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2016 Safety Stand Down: The First 5 Minutes

The [International Association of Fire Chiefs](#), [National Volunteer Fire Council](#) (NVFC), and the [National Fire Protection Association](#) have announced the theme for this year's Safety Stand Down and it focuses on the first few minutes of fire-ground activity. "The First 5 Minutes – Stretching the Initial Hose Line, Putting Water on the Fire" is June 19-25, 2016, and is a chance for fire department personnel to reevaluate how they perform their duties early in a call.

This year's theme highlights roles and responsibilities members of the department should accomplish during the first 5 minutes of a structural fire, specifically the chief, incident commander, company officer, and firefighter.

In addition to the information and resources available on the Safety Stand Down website, there is also an [online quiz](#) asking 15 questions of career and volunteer firefighters, EMS workers, and other fire department personnel on this topic. Anyone who completes the quiz will be entered in a sweepstakes, and 200 participants will win a special challenge coin from this year's Safety Stand Down.

(Source: [Safety Stand Down](#))

New IFSTA Cancer Guide Released

The International Fire Service Training Association (IFSTA) last week released a Speaking of Fire Special Edition: "[Cancer in the Fire Service...](#)" (PDF, 4.86 Mb). This report stresses the importance of treating every single call as a potential cancer risk, a critical fireground tactic that may one day save your life.

Since the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health's (NIOSH) [2010 study indicating rates of cancer among firefighters were much higher than the national norm](#), other agencies and organizations have published similar findings. The facts cannot and should not be overlooked any longer; departments and community leaders need to ensure they are addressing this risk.

There are many other resources available in addition to the NIOSH study and IFSTA report. Both the [Firefighter Cancer Support Network](#) and the [International Firefighter Cancer Foundation](#) have resources on reducing your risk both at work and at home, cancer screenings you should talk with your doctor about, and information on using and maintaining protective gear.

Volunteer departments have an especially hard time managing this issue for a variety of reasons. The [National Volunteer Fire Council](#) held a roundtable this month, which is now available for viewing on their website. Approximately one hour long, it covers a federal initiative to track firefighter cancer, the anomalous increase of cancer among younger firefighters, and the importance of tracking your exposures.

(Source: [FCSN](#))

Workplace Violence and EMS Personnel

An international research project undertaken by Central Queensland University in Australia is set to [examine violence against prehospital medicine workers](#), and the research team requests participation by EMS personnel around the world. This study intends to collect information to develop interventions such as training programs, policies, and procedures aimed at preventing and reducing violence against emergency medical personnel all over the world.

Attacks of fire and EMS personnel, sometimes through ambush or luring tactics, make regular headlines, but detailed statistics are lacking. In many countries, emergency medical workers have a higher than average rate of occupational injuries and fatalities, occasionally even higher than law enforcement officers. The first step in reducing these numbers is to identify the problem.

You can help by completing the 20-minute questionnaire. All responses are confidential and participants have the option of pausing it and continuing again later if necessary. More information about the research team and this effort can be found on the [project website](#).

(Source: [Central Queensland University](#))

First Amendment Training, Resources for LE

It is always important for law enforcement personnel to maintain a good awareness of civil rights and liberties, but with the events, rallies, and potential protests surrounding this year's politics and election, it would be a good idea to brush up.

The Criminal Intelligence Coordinating Council (CICC) developed two free resources to help with this. "[Recommendations for First Amendment-Protected Events for State and Local Law Enforcement Agencies](#)" is a 36-page guide to help define the roles and responsibilities of law enforcement agencies at protected events. It covers pre-event, operational, and post-event stages, as well as "red flag" areas to avoid. A operational red flag, for example, would be collecting names and other identifying information of participants and bystanders if there is no evidence of wrongdoing.

The second CICC resource is a 2-page [First Amendment Events Reference Card](#), which lists the rights of participants under the Constitution as well as what officers will and should not do.

In addition, the CICC has [online training available](#). The longer video – only 9 minutes – gives an overview of the topics along with a short quiz and the option of a certificate. The shorter video – 4 minutes – is designed to be used during pre-event briefings and roll-call.

(Source: [CICC](#))

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