



Near-Miss Matters

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A review of many reports and individuals' experiences within www.firefighternearmiss.com sheds light on one type of incident that seems to encourage a quick change relating to firefighter safety: incidents on roadways.

Whether the incident involved emergency operations at the scene of an accident, fire, spill or other non-emergency event, there seems to be a consistent theme for the lessons learned: adopting or changing policies and procedures regarding the fire department's role in managing the roadway incident.

The fire service has always used some type of system to manage fire and other emergencies. A more formal system was introduced in the 1970's with the Incident Command System (ICS) and enriched in 2004 with the evolution of the National Incident Management System (NIMS). What about the everyday occurrence of emergency roadway incidents, whether fire related or not? Do we use the same type of framework and practices that we have utilized at fires? If not, we must modify our approach for the safety of the first responders, roadway workers and the public.

The National Firefighter Near-Miss Reporting System can assist fire service personnel in understanding the risks involved on roadway incidents and ways to reduce the threat. Reviewing roadway incident reports that have been submitted by our peers will highlight the problems and offer answers.

One solution imbedded throughout the lessons learned of the reporting system is adherence to Traffic Incident Management (TIM) that consists of a planned and coordinated multi-disciplinary process to detect, respond to, and clear traffic incidents.

What's New

→ First, we want to thank everyone for their support during the last few months while we were determining the future of the program. We are happy to share that we recently got some great news! The National Firefighter Near-Miss Program has been awarded a 2012 Fire Prevention and Safety Grant through FEMA in the amount of \$397,997 through April 24, 2014.

The grant calls for continuing operational support of the near-miss system, developing templates and guidelines for fire departments to independently create training programs based on near-miss reports, renovating the infrastructure of the antiquated database in order to reaffirm data integrity and its value, and transitioning the program to a third-party for continued operations. The implementation and sustainability of the program will be addressed in future newsletters and articles.

Please continue to use www.firefighternearmiss.com to ensure the beneficial reports and resources are available to the fire and emergency service.

This ensures that traffic flow may be restored as safely and quickly as possible.

In the past, the fire service responding to and operating at incidents on or around roadways never had vigorous policies regarding scene control and safety. It was usually left up to law enforcement, transportation or public works personnel. This has changed. The [Resources](#) page of the National Firefighter Near-Miss Reporting System has many tools available to you for crafting policies and procedures that supplement TIM and its associated systems. Your procedures should include an overarching safety element with incident command, apparatus placement and operations being addressed.

Chief Officers must be cognizant of contemporary issues that influence the safety of their firefighters. The episodes of emergency personnel and equipment being struck or involved in a near miss at roadway incidents are becoming more frequent. We need to be vigilant of this problem and deal with it on a unified front.

Another great website is [Responder Safety](#) which provides various resources and training tools to help protect emergency responders at roadway incidents. We have shared vehicle-related near-miss reports with them which are posted on their website under "[Near-Miss](#)".

Please continue to submit near-miss roadway incidents with lessons learned into www.firefighternearmiss.com to keep the solutions fresh, dynamic and relevant to the first responders on the roadway.

ROTM

[May 2013 Report of the Month](#)

Resources

[Grouped Reports: Road Blocking](#)

[Grouped Reports: Technical Rescue](#)

[Grouped Reports: Hazmat](#)

Upcoming Events

[Fire-Rescue International](#)

August 13-17, 2013; Chicago, IL

Near-Miss Fundamentals:

Are you looking for a quick way to get relevant training based on actual events? Do you want to supplement some of your existing training? Simply go to the "[Search](#)" page of www.firefighternearmiss.com and type in keywords for any fire and emergency service topic. You will be instantly provided with all near-miss reports dealing with that subject.

On some topics we have already done all of the work for you. We've compiled reports by

popular topics such as vehicle extrication, road blocking, natural disasters, high rises, hazmat, confined space, etc. Simply go to ["Reports for Training"](#) on the Resources Page. A few sample grouped reports are provided under Resources in this e-newsletter.

Testimonial

"I use Near-Miss as an awareness tool for our department. Just being able to bring real life events to the forefront of the day-to-day job has saved us from similar issues. I make sure to forward the training emails to our training chief."

-Survey Respondent



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