TAKE 5 FOR SAFETY

INSTRUCTOR'S NOTES

5-MINUTE SAFETY DRILL

Driving: Intersections Require Care

Date:_____

Shift:_____

Dept:_____

Station:_____

Training Code:_____

NOTES:

FOCUS: Intersection accidents account for tremendous costs to departments across the country due to the serious injuries that result as well as the damage to our apparatus, public vehicles and other property. We are responsible for our safety as well as the general public and must master the problems that arise at intersections!.

CHALLENGE

Of the various driving task firefighters perform, traveling through intersections while driving code 3 continues to be one of the most dangerous. Every year the fire service experiences roughly 16,000 vehicle accidents.

These accidents result in thousands of injuries, hundreds of civilian deaths, and roughly 20 to 30 firefighter deaths. During an emergency, drivers must deal with congestion in addition to civilian confusion regarding "right of way" issues.

Due to the speed we are traveling and the size of emergency equipment tremendous damages can be inflicted when private passenger vehicles are struck. Having the "right of way" is of little consequence when we cause injury or damage. Our goal has to be to get there safely! We can't complete our mission if we don't. Making the right moves is essential, remember we are the pros!

DISCUSSION

- What protocols has the department implemented to assure every intersection is taken accident free?
- What factors should be considered in establishing a safe speed to cross an intersection?
- Crossing multiple lanes creates additional driving hazards. What special considerations need to be taken for this increased risk?
- Second out or "following" apparatus have historically been responsible for some of the most severe accidents. How do you account for that?
- Identify 5 risk factors outside of your control that could result in an at fault accident.
- How can our training be improved to increase driver safety?
- How can we take more personal responsibility to drive safer?

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

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