

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

From: ALBERT MIGNONE [al.mignone@prodigy.net]
Sent: Tuesday, January 06, 2009 9:19 AM
To: NIOSH Docket Office (CDC)
Subject: 141%20-%20Draft%20NIOSH%20Alert:%20Preventing%20Deaths%20and%20Injuries%20of%20Fire%20Fighters%20When%20Fighting%20Fires%20in%20Unoccupied%20Structures

EXCELENT!

FIVE ITEMS THAT I USED TO TEACH MY LINE OFFICERS WHEN I WENT THROUGH THE RANKS TO CHIEF WERE;

YOU MUST GET THE APPARATUS TO THE SCENE SAFELY. FAILURE TO DO SO WILL REQUIRE FURTHER RESPONSE. THE INITIAL INCIDENT WILL DETERIORATE QUICKLY AS THE SECOND INCIDENT REMOVES YOUR BEST CHANCE TO MAKE ALL YOUR EFFORTS EFFICIENT. IT ALSO MAY COST YOU THE LOSS OF FIREFIGHTERS [DEATH OR INJURY].

RISK ASSESSMENT - DO IT DURING PRE-PLANING IF POSSIBLE AND UPDATE IT AS PART OF YOUR SIZE-UP. IF YOU DO IT DURING SIZE-UP THE FIRST TIME THE MESSAGE IS STILL THE SAME. "IF THERE ARE NO LIVES AT RISK THEN RISK NO LIVES." ALWAYS ERR ON THE SIDE OF CAUTION.

SAFETY ZONES - MUCH LIKE HANDLING A HAZMAT INCIDENT- WORK FROM A KNOWN SAFE ZONE AND MOVE INTO THE HAZARDOUS AREA MAKING YOUR ENVIRONMENT SAFE AS YOU PROCEED. THIS IS INCLUDES LOGISTICS, SUPPORT AND MANPOWER. INITIAL INCIDENT SIZE UP INCLUDES THE ESCALATION OF THE RESPONSE FOR FAST TEAMS [AS YOU NOTED], SPECIALTY TEAMS IF NECESSARY, BACK-UP MANPOWER, REHAB ETC..

BE FLEXABLE - MODIFY YOUR PLAN AS INFORMATION COMES TO THE IC. NONE OF US FIGURE OUT EXACTLY WHAT WE SHOULD DO INITIALLY, WE NEED DATA BOTH ON THE CRITICALITY OF THE SITUATION AND GROWTH OF RESOURCES AS WE MITIGATE THE PROBLEMS.

CRITIQUE OR DEBRIEFING - USE THE INCIDENT TO ADVANCE THE KNOWLEDGE OF THE FIREFIGHTING TEAM. DISCUSS IT, ASK FOR CRITICISM AND ASSESSMENT, AND THEN DETERMINE HOW TO MODIFY YOUR OPERATING PROCEDURES TO IMPROVE THEM OR REMOVE A SOMETHING THAT MAY IMPEDE YOUR SUCCESS. YOU WILL FIND THINGS YOU IDENTIFIED AT THE DRILL STAGE THAT MIGHT BE IMPRACTICLE WHEN YOU ARE WORKING AN INCIDENT. [NIOOSH IS GOOD AT POST INCIDENT INESTIGATIONS AND WE HAVE USED YOUR REPORTS FOR MANY YEARS.]

KEEP UP THE GOOD WORK!

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