

FIRE DEPARTMENT TAILBOARD SAFETY TALK

Conduct a quick safety meeting with your crew!



STEER TIRE BLOWOUT

Check apparatus tires regularly and after responses. Check personally owned vehicle tires also. Work-related vehicle crashes are the top cause of employee fatalities in the United States. They cause severe injuries and are very costly to employers due to injury treatment, vehicle repairs, insurance premium increases and liability for damage to vehicles, buildings and people. Please review this document with your crews!

FIND MORE SAFETY INFORMATION AT WWW.MEM-INS.COM

Fire Department Management: Please review this information with the members of your fire department to help them work to prevent and prepare for a tire blowout. Encourage regular inspection of trucks and tires. Review your budget and plan to replace bad or old tires. Review recommended tire replacement times provided by your tire manufacturer. Some tires, regardless of wear, must be replaced every six years.

You can reduce the risk of steer tire blowout with routine vehicle maintenance and regular tire inspections. Check tires often, especially on trucks that travel up and down gravel roads, into fields or off road onto rough terrain. Please do not drive a truck with bad tires, brakes or steering components!

Check tires for the following:

- Wear patterns, sidewall damage, tread separation, uneven wear and foreign object penetrations
- Proper inflation using a good-quality tire pressure gauge
- Tread depth consisting of 4/32" minimum tread depth on steer tires and 2/32" on rear tires
- Age of the tire
- Wheel damage, evidence of missing lug nuts or hubs, and loose components
- Steering system for excessive play, bent components, and missing nuts, bolts or pins

If a tire fails, you'll notice the sudden sound of air loss, vibration and a heaviness in the steering wheel. It's important not to panic. Avoid slamming on the brakes – it could cause you to lose control. Instead, maintain the vehicle's forward momentum. Keep a firm grip on the steering wheel to avoid veering left or right. Then, find a safe place to stop the vehicle and assess the situation.

Minimize distracted driving and focus on the road. The best way to prepare and respond to a blowout is to be completely focused while driving. Minimize distractions, pay attention and keep both hands on the steering wheel.

Doing truck check nights? Have you ever considered performing personally owned vehicle safety checks as well?



UNSAFE, CUPPED TIRE FOUND ON A TRUCK. CUPPING INDICATES A WORN, UNSAFE STEERING SYSTEM.



PRIVATELY-OWNED VEHICLES USED FOR FIRE DEPARTMENT BUSINESS, OR "BLUE LIGHT" RESPONSES MUST HAVE SAFE TIRES.



DO NOT RESPOND IN VEHICLES WITH BAD, DAMAGED OR UNDERINFLATED TIRES.



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NEW VOLUNTEER SAFETY TALK

New employees are at a higher risk for incident and injury. 40% of worker injuries are from new employees, injured within their first year on the job. There are many reasons why new employees are injured, including poor training and supervision, poor hiring practices, an overwhelming amount of new information, or a desire to fit in. Start new firefighters off right by discussing safety requirements on the first day of the job!

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CHAIN OF COMMAND AND POLICY REVIEW

- Describe the chain of command within the organization.
- Who is the new volunteer's supervisor?
- Who can the employee contact for a problem?
- Who can the employee contact to report a hazard or unsafe condition with a truck, equipment or tools?
- Provide important cell and after-hours phone numbers.
- Review the injury/incident reporting process.
- Review all fire district safety rules and procedures.
- Review the fire district drug-free workplace policy.
- Require volunteers to read, sign & date all safety policies.
- Review how new volunteers should respond to calls.

REVIEW COMMON HAZARDS OF THE JOB

- Discuss the major dangers and requirements of the job:
 - Structural, vehicle fire scenes
 - Roadside rescue scenes
 - Emergency medical responses
 - Wildland firefighting
 - Slips, trips, falls and heavy lifting
 - Emergency response driving
- Encourage the new volunteer to take personal responsibility for their actions and work safely.
- Discuss the training the employee will need on specific trucks and equipment like pumpers and rescue tools.

ISSUE PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT

- Provide volunteer with personal protective equipment that is clean and free of defects. Require its use.
- Describe the proper care and use of turnout gear, as well as its limitations. Keep all gear tidy and ready for use.
- Advise the employee how to obtain PPE if theirs is lost, damaged or worn out.
- Make sure the new volunteer knows that PPE is required on fire, medical and rescue scenes.
- Make sure the new volunteer knows that disciplinary action may follow when PPE rules are not followed.
- Turnout gear and helmet can prevent injuries on the scene.

ADDITIONAL DISCUSSION TOPICS

- All volunteers are required to report injuries and incidents to their supervisor immediately or before they leave the station to go home.
- This is a drug and alcohol-free workplace. Please do not report for fire district duty with the aftereffects of illegal drugs, alcohol or illegally used prescription medication in your system. Do not respond to fire calls after consuming any amount of alcohol.
- A post-incident drug and alcohol screen will be required after incidents and injuries.
- Employees must use safety belts in fire department vehicles or on machines equipped with safety belts. Wear your seat belt and drive with due regard when responding in personal vehicles. Do not ride in the back of brush trucks, on tailboards or top-mount pump walkways.
- Get training on tools, equipment and trucks before use. This equipment can be dangerous without proper training and regular practice.
- Do not freelance on fire scenes. Follow commands provided by your commanding officer. Always follow chain of command.
- Keep the fire station clean. Keep floors clear of slip and trip hazards. Maintain workspaces and storage areas in a tidy and orderly fashion.



ALWAYS DRIVE WITH DUE REGARD, WEAR YOUR SEAT BELT AND MINIMIZE DISTRACTIONS.



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TURNOUT GEAR AND P.P.E.

Firefighters must always wear their personal protective equipment (P.P.E.) and turnout gear at emergency scenes. Fire department officers must make sure volunteers wear personal protective equipment on scenes. P.P.E. and turnout gear create a protective barrier that helps prevent injuries caused by hazards like sharp objects, intense heat, hot surfaces, and flying objects. Make sure your P.P.E. is clean, stored properly and ready for action on a variety of calls!

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MANAGEMENT AND POLICY

- It's recommended that fire departments develop, maintain and enforce written rules or policies regarding the use of turnout gear & P.P.E. on emergency scenes.
- Fire department management must stay informed as to when P.P.E. has worn out, fallen into disrepair, when service is required, and how to document when service intervals have been completed. (SCBA hydrotesting, helmet age, breathing apparatus annual service, etc.)
- Firefighters must be instructed in the limitations, storage, care and maintenance of all personal protective gear.
- Officers must not only wear their gear but insist that firefighters also wear their protective gear.
- Both officers and firefighters must use personal protective equipment or corrective action may result when P.P.E. is not used on the scene.
- Scenes and hazards change. Keep extra P.P.E. available in the truck for when gear gets lost or broken. Keep extra dry sets of gloves, hoods, etc. when weather conditions are wet or cold, and for long-duration scenes.

ISSUING PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT

- Provide firefighters with personal protective equipment that is clean and free of defects.
- Describe the proper care and use of turnout gear, as well as its limitations. Use a copy of the owner's manual.
- Advise employees how to obtain P.P.E. if theirs is lost, damaged or worn out.
- Dirty P.P.E. is not appropriate and could expose firefighters to additional hazards.
- Make sure firefighters know that P.P.E. is required on fire, medical and rescue scenes. Disciplinary action may follow when P.P.E. rules are not followed.
- Describe when specific P.P.E. is required on fire scenes, medical calls, wildland fires and auto rescues.
- Special P.P.E. may be needed when working near cutting torches, saws, generators and cutting equipment.

P.P.E. EXAMPLES FOR FIRE DEPARTMENTS

- Eye protection, to include face shields, protective eyewear, and splash goggles
- Gloves, to include nitrile medical gloves, leather work gloves and firefighting gloves
- Safety footwear, to include firefighting and protective-toe footwear that's slip-resistant
- High-visibility garments for roadside emergency scenes
- Firefighting helmets with face shield
- Turnout pants and coats free of defects and excessive wear
- Self-contained breathing apparatus that has been serviced annually and contains a safe air bottle that has been hydrotested
- Filtering respirator when dusts and flying debris are encountered

CONSIDER P.P.E. FOR SPECIAL RESCUES

- Confined space rescue
- High angle and rope rescues
- Hazardous materials responses
- Special medical calls
- Water rescue
- Search and rescue
- Animal rescue



WEAR YOUR GEAR ON EVERY EMERGENCY SCENE. KEEP IT READY, CLEAN AND SAFE.



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DRUG & ALCOHOL-FREE WORKPLACES

Never report to emergency scenes with illicit drugs, misused prescription medications or alcohol in your system. If you respond with alcohol or illicit drugs in your system, you are putting yourself and fellow firefighters in danger. The fire department is a drug-free workplace. You may be subject to tests for reasons such as new hire, post-incident, random and reasonable suspicion. Violations will result in corrective action up to and including termination. Please respond safely!

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- **Management:** Your fire department should develop a drug-free workplace policy that includes language on illicit drugs, illegally used prescription medications and alcohol.
- **Management:** Please review your drug-free workplace policy often with employees and volunteers.
- Employees that report to work or fire scenes with alcohol or illicit drugs in their system are more likely to have incidents of damage, near-misses and injuries.
- Injuries sustained by employees under the influence cost the fire department twice as much as injuries sustained by workers free of the effects of drugs and alcohol.
- Theft, assaults, absenteeism and low-quality work are also problems associated with drug use and alcohol abuse.
- If you suspect that a firefighter is using illicit drugs or drinking alcohol at the station – or if they've responded and are suffering from the aftereffects of substance use – report it to your officers immediately.
- Workplace drug tests typically screen for the following:
 1. Cannabis (marijuana)
 2. Cocaine
 3. Amphetamines (methamphetamine)
 4. Opioids (heroin, morphine)
 5. Barbiturates
 6. Benzodiazepines
 7. Phencyclidine (PCP)
 8. Methaqualone
 9. Methadone
 10. Propoxyphene
- A hangover may mean you are still under the influence. You may be dehydrated and fatigued, as well.
- A breathalyzer is used for an alcohol screen.
- Don't respond if you're under the influence of, or have used alcohol, or if you have drug metabolites in your system.
- Do not perform safety-sensitive jobs when you've been prescribed a medication with warnings that prohibit driving or using equipment.
- Do not respond to any fire call if you've consumed alcohol recently. Turn your pager off.

MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS

- Please make sure your fire department has a drug-free workplace policy.
- Has your drug-free workplace policy been updated lately?
- Please make sure this policy is regularly discussed with all volunteers.
- Enforce the policy, please. When firefighters have responded – and are in violation of the policy – remove them from the scene and follow up when safe.
- Do not keep or provide alcohol at your fire station. A preventable incident could result in civil and criminal penalties.
- Require all employees of the fire department to read and sign your drug-free workplace policy.



NEVER DRIVE AFTER CONSUMING ALCOHOL, USING ILLEGAL DRUGS OR WHEN USING PRESCRIPTION MEDICATIONS THAT PROHIBIT THE USE OF A VEHICLE OR EQUIPMENT.

THINK ABOUT YOUR SAFETY, YOUR CREW'S SAFETY AND THE SAFETY OF YOUR MUTUAL AID PARTNERS. NEVER RESPOND AFTER CONSUMING ALCOHOL. TURN YOUR PAGER OFF.



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PREVENT OVEREXERTION INJURIES

Be safe, slow down and protect your body! Orthopedic injuries are a top type of firefighter injury. Almost everything on a pumper or rescue truck is heavy, which is a contributing factor to these injuries. Lifting, twisting, and yanking on equipment and machines can put you at risk, as can working in awkward postures. Get help, use lifting equipment, keep things lubricated, and break down the load. Don't over-do it and carry too much. Don't risk your health while lifting!

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COMMON ORTHOPEDIC INJURIES

- Shoulders – rotator cuff tears
- Knees – cartilage meniscus tears
- Ankles – sprains and fractures
- Neck – ligament tears

TOP CAUSES OF MUSCLE AND JOINT INJURY

- Lifting loads that are too heavy
- Repetitive lifting
- Falling or slipping while carrying a load
- Taking shortcuts, not using proper walk paths
- Carrying bulky objects with arms outstretched
- Twisting while lifting, instead of turning once standing
- Losing grip, causing the load to shift
- Walking on uneven surfaces
- Climbing stairs while carrying heavy objects
- Lifting with the spine instead of the legs

THINK ABOUT THE LIFT – DON'T HURT YOURSELF!

- Use proper footwear when on emergency scenes.
- Pick up trip hazards on stairs, work areas and walkways.
- Keep tools, equipment and machines organized on the truck. Reduce yanking, pushing and shoving to access this equipment.
- Are fans, generators, etc. equipped with wheels?
- Team lift. Ask a firefighter to share the load.
- Use extension cords and longer air hoses. Leave generators, welders and compressors in the truck.
- Don't try to carry too much weight. Break down loads. Break a case of six down to two loads of three.
- When appropriate, park the rig as close as possible to where its tools and equipment are needed. Do your trucks have slide-out trays? If so, use them!
- Use UTV / ATVs to move equipment long distances.
- Keep a wagon or dolly on the truck to move toolboxes, equipment and supplies.

MANAGEMENT AND POLICY

- Encourage healthy lifestyles and exercise in your fire department, to include smoking cessation programs and regular checkups by physicians.
- Address orthopedic injury prevention in your policies. Certain pieces of equipment should not be lifted – at any time – by yourself. This includes large cascade system bottles, folding tanks, 100' rolls of large-diameter hose or patients in lift-assist medical calls.
- Encourage and require injury reporting. If a volunteer believes they have been injured while performing work for the fire department – require that they report the injury in writing before they go home.



TEAM LIFT HEAVY EQUIPMENT LIKE FOLDING TANKS, EXTENSION LADDERS, PUMPS & HARD SUCTION.



SLIDE-OUT TRAYS HELP FIREFIGHTERS USE BETTER BODY POSUTURE WHEN LIFTING HEAVY ITEMS.



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STRUCTURE FIRE SAFETY REVIEW

Structure fires can be large or small. They can be as simple as a small fire inside a room or burning the entire roof off. They're farm, manufacturing or residential buildings. Take time to review this document with your fire crew and discuss safety and extinguishment goals at structure fires. Discuss structures in your area that are "high risk", like nursing homes, hospitals or buildings that contain hazardous materials. Respond to and fight fires safely!

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CHIEFS AND OFFICERS

- Create a "game plan" and perform pre-incident planning of commercial, residential, and high-risk structures.
- Practice and use the incident command system.
- Get help when you're shorthanded. Use mutual aid resources and make sure you have enough water, lighting, air and personnel. Get help sooner than later.
- Keep crews together, and forbid freelancing.
- Make sure everyone wears turnout gear & air packs.

FIREFIGHTERS

- Know your gear, trucks, tools, common tactics, and jobs at structure fires. Wear your gear on the scene.
- Make sure equipment is serviced and ready. This includes air packs, fans, generators, lighting.
- Work safely on each scene. Slow down, think ahead, work within teams and control "tunnel vision."

RESPONDING TO STRUCTURE FIRES

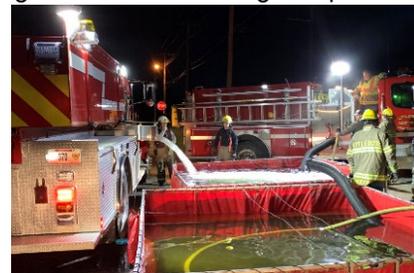
- No matter how bad the fire seems over the radio, please drive safely and with due regard.
- You cannot help anyone if you're involved in a crash.
- Keep water supply in the back of your mind. Where can you grab a hydrant, or set up a drafting operation?
- Don't park too close, block other apparatus, or set up in a collapse zone or beneath power lines.
- Make sure trucks won't roll away and use three points of contact to enter and exit trucks.

KNOW THE THREE FIRE DEPARTMENT DIRECTIVES

- **Life safety:** firefighters will safely & immediately act to protect, rescue, and remove people from danger.
- **Incident stabilization:** understand the situation and bring the incident under control.
- **Property conservation:** when people and responders are safe and the incident is under control, firefighters will work to stop further property damage and loss.

WHEN ARRIVING ON THE SCENE

- Gear everyone up. Don't fight fires without personal protective equipment and air packs.
- Size up the fire. Determine life safety threats and create a game plan for bringing the event under control. In plain language, let dispatch and other responders know what you're seeing and doing.
- Don't put anyone in danger fighting a lost cause. Use heavy streams and external firefighting tactics on structure fires that are already lost, or when there's no evidence of trapped occupants.
- Keep track of everyone. Freelancing and working alone could create a lost firefighter emergency.
- Pull lines appropriate for the fire. Large, "flames showing" fires require heavy-caliber water streams. Get big water on the fire.
- Heavy-caliber streams require a substantial water supply. Call for extra tankers or have pumper crews connect to additional hydrants.
- Make sure ladders are set up correctly. Avoid carrying too much up a ladder, prevent ladder tip over and kick-out and avoid striking power lines or overhead entrances by surveying the area.
- When working on roofs or inside structures, survey the strength of roof trusses, rafters and floor joists before beginning a task. Prevent falls through weakened building components.



PRACTICE PUMPING OFTEN. KNOW HOW TO CONNECT TO HYDRANTS OR DRAFT. KNOW HOW TO GET BIG WATER ON THE FIRE.



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AUTO RESCUE SAFETY REVIEW

Extrication confirmed! Auto crash rescue scenes present hazards like fire, struck-by traffic, flying objects and overexertion injuries. This meeting is to discuss methods for controlling hazards encountered during auto rescues. Remember roadside work zones are some of the most dangerous operations in fire and EMS because of the many hazards. Refresh your crew's safety knowledge about the hazards of vehicle rescue scenes.

FIND MORE SAFETY INFORMATION AT WWW.MEM-INS.COM

CREW SAFETY DISCUSSION POINTS

- When dispatched to the scene consider the location of the incident and the best method for parking the rig:
 - Multilane highway? On the driving lane or passing lane? Against the median or on the shoulder? Where will you park the rig?
 - Down an embankment? Rural road?
 - Bottom of a hill, where the terrain blocks the scene from the view of oncoming motorists?
- Follow your local response policies. Request extra help if the scene is in a dangerous area or if it presents additional hazards.
- Approach the scene slowly as it will most likely be populated with onlookers, citizens assisting the injured and victims in the roadway.
- Park apparatus to protect the scene from traffic. Ambulances and personally owned vehicles should pull past the scene if possible. Generally, ambulances are for patient treatment and safety, and shouldn't be used for advanced warning or blocking unless necessary.
- Unless it's necessary, do not walk across traffic lanes.
- Try your best to park apparatus before, at or past the incident, on the same side of the road.
- If you're first on the scene, give a radio size-up of the incident. Let inbound responders know what you see.
- When you're out of the rig perform a 360-degree walk-around size-up. Don't just focus in on a single patient or problem. Get the big picture. This includes:
 - Confirming the number of vehicles involved;
 - Number of patients requiring treatment;
 - Entrapment;
 - Special hazards or circumstances like hazardous materials, multi-casualty, water rescue, technical rescue or downed power lines.
- Wear all personal protective equipment, including high-visibility garments, gloves and eye protection. Don a personal floatation device whenever responders could fall into deep or moving water.
- Wear personal protective equipment when providing patient care inside the vehicle. This includes protection from body fluids and eye protection for flying glass and objects.
- Provide fire protection in the form of a charged fire hose at operating pressure or a large ABC dry chemical extinguisher whenever the vehicle is still occupied or when a responder enters the car to perform rescue or treatment.
- Protect rescuers and the victim beneath a protective blanket when flying objects like glass and plastic are encountered.
- Don't step into traffic. Scan before stepping out from around a truck or blind spot.
- Stay clear of bridge guardrails. They're only around 33 to 36 inches in height. Unfortunately, responders have fallen over bridge guardrails.
- Get plenty of help when lifting patients. Always have plenty of help when moving patients up and down embankments.
- Use plenty of flood lighting.
- Block & set up traffic control safely and correctly.
- Unnecessary personnel must stay clear of any aircraft landing zones. Observe from a distance.



POSITION APPARATUS TO PROTECT THE RESCUERS, VICTIMS AND SCENE. USE CONES, HIGH-VISIBILITY GARMENTS, AND PROPER PPE



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ROADSIDE RESCUE SCENE SAFETY

Be visible and protect your crews! Don't turn your back to traffic! Curvy, hilly roads and blind city corners will hide incident scenes from the view of motorists. Working on any city street or highway exposes you to struck-by traffic hazards. Back streets, parking lots and construction zones present more struck-by hazards. Proper truck placement, quick patient removal and reduced scene time, continuous traffic evaluation and high-visibility garments reduce the risk.

FIND MORE SAFETY INFORMATION AT WWW.MEM-INS.COM

CREW SAFETY DISCUSSION POINTS

- Refer to the Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices, Temporary Traffic Control, Chapter 6.
https://mutcd.fhwa.dot.gov/hdm/2009/part6/part6_toc.htm
- Or, refer to Missouri Department of Transportation Traffic Incident Management Responder Training Program.
<https://www.modot.org/traffic-incident-management-responder-training-program>
- When dispatched to the scene consider the location of the incident and the best method for parking the rig:
 - Multilane highway? On the driving lane or passing lane? Against the median or on the shoulder? Where will you park the rig?
 - Down an embankment? In a curve?
 - Bottom of a hill, where the terrain blocks the scene from the view of oncoming motorists?
- Request extra help if the scene is on a dangerous stretch of roadway or if it presents additional hazards.
- Approach the scene slowly. It may be clogged with vehicles, onlookers, other responders and debris.
- Park fire apparatus on the same side of the highway as the crash.
- Pumpers or tankers can be used to protect the scene from traffic & provide advanced warning.
- Don't step into traffic. Scan before stepping out from around a truck or blind spot.
- Ambulances and personally owned vehicles should pull past the scene if possible. Generally, ambulances are for patient treatment and safety, and shouldn't be used for advanced warning or blocking unless necessary.
- When flagging traffic, do not confuse motorists. Wear high-visibility garments, use cones, two-way radios and proper signage. Traffic control efforts must be organized.
- The first arriving unit should give a proper radio size-up from the windshield to let inbound crews know what is being seen. Then, as the incident commander learns more about the scene, provide additional updates.
- Wear all personal protective equipment, including high-visibility garments, gloves and eye protection.
- When you're out of the rig perform a 360-degree walk-around size-up. Don't just focus in on a single patient or problem. Get the big picture.
 - Number and type of vehicles involved;
 - Number of patients requiring treatment;
 - Entrapment;
 - Special hazards or circumstances like hazardous materials, multi-casualty, water rescue, terrain problems, technical rescue or downed power lines.
- Don a personal floatation device whenever responders could fall into deep or moving water.
- Wear personal protective equipment when providing patient care inside the vehicle. This includes protection from body fluids and eye protection for flying glass and objects.
- When the vehicle is still occupied or when a responder enters the car to perform rescue or treatment, provide fire protection in the form of a charged and manned fire hose at operating pressure or large ABC dry chemical extinguisher.
- Protect rescuers and the victim beneath a protective blanket when flying objects like glass and plastic are encountered.
- Bridges are dangerous, and bridge guardrails may not protect rescuers from falls. Most are at heights of 33 to 36 inches in height.



FIRST-ARRIVING CREWS MAY FIND A CHAOTIC SCENE. REMEMBER PROPER SCENE SETUP AND P.P.E.



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EMERGENCY RESPONSE SAFETY

Always respond safely. Don't put yourself, your crew or the motoring public in danger. Operate professionally and use seat belts. The fire department responds to many calls that don't exactly turn out to be "emergencies". Firefighters drive not only heavy pumpers, tankers and aerials – they drive their personal vehicles to scenes as well. No matter what vehicle you drive, avoid crashes by driving safely on each response.

FIND MORE SAFETY INFORMATION AT WWW.MEM-INS.COM

CREW SAFETY DISCUSSION POINTS

- Know the emergency response laws in your state and your F.D. policies.
- Emergency responses disrupt the normal flow of traffic. Sirens and lights startle drivers and can cause some motorists to panic brake or swerve.
- ASK: Is this call truly an emergency? Should the call be run "on the quiet" or non-emergency? How will additional speed affect the outcome?
- Emergency response laws do not give you the right to put other motorists at risk or drive at inappropriate speeds. Drive safely and responsibly.
- When driving in emergency mode, always be cautious. Drive with due regard for the safety of others. Protect yourself and your crew.
- When riding in air pack seats, do not unbuckle your seat belt to don bunker gear. Either don your gear before the truck moves or don it on the scene.
- When in your personal vehicle, remember that motorists may not see your blue light or hear your siren. Wear your seat belt & respond appropriately.
- Always wear seat belts when you're working in an ambulance that's in motion. Wear seat belts in the rear, when transporting emergent patients.
- Stop at red lights and stop signs. Slow down and scan ahead when proceeding through a green light. Cover the brake and be ready to stop.
- Always assume that other motorists don't see your lights or hear your siren.
- Scan intersections thoroughly and proceed with caution across each lane. Scan all intersections for traffic that hasn't yielded.
- Never run any red light or stop sign. Motorists may not see you.
- Always travel at a speed appropriate for conditions, and which will allow you to stop. Do not overdrive your headlights.
- Never tailgate. Do not "force" motorists to yield.
- On narrow rural roads, a driver may not be able to safely yield because there's no road shoulder.
- Insulated vehicles prevent drivers from hearing sirens.
- Do not tailgate or follow other responders too closely.
- Avoid passing stopped traffic on the right. Don't pass unless it is safe, and you have clear view of oncoming traffic.
- Minimize unnecessary distractions like radio, siren or cell phone use.
- Stay in your lane. Head-on crashes involving fire rigs and ambulances have occurred on two-lane roads when oncoming traffic did not yield.
- The fire department and apparatus driver could be held responsible for injuries, damage, pain & suffering after a preventable crash. Criminal charges could result if a preventable crash is serious or causes a death.



ONCOMING TRAFFIC IS YIELDING EXCEPT FOR THE CAR AT THE BACK OF THE PACK. DURING EMERGENCY RESPONSE, MINIMIZE CROSSING THE CENTER LINE.



PROCEED AROUND YIELDING VEHICLES SAFELY. BE READY TO STOP. COVER THE BRAKE AND BE READY TO REACT.



DRIVE WITH DUE REGARD. NEVER PUT MOTORISTS OR YOUR CREW IN DANGER WHILE DRIVING. ALWAYS WEAR SEAT BELTS.

MeM MISSOURI EMPLOYER MUTUAL



These advisory materials have been developed from national standards and sources believed to be reliable, however, no guarantee is made as to the sufficiency of the information contained in the material and the Firefighter Association of Missouri assumes no liability for its use. Advice about specific situations should be obtained from a safety professional. 07/16/20 by MW

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OFF-ROAD RECOVERY & OVERSTEERING

Manage your speed, minimize distractions and pay attention when driving on roads with minimal shoulder. Many drivers will inadvertently allow their right-side tires to fall off the pavement edge. When this happens, they often panic, yank the steering wheel and slam on the brakes. This causes the vehicle to veer sharply to the left, usually resulting in an overturned vehicle or head-on crash. Reduce or eliminate the risk of this type of crash with basic defensive driving techniques.

FIND MORE SAFETY INFORMATION AT WWW.MEM-INS.COM

CREW SAFETY DISCUSSION POINTS

DON'T PANIC. DON'T YANK THE WHEEL!

Overcorrection crashes occur when a driver veers off the edge of the road and, in response, turns the vehicle sharply in the opposite direction. Pay attention to the road and keep both hands on the steering wheel.

Overcorrecting could cause your vehicle to cross the center line, slide out of control, tip over or strike another vehicle.

Often, overcorrection is caused or worsened when the driver strongly brakes after veering off-road.

In this case, the tires are braking on two different surfaces:

- Driver-side tires brake on pavement;
- Passenger-side tires brake on grass, rock or soil.

If you do veer off the road, simply take your foot off the accelerator. Keep a firm grasp on the steering wheel and guide your vehicle gradually back into the lane.

- Don't panic!
- Don't yank the wheel or jam on the brakes.
- Take your foot off the accelerator.
- Gently make slight corrections to your steering and guide your vehicle back onto the pavement.

Of course, a better plan is to avoid veering off-road in the first place.

- Don't speed in heavy pumpers, tankers and aerials.
- Drive at speeds appropriate for road conditions.
- Reduce your speed on curvy roads, rural roads with narrow shoulders or gravel surfaces.
- Focus on the road. Keep both hands on the wheel.
- Minimize distractions – stay off the phone and radio.
- Scan for and avoid pavement drop-offs.
- Slow down when heading into curves and down hills.
- Slow down any danger is experienced.



**FOCUS ON THE ROAD.
MINIMIZE DISTRACTIONS.
ALL CREW MEMBERS MUST WEAR SEAT BELTS.**



**HEAVY TANKERS CAN BE UNFORGIVING ON
RURAL ROADS. SLOW DOWN AND ARRIVE SAFELY.**



**DRIVERS WILL PANIC WHEN THEIR TIRES FALL OFF THE
EDGE OF THE PAVEMENT. DON'T YANK THE WHEEL,
DON'T PANIC. KEEP CONTROL OF THE VEHICLE AND
BOTH HANDS ON THE STEERING WHEEL.**



FIRE DEPARTMENT TAILBOARD SAFETY TALK

Conduct a quick safety meeting with your crew!



SAFETY AT THE STATION

Be safe! Bunkrooms, kitchens, trucks, storage rooms and mechanical rooms (furnace and water heater rooms) are all susceptible to fire. Fire hazards are routinely stored within ambulances and bases, to include oxygen, chemicals, ordinary combustibles and fuels. A fire within the station could quickly become intense and grow at a rate that could significantly reduce the chances of rapid extinguishment or escape. Review these safety basics with your fire and EMS crews.

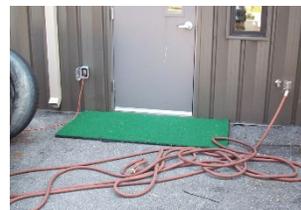
FIND MORE SAFETY INFORMATION AT WWW.MEM-INS.COM

CREW SAFETY DISCUSSION POINTS

- ✓ Smoking is a top cause of accidental fire. Smoke only in approved areas. Discard smoking materials properly.
- ✓ Do not smoke when handling oxygen or fuels. Stop, drop and roll if your clothing ignites.
- ✓ Never discard smoking materials into dumpsters, trash cans grass and mulch.
- ✓ Do not smoke when dispensing fuels or while fueling trucks. Let lawnmowers or generators cool before fueling.
- ✓ Store fire station & truck fuels in approved safety containers with self-closing caps. Keep fire extinguishers ready.
- ✓ Fire extinguishers should be available in all areas of the building including kitchens, bays and living quarters.
- ✓ Have a fire extinguisher available in outdoor grilling, storage or fuel island areas.
- ✓ When cleaning, use safer cleaning solvents that produce fewer dangerous vapors or skin hazards.
- ✓ Minimize horseplay. Have fun and enjoy your fire department. Horseplay that could cause injury is prohibited.
- ✓ Do not block fire exits or stairs. Never lock egress doors. Fire egress lighting must function on battery backup.
- ✓ Extension cords covered by rugs will heat up and ignite. Use only heavy, grounded-type extension cords.
- ✓ To prevent trips, avoid stretching air hoses or extension cords across walkways.
- ✓ Keep computers and surge protectors cool, free of dust buildups and well-ventilated.
- ✓ Remove damaged or hot surge protectors. Do not piggy-back surge protectors or extension cords.
- ✓ Report building electrical problems. Keep circuit breaker panels closed. Avoid using cheap 2-wire extension cords.
- ✓ Report electrical problems in apparatus. Report any problems with electric shorelines. Report damaged extension cords. An electrical problem in an ambulance or fire truck can cause a fire.
- ✓ Space heaters must not be used within 3' of furnishings or combustibles. Secure heaters to prevent tip over.
- ✓ Cook safely in the station and remember to shut off the stove or oven when you're dispatched to a call. If a grease fire occurs, cover the pan with a lid.
- ✓ Smoke detectors, alarm systems and sprinkler systems must function. Make sure the fire detection system is in service and functioning properly. Do not block sprinkler heads with furnishings.
- ✓ Know how to escape the building. Assist others like office personnel and visitors.
- ✓ Designate an area for headcount. Report missing personnel to dispatch. Don't re-enter the building to search for them unless you have proper personnel, gear, attack lines and water supply.
- ✓ Don't attempt to remove apparatus from bays when the building is on fire. Get out & do a head count immediately.
- ✓ Keep first aid kits and automated external defibrillator available and stocked. Provide an eyewash station near maintenance areas. Tourniquets should be available to control severe bleeding from arms or legs.
- ✓ Housekeeping is important. Pick up trip hazards like hoses and cords. Clean up slip hazards like spills and oil.
- ✓ Report dangerous or unsafe conditions to management in writing. Work to get unsafe conditions corrected soon.



**KEEP PLENTY OF ICE
MELT ON HAND FOR
WINTER PRECIPITATION.**



**KEEP THE STATION TIDY.
PICK UP TRIP HAZARDS.
DON'T LEAVE UNSAFE
MESSSES THAT COULD
INJURE OTHERS.**

MeM MISSOURI
EMPLOYER
MUTUAL



These advisory materials have been developed from national standards and sources believed to be reliable, however, no guarantee is made as to the sufficiency of the information contained in the material and the Firefighter Association of Missouri assumes no liability for its use. Advice about specific situations should be obtained from a safety professional. 07/16/20 by MW

FIRE DEPARTMENT TAILBOARD SAFETY TALK

Conduct a quick safety meeting with your crew!



PREVENTING FIREFIGHTER FALLS

All scenes expose firefighters to many different hazards! Please perform a hazard assessment at each scene and take action to minimize hazards! Falls can be prevented with relatively simple measures like, training, housekeeping, proper scene setup and use of equipment like lighting and slip-on ice cleats. Slips, trips and falls are a top cause of employee injury across Missouri. Slips, trips and falls can occur at the fire station and at the scene.

FIND MORE SAFETY INFORMATION AT WWW.MEM-INS.COM

CREW SAFETY DISCUSSION POINTS

- When walking / working surfaces are covered with water, ice, snow or a granular or liquid substance, the foot can slip, causing instability.
- Trips occur when the foot stride is stopped by an obstruction like a fire hose, extension cord, rock or seam in concrete. This causes the body to thrust forward out of balance.
- Slips & trips and the associated imbalance in the body can result in a fall. Injuries associated with falls include strains, sprains, bone fractures or head injuries that could be serious.
- Ladders are clearly needed on fire scenes for rescue and access for firefighting. But aerial ladder trucks are more stable and provide better, safer access for rescue, rooftop work or overhaul. A fall from more than 6' can easily be life threatening and cause multiple injuries. Please provide training on proper ladder setup, use and inspection. Use ropes to lift and lower tools and saws. Discuss how aerial trucks can be used to make elevated surface work safer.
- Ladder safety is important. Use three-points of contact and don't carry too much. Make sure your ladder will not slip, kick out or tip over. Do not raise ladders into power lines. Use ropes to lift tools.
- When working in winter weather, use plenty of flood lighting at night, and consider throwing out ice melt near pump panels or on sidewalks & driveways at medical calls.
- At the station, make sure slip, trip and fall hazards are cleaned up. Keep storerooms and floors tidy. Extension cords, garden hoses, leaking trucks and drying hose are common slip & trip hazards.
- At night, use plenty of flood lighting. Keep generators, extension cords and lighting in operable condition. Light up night scenes.



WEAR PROPER FOOTWEAR, ICE CLEATS AND ASSIGN A MEMBER TO SPREAD ICE MELT AT ICY / SNOWY SCENES.



USE THREE POINTS OF CONTACT WHEN ENTERING / EXITING TRUCK CABS, TOP-MOUNT PUMPS OR WHEN USING LADDERS.



PROVIDE, ASSIGN & REQUIRE THE USE OF SLIP-ON ICE CLEATS WHEN WORKING IN WINTER WEATHER.



LEAKING TRUCKS AND GARDEN HOSES ARE COMMON SLIP & FALL HAZARDS.



MAKE SURE LADDERS DO NOT TIP OVER, OR KICK-OUT. GET HELP TO SECURE LADDERS.



MeM MISSOURI EMPLOYERS' MUTUAL



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