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Report of the Week

Dropped irons just miss.

03/25/2010

Report Number: 10-0000393

Report Date: 03/09/2010 14:25

Synopsis

Equipment falls out of compartment during daily check.

Demographics

Department type: Paid Municipal

Job or rank: Sergeant

Department shift: 24 hours on - 48 hours off

Age: 25 - 33

Years of fire service experience: 4 - 6

Region: FEMA Region IV

Service Area: Urban

Event Information

Event type: On-duty activities: apparatus and station maintenance, meetings, tours, etc.

Event date and time: 02/15/2010 07:30

Hours into the shift:

Event participation: Involved in the event

Weather at time of event: Not reported

Do you think this will happen again?

What were the contributing factors?

- Equipment

What do you believe is the loss potential?

- Minor injury

Event Description

Brackets [] denote reviewer de-identification.

It was at the beginning of a shift and I was doing my daily truck check. I did the task in my normal manner, starting on the left from front to back. The truck is a [manufacturer deleted] with twelve outside compartments. I finished the fourth compartment and when I opened the fifth compartment, the set of irons fell out and landed about an inch from my foot. The set of irons consisted of an axe, halligan tool and a k-tool strapped together. The irons were not strapped together properly and the blade of the axe was facing out. The axe blade was the part that hit the ground first with enough force and weight to cut into the bay floor. If the axe had hit my foot, it would have caused an injury.

Lessons Learned

Open all compartments slowly and with caution.

Discussion Questions

Many of us take the daily truck check for granted. One interesting point to note is the methodical approach the engineer describes. A "normal manner" is mentioned, suggesting there is a common practice followed each and every shift, while this engineer performed this vital function. However, what isn't normal is the attention to detail given the tools before the engineer opened the compartment door. Once you have read the entire account of [10-393](#) and the related reports below, consider the following:

1. Do you have a "normal manner" in which you conduct your daily truck check?
2. Why do you follow the procedure/steps you do in your "normal manner"?
3. Is your department NFPA 1901 compliant when it comes to securing tools and other potential projectiles on the department apparatus?
4. The reporter notes that the "...irons were not strapped together properly..." Describe three scenarios that would have led to this oversight.
5. Given the scenarios in #4, what corrective actions could take place to prevent the tools from being placed back in the compartment without being properly secured?

Related Reports – Topical Relation: Morning Apparatus Check

[05-633](#)

[06-390](#)

[07-971](#)

[08-412](#)

[09-311](#)

Note: The questions posed by the reviewers are designed to generate discussion and thought in the name of promoting firefighter safety. They are not intended to pass judgment on the actions and performance of individuals in the reports.