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EMS Safety Officers

Taking Care of Our Own!



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Safety Program Strategies

- Top management endorsement and “active leadership”
- Minimum program standards & policies
 - OSHA/VOSH, NFPA 1500, ???
- Establish “activities” to achieve minimum standards
- Management “responsibilities” and training at all levels

Safety Program Strategies

- Incident Investigation & Analysis
- Safety “motivation” and training for all employees
- “Functional” safety committees
- A system of tracking results

Safety Leadership Attributes

• Leadership Personnel

- Safety is not a priority
 - Safety is an expectation!
- Walk the Talk
- Lead by Example
- Don't just walk by...



Safety Leadership Attributes

• Open Communications

- Shared understanding of safety expectations
- Management must repeat and reinforce
- Seek Feedback
 - Verify that the message has been received and understood
- Positive Reinforcement

EMS Safety Officer

- Sells “safety” to management and the workforce
- Serve as a consultant to management
- Involves employees in safety process



EMS Safety Officers

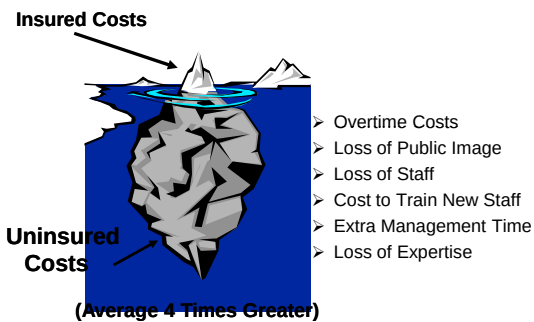
- **Protect our people!**
 - ☑ Anticipate, identify & evaluate
 - ☑ Hazardous conditions or practices
 - ☑ Develop hazard control methodologies
 - ☑ Implement hazard controls and programs
 - ☑ Measure, audit and evaluate the effectiveness of controls and programs

Benefits: EMS Safety Officers

- **Compliance & Legislation**
 - State, Federal Laws
- **Ethical Reasons**
 - Concern for the workers
- **Economic Reasons**
 - Protect agency assets
 - Reduce Workers' Comp costs



The Tip of the Iceberg !



Safety Program Standards & Policies

- **Compliance**
 - OSHA/VOSH – PPE, BBP, HazMat
 - Department or Agency Policies
 - Industry Standards, State Laws
- **Best Practices**
 - Technology improvements
 - Industry experience
 - Things that work!

Safety Administration (SO)

- 1. Risk Management Plan**
 - Admin., Facilities, Training, Vehicle Ops, PPE, Emergency Ops, Non-Emergency Ops
- 2. Safety & Health Policy**
 - Goals & objectives
 - No Fatalities – Everyone Goes Home
 - Preventing injuries & eliminating accidents
 - Controlling exposures to disease & illness

Risk Management Process

- **Risk Identification**
 - What can go wrong? What could happen?
 - Low frequency/high severity – **Danger!**
- **Risk Evaluation**
 - “Predictable is Preventable”
- **Establish Priorities**
 - High, moderate, low
- **Risk Controls**
 - Avoidance, control measures, transfer

Safety Administration (SO)

3. Occupational Safety & Health Program

- Comply with laws & legal requirements
- Establish & enforce rules and SOPs
- Incident Investigation Procedure
- Occ. Safety & Health Committee

SO Activities to achieve minimum standards

- Check for hazards & exposures
- Evaluate existing & potential controls
- Review injury/incident experience
 - The agency/department
 - Other emergency services operations

More “SO” Activities

- **Monitor Performance**
 - “What gets measured – gets done!”
 - Monitor injuries & Incidents (Close calls)
 - Reinforce positive trends
 - Negative trends need corrective action
 - Injuries should be investigated for cause
 - Lessons from losses

Measuring Results

- How many safety meetings?
- How many hours of safety training?
- How many safety checks?
- Deficiencies corrected?
- How many effective injury or close call investigations completed?

Safety Program Attributes

- Basic qualifications and training
 - Safe way of “how to do it”
 - Practices with safety embedded
 - Certain activity is far too risky
 - If you can't do it safely.....Don't do it!

Safety Training & Motivation

- Provide the right training
- Provide it at the right time
- Review periodically and reinforce

Incident Investigations

- **All injuries should be investigated**
 - Develop facts
 - Causal factors
 - Outline actions to prevent a reoccurrence
- **Loss analysis**
 - What has happened before?
 - Good prediction of the future
 - Helps with establishing priorities

Safety Committee

- Right people
- Meeting regularly
- Agenda and minutes documented
- Taking action and doing follow-up

Other “SO” Activities

- Ensure facility safety & compliance
- Review & recommend equipment specs
- Encourage health maintenance
- Serve as internal & external liaison
- Infection Control Officer
- Critical Incident Stress Management
- Address workplace violence exposures

Top 10 Flaws of Safety Programs

- Lack of Management Commitment
- Failure to Clearly Define & Assign Accountability
- Failure to Establish Program Objectives (Plan)
- Misunderstanding the Role of the Safety Staff
- Lack of Supervisory Involvement

Top 10 Flaws of Safety Programs

- Failure to Involve All Employees
- Nonexistent or Inadequate Training
- Inconsistent Enforcement of Safety Rules
- No Program for Controlling Losses “After-the -Fact”
- Failure to Consider the Interdependency of all the Program Elements

Safety Officer Essentials

- Lead by example
- Stay current
- Motivate others
- Demonstrate competence
- Create trust
- Provide training
- Help solve problems



Leadership

- “The art of getting someone else to do something you want done because he wants to do it” – Dwight D. Eisenhower
- “Someone who people choose to follow”
- Mission – “Live it, Teach it, Preach it”

S.O. Resources

- **FA-144 - EMS Safety, Techniques and Applications**
www.usfa.dhs.gov/downloads/pdf/publications/fa-144.pdf
- **NFPA 1500 Standard on Fire Department Occupational Safety and Health Program**
<http://www.nfpa.org/aboutthecodes/AboutTheCodes.asp?DocNum=1500>
- **NFPA 1521: Standard for FD Safety Officer**
www.nfpa.org/aboutthecodes/AboutTheCodes.asp?DocNum=1521
- **IFSTA Fire Department Safety Officer**
<http://bit.ly/9FcHUK> or <http://imis-ext.osufpp.org>

S.O. Resources

- **NFFF - Everyone Goes Home**
<http://www.everyonegoeshome.com/>
- **EMSWORLD - In the Line of Duty Death Notices**
<http://www.emsworld.com/article/fullsection.jsp?siteSection=2>
- **EMS1.com – Line-Of-Duty Deaths**
<http://www.ems1.com/lodd-line-of-duty-deaths/>
- **EMSCloseCalls.com**
<http://www.firefighterclosecalls.com/emshome.php>