Pros \(Handout\)](#)
- » [Driving: Defensive Driving is the Way of Pros \(Instructor Notes\)](#)

**Driver Fatigue:**

- » [Fatigue: Be Alert To Problems \(Handout\)](#)
- » [Fatigue: Be Alert To Problems \(Instructor Notes\)](#)

**Intersections:**

- » [Driving: Intersections Require Care! \(Handouts\)](#)
- » [Driving: Intersections Require Care! \(Instructor Notes\)](#)

**VFIS/ESECG:**

- » [Competency Course](#)
- » [Driver Evaluation](#)
- » [Driver Safety Checklist](#)
- » [Driver Selection](#)
- » [Driver-Officer Responsibility](#)
- » [Intersection Practices](#)
- » [Personal Vehicle Response](#)
- » [Response Guidelines](#)
- » [Response Speed](#)
- » [Rollover Prevention](#)
- » [Safe Driving Policies](#)
- » [Traffic Control Safety Checklist](#)

**Additional Resources:**

- » [Vehicle Operations Resource Guide](#)

## Wellness-Fitness Initiative

**Initiative #6 - Develop and implement national medical and physical fitness standards that are equally applicable to all firefighters, based on the duties they are expected to perform.**

» **[IAFC Safety, Health and Survival Section Recommended Resources](#)**

*(Keep watching [www.iafc.org/safetyweek](http://www.iafc.org/safetyweek) for more resources by the IAFC Safety, Health and Survival Section)*

**Firefighter Life Safety Resource Kit Volume 1:**

- » **Health & Wellness Concerns:** [PowerPoint](#) | [Instructor Guide](#)

**Firefighter Life Safety Resource Kit Volume 2:**

- » [Turn Out for Life Instructor Guide](#)

**Firefighter Life Safety Research Database:**

- » [Physical Health](#)
- » [Physical Fitness](#)
- » [Medical Fitness](#)
- » [Wellness Programs](#)

**Learning Media Center:**

- » [Can We Change? Will We Benefit?](#)
- » [Changing the Nation's Fire Service \(Part I\)](#)
- » [Changing the Nation's Fire Service \(Part II\)](#)
- » [Turn Out For Life](#)

**Additional Resources:**

- » [Effects of Sleep Deprivation on Responders](#)
- » [20 Minutes to a Healthy Heart](#)
- » [Firefighter Deaths from Cardiovascular Causes](#)
- » [Emergency Duties, Deaths from Heart Disease](#)

## Health and Safety, Technology Initiatives

**(Fully Implement NFPA 1500, Focus on Personal Protective Equipment)**

**Initiative #2 - Enhance the personal and organizational accountability for health and safety throughout the fire service.**

**Initiative #8 - Utilize available technology wherever it can produce higher levels of health and safety.**

» **[IAFC Safety, Health and Survival Section Recommended Resources](#)**

*(Keep watching [www.iafc.org/safetyweek](http://www.iafc.org/safetyweek) for more resources by the IAFC Safety, Health and Survival Section)*

**About NFPA 1500:**

- » **NFPA 1500:** [Fire Service Occupational Safety and Health](#)
- » **Online Access:** [NFPA 1500: Fire Department Occupational Safety and Health Program, 2007 Edition](#)

(Chapter 7: Protective Clothing and Protective Equipment; Annex F Hazardous Materials PPE Information)

**Firefighter Life Safety Research Database:**

- » [Firefighter Life Safety Initiatives Research Database - NFPA 1500](#)
- » [Firefighter Life Safety Initiatives Research Database - Personal Protective Equipment](#)

**Personal Protective Equipment:**

- » **NFPA 1971:** [Standard on Protective Ensembles for Structural Fire Fighting and Proximity Fire Fighting](#)
- » **Online Access:** [Standard on Protective Ensembles for Structural and Proximity Fire Fighting, 2007 Edition](#)
- » **NFPA 1977:** [NFPA 1977: Standard on Protective Clothing and Equipment for Wildland Fire Fighting](#)
- » **Online Access:** [Standard on Protective Clothing and Equipment for Wildland Fire Fighting, 2005 Edition](#)
- » [Protective Clothing and Equipment Problems](#)
- » [PPE Checklist](#)
- » [SCBA Inspection Log](#)

**Additional Resources:**

- » [NFPA 1500 Checklist](#)

If you have additional resources that you would like to share for any of these topics [email us](#)

**Related:**

- » [NFFF Partners with IAFC, IAFF for 2008 Fire/EMS Safety, Health and Survival Week](#)
- » [Safety Stand Down Renamed to Fire/EMS Safety, Health and Survival Week June 22-28th](#)
- » [Fire/EMS Safety, Health and Survival Week Website](#)

# Firemen Taking Health to Heart

Courtesy of [Gloucester County Times](#)

Woodbury, NJ

By **Jessica Driscoll** [jdriscoll@sjnewsco.com](mailto:jdriscoll@sjnewsco.com)

DEPTFORD TWP. - According to national statistics, 44 percent of all firefighter deaths are caused by heart failure a disturbing trend that the township's four volunteer battalions have decided to fight.

"We wanted to get our volunteers more physically fit," said Chuck Mancini, district safety officer for the township fire department. "These heart attacks often happen during or right after a call, and we want to prevent that as much as possible."

Mancini said the program also boosts department morale. Sign-ups were on a volunteer basis, and 36 firefighters have already committed to the "Burn Off the Pounds Challenge."

"This is the first time we're running a program like this, so it's mostly about personal goals," said Mancini. "It's an individual's decision to put the bag of potato chips down."

Many of the firefighters are taking advantage of a partnership with the Gloucester County Institute of Technology's physical fitness program to achieve their goals. The school has allowed fire department members to use the weight training room and pool free of charge for the duration of the contest.

Participants were weighed in at the start of the contest on April 7.

"Firefighters love challenges, and this is an important one," said Mancini. "Each of the four battalions will compete for eight weeks to see which team can lose the most weight. The winning battalion will win a five-foot tall trophy, and there will be individual awards as well."

According to the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation, anything a department can do to encourage physical fitness is tremendously important.

"Fifty-five to 65 percent of line-of-duty deaths are caused by heart attack or stroke," said Hal Bruno, chairman emeritus of the Foundation.

"And many of these are men and women in their prime who are not grossly overweight. Firefighting takes the greatest toll of any activity on the cardiovascular system."

Bruno said Harvard University recently completed a study that proved firefighters were 100 percent more likely than average people to suffer these attacks. Both the emotional and physical tolls endured by career and volunteer firefighters can contribute.

"It's an extremely strenuous job," said Bruno. "And there is usually no warning, no warm up period. These people are in full activity within 90 seconds."

Nationwide, the Foundation sponsors a firefighter safety program called "Everyone Goes Home."

It includes a series of life safety initiatives, with the goal of helping the United States Fire Administration reduce the amount of firefighter fatalities by 25 percent in five years and 50 percent in 10 years.

"These types of competitions are good stuff because they get people motivated, but a lot of it has to do with maintenance and supervision as well," said Bruno.

"We encourage departments to implement daily physical training and make equipment available in their stations."

Ultimately, Bruno said, anything that strengthens the health and safety of a department is a positive step that could make a big impact.

# Firefighters Have to get Killed; it's Part of the Job

## Do you agree or disagree?

**BURTON A. CLARK**

Courtesy of [Firehouse.com](http://Firehouse.com)

In 1976, my lieutenant said, "Firefighters have to get killed; it's part of the job."\* His statement frightened me. (see article below) Does the fire service and society believe this statement? Do you agree or disagree with this statement?

The major national fire service organizations: NFPA, IAFC, NVFC, NFFF, IAFF, USFA, plus OSHA, NIOSH, and NIST have produced thousands of firefighter safety standards, laws, training material, reports, and investigations over the past 31 years. National fire publications, conferences, and campaigns have focused on reducing firefighter injuries and deaths. The federal government mandates ICS training, SCBA testing and training, and NIMS compliance. As a result of 9/11 more federal grant money for apparatus, PPE, equipment, and training has been spent than ever before. State and local fire service organizations conduct countless hours of training and spend millions of dollars on firefighter safety every year.

In 1976, there were 107 line of duty deaths. In 2007, we had 115 line of duty deaths and about 80,000 injuries. The number of deaths and injuries has not changed much over the past 30 years. The reasons for the deaths and injuries have not changed. Because, in spite of all the safety talk and safety programs our safety belief, attitude, and behavior has not changed.

The NIOSH line of duty death studies report that we do not follow our own safety SOP's, national standards, and training doctrine. We do not use our safety equipment. We do not hold firefighters, officers, or chiefs responsible and accountable when it comes to safety. More fire service personnel are disciplined for being late for work than safety violations. In other words, we tolerate and accept safety misconduct, which can and does result in firefighter death or injury.

In 2004, Martha Stewart was convicted of lying to investigators about a \$228,000 stock sale. She served five months in prison and paid a \$30,000 fine. The government was sending a message that corporate misconduct would not be tolerated.

In 2007, the City of Los Angeles awarded a firefighter \$2.7 million to settle a lawsuit because his brother firefighters put dog food in his spaghetti. Racial misconduct will not be tolerated in the fire service. Societies know how to hold individuals and organizations responsible for behavior that will not be tolerated.

In Charleston, SC, the mayor reports the fire was, "beyond the firefighting capability of any fire department." The fire chief concluded that nothing could have been done differently. South Carolina State regulators found several work place safety violations at the fire that killed nine firefighters. The city paid \$3,000 in penalties while not admitting any wrong doing. (Adam Hochberg, "Scrutiny Feeds Firehouse Tensions After Fatal Blaze," National Public Radio, Jan 16, 2008.

In 2007, 12 firefighters were killed in the line of duty without their seat belt on; 300 in the past 30 years. There has been no discipline or penalties or accountability for their deaths.

Our belief, attitude, and behavior reinforce the lieutenant's statement. At the time he did not clarify if he meant firefighter deaths due to: heart attack, vehicle crash, getting hit by a vehicle, building collapse, falling through a floor or roof, flashover or backdraft, lost, trapped, running out of air, falling from a ladder, roof, or apparatus, or trying to rescue a victim. You will have to decide which line of duty deaths are part of the job.

There is little or no accountability, responsibility, or discipline for firefighter death or injury from the fire service, elected officials, or government agencies. There are no consequences for safety misconduct. Because, we have convinced others and ourselves that firefighter death and injury is just part of the job.

### **Time to Take the Test:**

*Firefighters have to get killed; it's part of the job.* Circle one answer

- Agree
- Disagree

I disagreed in 1976 and I still disagree today. When a firefighter is killed or injured, something went wrong. It is not part of the job. We can and must behave differently. We do not need to learn anything new, get new equipment, or have new SOP's and standards. We must do every task 100 percent correct 100 percent of the time. When we do not meet this goal there must be accountability and responsibility followed by discipline. We know how to fix misconduct at the organizational and individual level.

When a NIOSH firefighter line of duty death report reads:

- All SOP's and training doctrine were followed by all personnel.
- The structure met all fire codes.
- Nothing could have been done differently.
- Nothing can be learned from this firefighter's death.
- This line of duty death was part of the job.

The lieutenant, chief, and mayor will be correct.

Until then, be afraid - be very afraid. Because, someone near you or in your chain of command believes that "Firefighters have to get killed; it's part of the job."

I know what some readers are thinking, "Clark is full of bull; he is just an old guy who can't take it anymore." You are right. When enough of us can't take death and injury as just part of the job - death and injury on the job will stop. I hope it doesn't take 30 more years.

\* "[I don't want my ears burned](#)" was the first article I published; it appeared as a Guest Editorial in the NFPA Fire Command magazine July 1976.

**Author's Note:** *I am grateful to the January 2008 NFA Fire Service Communications class for editing this article, instructors Paul Burkhart and Mike Chiaramonte. I am grateful to the February 2008 NFA Organizational Theory in Practice class for their philosophical critique of this article, instructors Mac Greenland and Al Thompson.*

**DR. BURTON CLARK EFO, CFO**, a Firehouse.com Contributing Editor, was a firefighter in Washington, D.C. and Assistant Fire Chief in Laurel, MD. He is the Management Science Program Chair at the National Fire Academy and serves as an operations chief during national disasters and emergencies for the DHS/FEMA. Burton is the host of [Leadership on the Line](#) on Radio@Firehouse and has presented Firefighter Safety: [Calling the Mayday](#) on Firehouse TrainingLIVE. To read Burton's complete biography and view their archived articles, [click here](#).

# Moving Water in Prince George's County, Maryland

**Mark E. Davis**

*GBW Associates, LLC*

On a wet and dreary day - April 20th to be exact - over 150 firefighters from six different Maryland counties got together in Baden, Maryland to hone their skills at moving water in the "non-hydranted" environment. The drill was actually the Spring drill of the Maryland State Fireman's Association's Rural Water Supply Committee and was hosted by the Baden VFD which is located in the southern part of Prince George's County.

So what does a rural water supply drill have to do with the Everyone Goes Home theme? Well, even in the year 2008, most of America still continues to fight fire the way that the pioneers did - with water. From a fire fighting perspective, a reliable and sustainable water supply is critical to success. Just ask any chief officer who has had to withdraw his or her troops from a fire fight because the water supply had been exhausted. Or ask those company officers who led their crews into dangerous situations knowing that they had limited water supply available - perhaps only enough to protect a quick primary search or help evacuate an occupied structure.

The bottom line is that the presence or absence of a reliable water supply affects emergency scene decision-making; it affects the safety of everyone involved in the fire attack operation.

In communities both large and small where fire hydrants are prevalent, water supply is often taken for granted. Just ask the folks at the District of Columbia Fire Department and the citizens that they protect about fire hydrants. Most people would not think that our Nation's capitol would have fire hydrants that would have trouble supporting a fire attack. Well, the 2007 Adams Mill fire proved just that. Extra alarms were needed and long lays of large diameter hose were needed to overcome the water supply problems encountered with the hydrant system.



This huge fire in the historic district of Mt. Airy, Maryland, seriously impacted the town's municipal water supply forcing the incident commander to resort to a tanker shuttle operation to help support the fire attack efforts.



The drill begins with Baden VFD Engine 836B (1250 gpm/750 gallon tank) arriving on the scene and deploying a 1-3/4-inch attack line and getting supply lines into position.

Similarly, the people in the small town of Mt. Airy, Maryland, probably never thought about their town water supply becoming depleted during a fire event. The big fire that struck downtown Mt. Airy in September 2007 proved them wrong also. After a few hours of master stream operations - the town's water supply was not able to sustain the fire flow and water supply operations had to switch to a tanker shuttle in order to stop the fire from destroying the historic downtown area.

When fire hydrants are absent in a community or response district then water must often be transported to the scene via fire department apparatus. Operations in these non-hydranted areas will generally require the use of tankers and specialized equipment dedicated to moving water from "Point A to Point B." This absence of fire hydrants places a strain on fire fighting resources because unlike connecting a hose line to a fire hydrant - sustaining a water supply using tankers is labor intensive and can often result in more people involved in the water supply process than actually squirting water on the fire. The goal in rural water supply operations is effectiveness through efficiency.

To be effective and efficient in rural water supply operations, a fire department must be equipped and well-trained. Like all other fire fighting skills, training is critical in the success or demise of a water supply operation and personnel at all ranks and levels of experience must understand the common goal of rural water supply delivery and must be practiced in all aspects of the delivery process.

This training and practice - like most training and practice - also affects the safety of the rural water supply operation. For example, tankers are involved in a large percentage of apparatus rollovers and firefighter injuries and deaths resulting from those rollovers. Rural water supply drills such as the one reported on in this article provide an excellent opportunity for tanker drivers to practice their driving skills under real-life conditions such as narrow roads, civilian traffic, and congested operating areas.

In addition to the driver training component of a rural water supply drill, these drills also provide real-life



At the 5-minute mark, flow is started to the 1-3/4-inch attack line at 150 gpm.



While awaiting the arrival of tankers, Brandywine VFD Rescue Engine 840 (1,500 gpm/500 gallon tank) begins to set-up a dump site while also pumping off its tanker water to E836B.

training for company-level and command-level officers alike. These officers get first-hand experience handling everything from radio communications to dump-site configuration to developing a traffic management plan. The experience gained by the participants in these water supply drills will hopefully lead to improved decision-making and command and control of the real events. And we all hope that improved decision-making will improve the safety of the operation.

The rural water supply drill held in Baden, Maryland, provided numerous learning opportunities for everyone involved in the event. The drill was organized to mimic the Insurance Services Organization (ISO) 2-hour water supply delivery test whereby a water supply operation must be established and sustained for 2-hours.

While fire service professionals sometimes debate the merits of the ISO Fire Suppression Rating Schedule, the 2-hour water supply delivery test seems to be a reasonable standard by which fire departments can compare their water supply delivery capabilities. More importantly, the test allows a fire department to develop a benchmark against which it can compare future test results or which it can use to develop performance goals for improving its own operations.

The Baden drill was the first of its kind in many years for the Maryland State Fireman's Association both in terms of participants and apparatus. Crews from Prince George's, Charles, St Mary's, Caroline, Carroll, and Montgomery Counties worked together to run a large, dump-site operation which was supported by five different fill-sites - two of which were supported by fire boats. The crews had to work through some torrential rain at times but in the end, the drill was a success in that the participants got to practice their craft and experience the difficulties of trying to support such a big operation.

In terms of the lessons learned, there were a few: first was communications. Although interoperability has certainly come a long way in the last ten years, there were some radio communication issues during the first half of the drill. Even though several companies used 800 mhz radio systems, they had difficulty communicating with each other. Eventually, a mobile communications post was able to sort out the problem and present a solution - however, initial



Brandywine Engine 840 (1,500 gpm/500 gallon tank) arrives and supports the fire attack by also pumping to E836B.



PGFD Tanker 845 (3000 gallon/1000 gpm) is the first tanker to arrive and moves into position to pump E836B's supply line. Due to a communications issue, the tanker was delayed in its arrival and the water flow at the attack line was interrupted for about 2-minutes.

operations were affected.

A second lesson learned was the importance of supporting the initial fire attack - and that may mean pumping water to the first engine before off-loading a tanker into a dump tank. At about 14-minutes into the drill, the water supply was lost and the fire flow to the attack line was interrupted. The flow at the time was 250 gpm and it had been sustained by two engines that arrived on scene after the attack engine. However, the first tankers were delayed in their arrival, thus the dump-site set-up was also delayed and the fire flow was interrupted.

Most rural water supply enthusiasts find that it is the transition to dump site operations from a "pumping the first supply line" operation that proves to be the most critical phase in the ISO water supply delivery drill. One of the most common problems that occur at this transition point is that the pumper cannot obtain a draft. That is why it is important to maintain a way to supply the attack lines with water until that draft pumper has obtained a prime and is ready to flow water. At this drill, even though the folks had water flowing again at the 15:10 minute mark, they would have failed the ISO test because of the loss of water.

Another lesson learned was that when considering using two, independent dump sites, it is better to concentrate on getting one "up and running first" before starting the second one. Ironically, the second dump site at the Baden drill was actually a bit more efficient in providing water to the attack engine - perhaps because it was not built under the stress of running out of water - as the first one was.

One other lesson that was reinforced is the limited capacity of drafting through a front intake on a mid-ship mounted centrifugal fire pump. Few - if any - front intakes on mid-ship pumps are rated for drafting full pump capacity. In fact, annual pump tests in Montgomery County, Maryland, proved just that fact - none of their pumpers could do any better than 60% of their rated capacity when drafting through the front intake.

At the Baden, the first pumper set-up to draft using their front intake and found that capacity became an issue. Fortunately, they were able to identify the problem and switched to a side suction intake -



Forestville VFD Tanker 823 (2,500 gallon/1250 gpm) arrives very soon after Tanker 845 and begins to support the dump tank operation by off-loading its water into the dump tank.



Tanker 823 off-loads into the first dump tank.



Rescue Engine 840 continues to work and expand the initial

which solved the issue. It is important to remember that when a pumper is supplying jet siphons, those jet siphons consume pump capacity. Therefore, a second pumper or pumping unit should be considered to just run the jet siphons anytime a three-dump tank operation is set-up.

In closing, the Baden drill was well-attended and received. Crews worked very well together and equipment compatibility issues were few and far between. Attempts to collect flow rate data fell a bit short and therefore at the end of the drill, evaluators were unable to provide an accurate accounting of how much water was moved. However, it is most probable that a flow of at least 500 gpm was sustained for the majority of the operation. It is hoped that all participants will be able to apply what they saw and learned when they are faced with their next water supply operation and that what they learned will impact the safety of their operation.

*Mark E. Davis is President of GBW Associates, LLC a privately-owned consulting group that specializes in the area of fire protection water supply design, assessment, and training. Mr. Davis has over 25 years of experience in both the career and volunteer fire services in Maryland and holds a Bachelor of Science Degree and a Masters of Public Administration Degree from the University of Maryland. He can be reached by email at [TheBigCamel@GotBigWater.com](mailto:TheBigCamel@GotBigWater.com). For more info on water supply training, system design, and apparatus, visit the Big Water Information section at [www.GotBigWater.com](http://www.GotBigWater.com).*

dump site. Note that they have switched to a side suction (officer side) so that they can improve their pumping capacity.



Denton Engine 304 establishes a second dump-site using three dump tanks. Note the roof ladder used to help spread out the tanks so that two, large tankers can get into position at the same time.



Jet siphons are used to transfer water between dump tanks.



The flow is pushed to 500 gpm as more big tankers arrive to off-load water.



An aerial shot of the dump site operations clearly shows the demands placed on resources - especially people - in delivering a sustained water supply without the use of fire hydrants.



Winfield Tanker 14 (3,500 gallon/1500 gpm) gets filled at Fill Site #4 which is bring supported by Charles County Fireboat 8 and Pleasant Valley VFC Special Unit 6.



Two, LDH manifolds are used to supply the 5-inch hose for tanker fill lines. By using two manifolds, the 5-inch line can be drained much faster in between tanker fills.



Charles Fire Boat 8 (750 gpm) drafts just off shore and supplies a 4-inch line.



Two Clinton VFD pumpers and Solomons VFD's fire boat supply water for Fill Site #1. This pumper uses a dump tank to help support its tanker fill rate.



About 800 ft of 5-inch hose is used to supply the pumper at the dump tank.



This Clinton pumper is drafting from the river to support the fill site.



Solomon's Fire Boat 3 (750 gpm) pumps water using its bow monitor which is then relayed by the Clinton pumper to the fill point.



Fill Site #1 crews work to fill this tanker by using 5-inch hose in between torrential downpours of rain.



Fill Site #2 is operated by Charles County Engine 73 (1,500 gpm). They are drafting from a 6-inch dry fire hydrant using three, 10-ft sections of suction hose.



Marbury VFD E82 (2,000 gpm) operates at Fill Site #5 where they have to draft off of a bridge.



Laytonsville VFD Tanker 717 (3,500 gallon) gets filled at Fill Site #5.

# Responding Wisconsin Tanker Rollover-Seat Belts Used

Courtesy of [FirefighterCloseCalls.com](http://FirefighterCloseCalls.com)

One Firefighter remains in the hospital in good condition this morning after an Orfordville tanker truck rolled Monday about 5 miles west of Beloit on the way to a fire. The passenger in the apparatus, FF Chad Cleasby, 31, Orfordville, was in good condition at Rockford Memorial Hospital. The driver, FF Michael Ponkauskas, 54, Orfordville, was treated and released today at Beloit Memorial Hospital.

According to the Rock County Sheriff's Department:

The firefighters were dispatched at 1:30 p.m. to 8314 W. St. Lawrence Road for a vehicle on fire in a shed. Responding units were southbound on County H just south of West Mill Pond Road where the road makes an 80-degree turn to the right. An engine and ambulance went through the curve, but the driver of the tanker full of water lost control and rolled over in front of 8606 W. County H.

People in nearby Mill Pond Park heard and saw the crash, called 911 and helped the two injured firefighters, who had been wearing seatbelts. Cleasby had freed himself from the cab by the time authorities arrived and was flown to the Rockford hospital. Ponkauskas remained trapped until extrication equipment arrived.

The Wisconsin State Patrol inspected the tanker and determined the brake system was in proper working order.

Preliminary investigation indicates the tanker entered the curve too fast, drifted onto the soft gravel shoulder in the opposite lane and rolled down an embankment, coming to rest against a tree.

Citations, if appropriate, will be issued at the end of the investigation.

The fire that the firemen were responding to resulted in a total loss of a pole shed, said Beth Wilkie of Orfordville EMS. Cause of the fire is unknown, but it started in a vehicle outside of the shed, she said.

One Town of Beloit fire fighter was transported to Beloit Memorial Hospital from injuries suffered on the scene. No information about that firefighter was available by press time.



[FirefighterCloseCalls.com](http://FirefighterCloseCalls.com)

# Wichita and Sedgwick County, Kansas Adopt the 16 Life Safety Initiatives and Create Roadmap for a "Safety First" Culture

Courtesy of the [Wichita Fire Department](#) and [Sedgwick County Fire Department](#)

In January of 2008, Wichita was honored to host Chief Ronald Siarnicki, the Director of the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation. Chief Siarnicki addressed select members of the Wichita and Sedgwick County Fire Departments. The topic was the 16 Life Safety Initiatives and their regional implementation. As a committee we discussed our Departments and attempted to identify what is preventing us from having a "safety first" attitude. Soon into the discussion we came to a realization our culture and attitude needed to be addressed. I am sure many departments across the nation have similar issues. Because firefighting is the ultimate team effort we hesitate to hold our team mates accountable. Overlook a seatbelt one day, forget the CO monitoring another, soon the oversight becomes the norm. We realized to really impact our safety we need to change the culture. We also had no illusion that this would be an easy task. Some members would feel resentment, some would feel threatened.

A road map with specific steps needed to be identified. As we wrapped up our meeting, Chief Siarnicki challenged us to participate in a demonstration project to improve our safety and improve the safety of firefighters from our region and across the nation. The following became our road map to a "Safety First Culture."

The Wichita and Sedgwick County Fire Departments are committed to the life safety initiatives and in changing the culture to create a "Safety First" attitude. We have jointly identified the need to change our culture. We understand that the implementation of a "Safety First Culture" will need to be managed. The following is a road map to manage that change. That road map includes:

1. **Directive from the Fire Chiefs in the form of department-wide notifications that the Wichita and Sedgwick County Fire Departments are adopting the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation's 16 Life Safety Initiatives and they will figure prominently in our strategic plans and become part of our "safety first" culture. The *Everyone Goes Home*® Logo would be added to our department's web pages.**
2. **Provide training on the 16 Life Safety Initiatives. Using programs provided by the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation (NFFF). Ask every member to sign a "National Safety Pledge" (of which the seat belt pledge is part).\* This training would also be made available to regional fire departments.**



Chief Gary Curmode, Sedgwick County Fire Department and Chief Ronald D. Blackwell, Wichita Fire Department commit to the 16 Firefighter Life Safety Initiatives and to creating a "Safety First" attitude within their departments.

» **Download:** [National Safety Pledge Form](#)

\* While the National Seatbelt Pledge is a nationally recognized program that has been successful in raising awareness. The Wichita and Sedgwick County Fire Departments, as part of the NFFF Demonstration Project, have built on that idea creating a National Safety Pledge. The National Safety Pledge includes all of the components of the seatbelt pledge and adds the further commitment to; Eat Healthier, Exercise More, Get an Annual Physical Exam, Wear ALL of the appropriate PPE, and Set an Example for Safety. As with the National Seat Belt Pledge the National Safety Pledge includes a profile of a firefighter that has died in the line-of-duty. The profile of a line-of-duty death should be from a local department or chosen from a recent line-of-duty death in the U.S. Fire Administration Firefighter Fatalities in the United States. (Ideally this would address a safety concern of your department).

3. **Request, coordinate and participate in the "[Courage to Be Safe SM](#)" Program developed by the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation (NFFF). In addition this program would be advertised and offered to regional fire departments.**

Firefighters must have the courage to face a multitude of risks in order to save lives and protect their communities. But a different type of courage is required to stay safe in potentially dangerous situations, avoiding needless risks and tragic consequences. That different type of courage is the subject of "[The Courage to Be Safe SM - So Everyone Goes Home®](#)" Program. This provocative and moving presentation is designed to change the culture of accepting the loss of our firefighters as a normal occurrence.

[The Courage to Be Safe SM](#) was conceived and developed by the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation's Firefighter Life Safety Initiatives Program Team, with assistance from Deputy Chief Billy Goldfeder of the Loveland-Symmes (OH) Fire Department and FDNY Battalion Chief John Salka in response to a request by Pennsylvania Fire Commissioner Ed Mann to develop a program aimed at Line-of-Duty Death Prevention.

At the heart of "[The Courage to Be Safe SM](#)" are the gripping, untold stories of LODD survivors, revealing how family members must live with the consequences of a firefighter death. The program graphically underscores the need for firefighters and officers to change fundamental attitudes and behaviors in order to prevent line of duty deaths, and promotes the courage to do the right thing so that "[Everyone Goes Home®](#)" at the end of the day.

4. **Develop and deliver a joint training cycle on risk analysis. This training would both be lecture and "hands-on" using multimedia and tabletop scenarios.**

**Ongoing -**

- Make the [16 Life Safety Initiatives](#) a part of the Wichita Fire Department Strategic Plan.
- Keep the [16 Life Safety Initiatives](#) and the [International Association of Fire Chief's "Rules of Engagement"](#) for Structural Firefighting as a key part of all training and operations.
- Attend and regionally delivery the "Safety Through Leadership" training.
- Take the lead in the South-Central Kansas Region, become an advocate for the "Safety First" culture.

- Provide annual training for all officers and risk analysis.
- Risk analysis and the "Safety First" mentality should become a part of all promotional assessments and officer development training.

We have embarked on the road to a "Safety First Culture." Commitment and leadership will carry us through the pit falls and curves that surely lie ahead. As with any journey, the hardest step is the first, so in many ways the pressure is relieved and improvement is on the way. We are partners and advocates of this initiative and we are proud to support *Everyone Goes Home®* Program.

**Related:**

» **Download:** [National Safety Pledge Form](#)

# Rhode Island Names State Advocate For Everyone Goes Home® Program

Emmitsburg, MD - The National Fallen Firefighters Foundation Life Safety Initiatives Program, is pleased to announce that Kevin D. Quinn has been selected as the Firefighter Life Safety Initiatives Program State Advocate for Rhode Island. Deputy Chief Quinn of the Union Fire District will join Stephen Hay, Warwick Fire Department and Teddie Cocco, Providence Fire Department as Rhode Island State Advocates. March 10 - 11, 2004 hundreds of fire service leaders attended a Summit hosted by the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation in Tampa, Fla. Their collective goal was to come up with an approach that would enable fire departments to achieve the goal set by the United States Fire Administration, of reducing firefighter line of duty deaths by 50% in 10 years. The Summit produced a unique consensus document that became known as the "[16 Firefighter Life Safety Initiatives](#)" or the blueprint to eliminating preventable firefighter line of duty injury and deaths.

The Foundation applied for and received a Department of Homeland Security Fire Safety and Prevention Grant to fund the Firefighter Life Safety Initiatives Program. The primary mission of this program is to work in conjunction with all other national fire service organizations to make every fire department in United States aware of the "blueprint" developed in Tampa, and to provide resources to enable departments to implement them.

In this position Deputy Chief Quinn with the Rhode Island Life Safety Initiatives Team will be working to ensure that fire departments in Rhode Island are aware of the initiatives and assist them in implementation strategies. Kevin, and his fire service professionals, will be the ears and eyes for the national program supporting the mission of eliminating preventable line-of-duty injuries and deaths through the sharing and implementation of best practices and training programs.

Kevin D. Quinn has personally dedicated his career to promoting safety and reducing the number of firefighter fatalities in the Union Fire District. As Deputy Chief, he has aided his district in implementing necessary safe practices such as revamping their Standard Operating Guidelines with firefighter safety as a basic premise and maintaining response safety, scene safety and risk management as the district's pillars of operation. The Life Safety Initiatives Team is pleased to welcome Kevin D. Quinn to the program.



For more information on the Everyone Goes Home Program please visit [www.everyonegoeshom.com](http://www.everyonegoeshom.com) or call 1.877.344.0361.

# North Carolina Names Advocate For *Everyone Goes Home*® Program

The National Fallen Firefighters Foundation Life Safety Initiatives Program, is pleased to announce that Tony Bailey has been selected as a Firefighter Life Safety Initiatives Program State Advocate for North Carolina. Captain Bailey of the Nashville Fire Department will join Scott McCollum, Fire Chief, Swift Creek Fire Department, in representing North Carolina. Captain Bailey is dedicated to working locally in his home county on getting 100% compliance on seat belt use with completion of the seat belt pledge.

March 10 - 11, 2004 hundreds of fire service leaders attended a Summit hosted by the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation in Tampa, Fla. Their collective goal was to come up with an approach that would enable fire departments to achieve the goal set by the United States Fire Administration, of reducing firefighter line of duty deaths by 50% in 10 years. The Summit produced a unique consensus document that became known as the "16 Firefighter Life Safety Initiatives" or the blueprint to eliminating preventable firefighter line of duty injury and deaths. [www.everyonegoeshome.com/initatives.html](http://www.everyonegoeshome.com/initatives.html)

The Foundation applied for and received a Department of Homeland Security Fire Safety and Prevention Grant to fund the Firefighter Life Safety Initiatives Program. The primary mission of this program is to work in conjunction with all other national fire service organizations to make every fire department in United States aware of the "blueprint" developed in Tampa, and to provide resources to enable departments to implement them.

In this position Captain Bailey with the North Carolina Life Safety Initiatives Team will be working to ensure that fire departments in North Carolina are aware of the initiatives and assist them in implementation strategies. Tony, and his fire service professionals, will be the ears and eyes for the national program supporting the mission of eliminating preventable line of duty injuries and deaths through the sharing and implementation of



## A Message from Tony Bailey

My name is Tony Bailey and I work for the Town of Nashville, NC Fire Department. I am a sixteen year veteran of the fire and rescue service. I have served in both the volunteer and career ranks with the last ten years being on the career side. I currently hold the rank of Captain/Training Officer. I am married to my wonderful wife Mandy of fifteen years and have two sons, Matthew 12 and Daniel 10.

During the March IPASS Summit in Emmitsburg, Maryland I had the opportunity to meet several state and regional advocates during my train-the-trainer class for the *Courage to Be Safe* Program. The information that I obtained from the *Courage to Be Safe* Program compelled me to become

best practices and training programs.

The Life Safety Initiatives Team is pleased to welcome Tony Bailey to the program.

For more information on the Everyone Goes Home Program please visit [www.everyonegoeshom.com](http://www.everyonegoeshom.com) or call 1.877.344.0361.

involved and in April I was chosen as a second advocate for the state of North Carolina. It is truly an honor and privilege for me to be associated with the *Everyone Goes Home*® Program.

I am currently working locally, in my home county, on getting 100% compliance on seat belt use with completion of the seat belt pledge.

I look forward to serving the fire service and working with all advocates to strengthen this program.

# Help Everyone to Go Home...Nominate a Deserving Firefighter for a New House

Courtesy of [National Volunteer Fire Council \(NVFC\)](#)

Extreme Makeover: Home Edition is looking for a firefighter whose house and family need help. The show is accepting nominations for a firefighter who has displayed heroism or has proven to be a positive role model within the community, but whose family is in dire need of a new home. If there is a firefighter within your department or community that can benefit from a home makeover, nominate them today.

Learn More: [Access Nomination Guidelines](#)