

AFTER THE INCIDENT



Take Action

Our first priority after an incident must be to prepare for the next one. This involves making sure you, your crew and your equipment are healthy and ready for the next response. This document points out ways a firefighter, a company officer, an incident command -level officer and a fire chief can ensure success for the next response.

For Firefighters

- Did you shower to remove any soot or exposures when you arrived back at the station?
- Are you rehydrated and refueled for the next fire?
- Did the previous incident affect you physically or mentally? If so, do you know who to turn to for help?
- What is the condition of your PPE? Is it capable of protecting you fully at the next structure fire? Will that abrasion/tear/ripped seam cause an issue? Does it need washing? Do you have a second hood and gloves ready to go?
- What effect did the incident have on your equipment? Were there issues during the call? Is there equipment that would have made a significant difference on the scene that you do not have access to? If so, how can you help frame the argument for procuring it?
- Did your training allow you to accomplish your tasks? Was there an area or task you felt that you could have known more about? Did your supervisor or others perform in a manner that you didn't understand or were unfamiliar with? Will you ask them about the incident so you can learn from it?

The First Five Minutes

Spend the week of June 19-25 focusing on the first five minutes of structural fire response at the chief, incident commander, company officer, and firefighter levels. Make sure all duty shifts are able to participate in the training throughout the week.

IAFC Rules of Engagement for Structural Firefighting

Section 1: Increasing Firefighter Survival provides lesson plans for firefighter survival. Section 3: Rules of Engagement provides resources for firefighters and incident commanders.

NVFC Volunteer Firefighter Health and Safety Priorities

Sets forth a series of B.E.S.T Practices for Behavior, Equipment, Standards and Codes, Training.

Stand Down Resources

All resources are available at www.safetystanddown.org.



Company Officer Role

- The items listed in 'For Firefighters' are all applicable to you. Do you empower your firefighters to accomplish those objective after a fire?
- How did the individuals in your company and your crew perform at the incident? Did they fall short of or exceed your expectations? Is this an opportunity to showcase excellent performance? Is this a situation that requires an individual or team session for constructive feedback that isn't 'sugar-coated'? Will you need to set up training bring your team up to expectations?
- Are all the members of your crew physically and mentally fit for further duty? Understanding that your actions can help them have a long, safe career, are you willing to make difficult decisions to ensure that?

Incident Command-Level Officers

- Were all of your firefighters returned to service and able to respond to the next incident? Were there equipment issues that need your attention?
- Were the strategic goals of the incident met? Did your department's SOGs help or hinder a capable and efficient response? Did the crews on scene perform to your expectations? How can you ensure that continues to response to happen or bring lacking companies 'up to par'?
- Is there information about the incident that needs to be passed along to your supervisors? Will the media get involved? Were the citizens upset by the fire department's actions? Were there firefighter or civilian injuries or deaths? Was there an issue with mutual aid departments or non-fire department entities such as police or utilities?

The Chief's Role in Supporting Firefighters

- Do your mid-level supervisors know that you want to be kept informed of large or serious incidents? Do you dismiss their attempts to do so?
- Is your department one that promotes a high level of performance while enforcing a strong safety culture? Do you empower everyone from your firefighters to your leaders to ensure this mantra is maintained?
- Can you use this incident to promote fire prevention and safety, better equipment, more staffing or other department needs with your political entities? Do your firefighters and leadership have everything they need to be safe and successful on the next incident?
- Do you need to make changes to your training, SOP's, inter-agency agreements, goals or strategic plans?