

Miller, Diane M. (CDC/NIOSH/EID)

From: Art Goodrich [Goodrich_Art@grayinterplant.com]
Sent: Friday, February 11, 2011 3:35 PM
To: NIOSH Docket Office (CDC)
Subject: 063-B - Stakeholder Comment on the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) Fire Fighter Fatality Investigation and Prevention Program (FFFIPP) Progress and Future Direction

Concerning the firefighter fatality reports; I would suggest that more specificity should be applied to the Stress/Over-exertion category and especially where a cardiac event has occurred. The data on the effects of carbon monoxide and hydrogen cyanide and their abilities to disrupt heart rhythms causing heart attacks/strokes should be given more consideration. This would drive the Wear Your Air initiative of the Cyanide Poisoning Treatment Coalition (CPTC) and could reduce the number of cardiac events suffered by firefighters. For many of us in the fire service, when we hear that a firefighter died of a heart attack, we assume that he had other medical issues, including high cholesterol, obesity and such. Though it might be the case with some, we also know that otherwise healthy firefighters are dying from heart attacks as well. This is where we should see if levels of hydrogen cyanide was a contributing factor. I would also suggest adding under "Recommendations" that you include carrying cyano-kits in rehab units and ambulances. Thank you for taking the time to review the public opinion. Your efforts in providing us with timely reports are vital to creating a culture of safety in the fire service.

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