



Near-Miss Matters

Volume 44, December 2013

As one of the first major winter storms of the 2013-2014 season (now named "Winter Storm Dion" by the national weather service) rips across the United States, it is imperative that fire crews understand the perils of cold weather operations. From ice slip hazards to operating fire apparatus on treacherous roads, winter storms can result in near-misses. Not all fire departments are accustomed to dealing with frigid temperatures and the more radical weather changes of the past few years have seen winter weather conditions dip further and further south. This month, Near-Miss Matters concentrates on best practices for cold weather emergencies. Review the [Report of the Month \(Report 10-0000145\)](#) that focuses on apparatus responses during slick roadway conditions. As these storms continue to hamper operations, take the time to talk with your crew about staying safe, properly rehabilitating, and implementing prevention tactics to avoid specific winter emergencies from occurring in the first place.

What's New

→ This is the last issue of Near-Miss Matters. As of January 2014, Report of the Week will resume in a new format and will subsume Near Miss Matters' content. Thank you for reading Near-Miss Matters all these years!

Other Winter Emergencies Resources

[International Association of Firefighters Emergency Incident Rehab Program](#)- The IAFF is a leader in proper rehabilitation of firefighters working on emergency scenes. Following the United States Fire Administration's manual on firefighter rehab, they have created a 6 section PowerPoint series. For winter emergency rehab emergencies, download and review [Section 3, Cold Stress and the Firefighter](#).

[Cold Weather Operations, by Terry Eckert](#)- This article published by FireEngineering.com discusses key points specific to cold weather operations on fire scenes. Five basic questions are reviewed on specific difficulties that hinder fire operations below 32°F. What do you do when your water starts freezing?

[Fire and Ice: Cold-weather Tactics from the Arctic Circle](#)- This article was highlighted in a FEMA Info-Gram sent out by the Emergency Management and Response - Information Sharing and Analysis Center (EMR-ISAC) last January. For true extreme conditions that our brothers and sisters face in the uppermost regions of Canada, they have learned through hands on experience how to tackle what old man winter can give us.

[FirefighterCloseCalls.Com Weekly Drills](#)- FirefighterCloseCalls.com has two separate winter emergency weekly drills ([Volume 2, Number 23](#) and [Volume 10, Number 118](#)) that have excellent discussion points on cold weather operations. If you are looking for something specific to ice rescue operations, you can also check out [Volume 14, Number](#)

[164: Ice Rescue Basics.](#)

Near Miss Relaunch

Near Miss is re-launching this January 2014 to allow Near Miss to catch up to today's rapidly expanding social networking capabilities and progressive technologies and to provide a more dynamic experience for our end users. Here is some of what you can expect:

→An updated report submission process, powered by advanced technology, for improved data collection and analysis.

→Web site enhancements that improve visitors' ability to find and share reports with the Near Miss community.

→The launch of a new Near Miss training environment that includes: A revamped Report of the Week, a "training bundle" that will include a short training video and table top scenarios based on Near Miss reports, and a monthly scenario-based training simulation that helps improve decision-making.

With the re-launch this January, the Near Miss Reporting System takes another step forward, and renews its commitment to turn near-miss experiences into safe practices for the fire and emergency service.

ROTM

[December 2013 Report of the Month](#): Engine rolls over on ice covered road (10-145)

Resources

Related Reports:

[Cold weather rescue endangers rescuer \(07-779\)](#)

[Firefighter falls into basement full of water \(09-239\)](#)

[Car slides on ice through accident scene \(09-1095\)](#)

[Ice puts rescue truck sideways \(11-346\)](#)

Upcoming Events

You can look for Near Miss at Firehouse World February 16-20, 2014 at the San Diego Convention Center! Come meet the team at booth #742 and share your feedback.

Testimonial

"Near-miss reporting is a well-established virtual volume of experiences which is the best learning tool available to today's modern fire and emergency services. It is true experience as true experience can get. Use it, learn from it!"

-- Report Submitter



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