



Near-Miss Matters

Volume 39, July 2013

The National Fire Fighter Near-Miss Reporting System would like to express its deepest condolences to the family, friends and fellow firefighters of the Granite Mountain Hotshots. While we laid to rest these 19 heroes who gave the ultimate sacrifice in the month of July, let us strive to honor and remember these brave men of the Granite Mountain Hotshots by continuously learning, training and preparing ourselves for all types of scenarios.

This month, www.FirefighterNearMiss.com concentrates on near-misses in the wildland fire setting, specifically getting trapped by increasing fire conditions. This month's featured report [11-349](#) highlights a wildland incident that quickly put responders at risk because of shifting wind conditions. This featured near-miss shows how firefighters, no matter how diligently they train and prepare, can find themselves in a life threatening position. The featured report also offers questions to consider in preparing your department to respond to these types of incidents.

This month's featured resources are websites available to help wildland firefighters and the communities they serve prepare for and respond to wildland fires.

Near-Miss Table Top Challenge

As we upgrade your www.FirefighterNearMiss.com experience, we also want to make it more interactive. Each month, we invite you to develop a table top exercise on a given topic and submit it to info@FirefighterNearMiss.com to be published in the next Near-Miss Matters and

What's New

➤ Last month, we experienced some minor technical issues which were quickly resolved. The 2013 Fire Prevention and Safety Grant awarded to the IAFC has provided funding that will enable the National Fire Fighter Near-Miss Program to create an updated, more user-friendly, online experience for the National Fire Fighter Near-Miss Reporting System and permanently address the sources of those technical issues. The upgraded website will present information and resources in a more streamlined fashion and will be easier to navigate. Expect to see these improvements by early 2014. Meanwhile, we appreciate your patience and understanding during this transitional period!

used at fire stations across the country. To develop your table top exercise, search Near-Miss reports to find an applicable report that relates to the monthly topic. The report is only a basis for the exercise, and information specific to the exercise may be added in the set-up. Care should be taken to separate added information from the original report. The goal of the exercise is to provide additional training from the report you choose and not to second guess the original report submitter. We encourage you to leverage the [table top exercises](#) posted in the [resources section](#) as well as the [Emergency Management Institute's guidelines](#) on creating Table Top exercises. The first Near-Miss Table Top Challenge topic is **Heat Related Illnesses and Injuries** which will be published in the **August** edition of Near-Miss Matters. Please submit your Table Top Exercise to info@FirefighterNearMiss.com by **Friday August 9th**. We look forward to your submissions, and... good luck!

ROTM

[July 2013 Report of the Month](#)

Resources

[SAFENET](#) A reporting system and resource center specifically designed for wildland fire and all hazard operations.

[Ready, Set, Go!](#) A program that helps fire departments teach individuals who live in high risk wildfire areas - and the wildland-urban interface - how to best prepare themselves and their properties against fire threats.

[National Wildfire Coordinating Group](#) The National Wildfire Coordinating Group is an operational group designed to coordinate programs of the participating wildfire management agencies.

Upcoming Events

The National Fire Fighter Near-Miss Reporting System will be at [Fire-Rescue International](#) August 13-17 in Chicago, IL. Please stop by the International Association of Fire Chiefs Pavilion (Booth #2649) to learn more about the Near-Miss Reporting System and what to expect for 2014. An [FRI app](#) (for iPad, iPhone, and Droid) has been developed to help navigate the conference and connect with other participants.

Near-Miss Fundamentals

Do you leverage Near-Miss reports to develop table top exercises for your fire station? Table top exercises are discussion-based exercises that are useful training tools because they allow a group to theoretically test their response to a given situation without necessitating hours of preparation or causing major disruption to the community. Table top exercises can be formal or informal and should always be tailored to your fire station's needs. To conduct a table top exercise, a disaster scenario is presented to participants who, as the scenario unfolds, describe the actions that they would take to respond. Table top exercises provide an opportunity to share thoughts, observations, and recommendations in a "no fault, no blame" forum. Take part in the Near-Miss Table Top challenge - submit yours by August 9 and see it published next month!

Testimonial

"The National Fire Fighter Near-Miss Reporting System helps all firefighters look at situations and learn different methods to stay safe."

-Chief Pete Rucinski, Silver Lake Volunteer Fire Department (NV)



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