



Near-Miss Matters

Volume 34, February 5, 2013

Welcome back to "Near-Miss Matters." Since September's e-newsletter, the International Association of Fire Chiefs (IAFC) has worked to secure and support the short-term needs of the Near-Miss Program to keep the program operational. IAFC thanks the following IAFC component groups for their financial support of the Near-Miss Program: Emergency Medical Services Section, Industrial Fire and Safety Section, Volunteer & Combination Officers Section, Safety, Health and Survival Section, Great Lakes Division and Missouri Valley Division. A special thanks to IFSTA/Fire Protection Publications, a division of Oklahoma State University, for their in-kind donation of database and application-hosting services.

What's New

→ It's not all that new, but did you know there are anthologies of near-miss reports for 2007 and 2008 on the Resources page. All of the reports from 2007 and 2008 were grouped together by event type (fire, non-fire, on-duty, training, vehicle and other). Print the reports, put them in a binder and put the binder on the kitchen table. The discussions that stem from these reports will help facilitate a culture of safety in your station.

The Near-Miss website is open for business. As IAFC continues to work on long-term security for the Near-Miss Program, now is the time for you to show your commitment to the program. Think back to 2012 and submit a report of that one incident that you continue to think could have gone better. Search the 5,000 reports in the database and pick a report to share with your crew. Look at the Resources page and select an "Illustrated Case Study" or a "Tabletop Exercise" and use it on a drill night.

In place of the weekly training e-mail "Report of the Week", this year we will be including a Super-Sized Report of the Month in each "Near-Miss Matters." This month's report deals with a routine vehicle fire that becomes anything but routine when a vehicle strut explodes. The report also includes five video links. Check it out by clicking here: [Report of the Month](#).

Until next month, stay safe.

ROTM

[February 2013 Report of the Month](#)

Resources

[Hood Struts Explode at Vehicle Fire](#)

Upcoming Events

[Wildland Urban Interface \(WUI\)](#)

March 19-21, 2013; Reno, NV

[Fire-Rescue Med](#)

May 3-7, 2013; Las Vegas, NV

Near-Miss Fundamentals:

Unfortunately we were unable to produce the Near-Miss Training Calendar this year. However, the monthly calendar training modules from previous years are available on the Resources page. The topics range from Operational Readiness (September 2009), Situational Awareness (September 2011) and EMS Scene Safety (May 2012). Use these resources to help supplement the training you have planned for 2013.

Testimonial

"You asked if the Near Miss program has impacted our department and I would have to say yes. I forward every ROTW out to my guys and often hear discussion being generated about the report. As for a specific example of how it has impacted our department, I would say that the overall safety culture of my department has improved over the past few years. As you may know, it is difficult to document incidents that never happen due to our personnel displaying good safe working habits. Avoided accidents are just impossible to measure. My hope is that this program continues since it is real firefighters sharing relevant safety information to the firefighting community."

-Battalion Chief Mike Novak, Branson (MO) Fire Rescue Service.



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