



Near-Miss Matters

Volume 38, June 2013

The International Hazardous Materials Response Teams Conference took place June 6-9, 2013 in Baltimore, Maryland. This conference showcased hazardous materials response procedures and safety guidelines for hazmat responders and provided a forum to discuss and learn from the recent hazardous materials incidents throughout the United States. It is fact that hazmat emergencies are generating an increasing number of near miss events.

Fire departments and hazardous materials response teams should constantly re-evaluate their hazardous materials training, procedures, and equipment. Near-Miss events resulting from a failure of core hazardous materials response competencies are avoidable. The [National Fire Fighter Near-Miss Reporting System](#) provides an excellent starting point to identify best practices for responding to hazardous material related events and integrating them into training plans.

The National Fire Fighter Near-Miss Reporting System website has two important features designed to assist firefighters and rescue workers: its [Resources](#) and [Search Reports](#) functions. The Resources page provides training tools and bundled training packages for many different types of incidents that range from incident statistics to case studies. The Search Report function allows users to search for incidents by typing in key words or phrases in the "Keyword Search" field or doing an advanced search by event type. This search function will generate a report, including a "Lessons Learned" section that highlights safety initiatives that other organizations have successfully implemented. Searching the following keywords will generate a cross section of interesting events that can help in designing hazmat training refresher programs: hazmat, meters, zones, product identification, detectors, hot zone, and exposure.

The National Fire Fighter Near-Miss Reporting System is a unique and effective tool that the hazardous materials community can leverage to augment the safety of the hazardous materials responder. Spread the word and encourage your hazardous materials responder

What's New

→We are excited to announce that Laura Bell was recently hired as the new program manager, and she will ensure that the National Fire Fighter Near-Miss Reporting System continues to play a critical role in the safety culture of the fire and emergency service.

Since the awarded grant period of performance is focused on transitioning Near Miss, the IAFC Board of Directors voted to bring the work of the Near-Miss Advisory Board to conclusion. The Near-Miss Sustainability Task Force has agreed to oversee the transition of the program and guide decisions on its future direction.

Please feel free to contact Laura at 703-537-4810 or lbell@iafc.org with any thoughts, suggestions, or feedback on how Near Miss can better the fire and emergency service.

colleagues to enter Near-Miss reports to the National Fire Fighter Near-Miss Reporting System to enrich the repository of reports and share their lessons learned with the entire fire and rescue community.

ROTM

[June 2013 Report of the Month](#)

Resources

[Grouped Reports: Hazmat](#)

[Illustrated Case Study: Lithium Batteries Explode During Overhaul](#)

[Featured Report 12-286: Participant Injured During Rescue Contest](#)

Upcoming Events

[Fire-Rescue International](#)

August 13-17, 2013; Chicago, IL

Near-Miss Fundamentals

It is never too late to share what you've learned to help save fellow firefighters by submitting a report. An event can have taken place several weeks, months, or years ago, the lesson learned is still valuable. Submit your reports to the [National Fire Fighter Near-Miss Reporting System](#) today.

Testimonial

"The Labor Department, MSN reports today, published their 'most dangerous jobs' list. Firefighting is NOT on it. I think the Near-Miss Program is a key component in this achievement."

-Chief Bill Halmich, Washington Fire Department (MO)

A Special Thank You

The IAFC is very appreciative of the dedication and service exhibited by the members of the Near-Miss Advisory Board. Their leadership provided the guidance and strategic direction that helped to make this program such a success. Their devotion to this program over the past 10 years will help to ensure that the program will continue to have an important presence in our community for the future. The IAFC would also like to thank the International Fire Service Training Association for their support in keeping Near Miss operational and the Near-Miss Reviewers whose dedication has been the lifeblood of the program.



[Unsubscribe](#) from the National Fire Fighter Near-Miss mailing list. To change your email address, please [click here](#).

Firefighternearmiss.com is funded by a grant from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's [Assistance to Firefighters Grant program](#). Founding dollars were also provided by [Fireman's Fund Insurance Company](#). The project is managed by the [International Association of Fire Chiefs](#) and supported by [FireFighterCloseCalls.com](#) in mutual dedication to firefighter safety and survival.

