



## Firefighter Life Safety Initiatives “Everyone Goes Home”

**Purpose:** The Firefighter Life Safety Initiative program is a nationwide effort to prevent firefighter line-of-duty deaths so that “Everyone Goes Home.”

**Standard:** The National Fallen Firefighters Foundation joined together with the United States Fire Administration, and the National Institute of Standards and Technology to promote the Firefighter Life Safety Initiatives.

**Statistics:** Despite continued advances in firefighting equipment, Incident Command System training, operations and safety training and improved communications, 107 firefighters died in the line of duty in the United States in 2004.

- The average age of firefighters killed while on-duty in 2004 was 47. The average age of a firefighter that died of a heart attack or stroke was 52; the average age of firefighters who died of traumatic injuries was 42.
- Firefighter deaths took place in 40 states. Pennsylvania had the highest number of deaths with 18 firefighters killed; Kentucky suffered seven (7) deaths, followed by California, Florida, Illinois, and New Jersey with five (5) deaths each.
- Career firefighters, those who are employed full-time as firefighters, comprised 29 deaths (27%) in 2004.
- Volunteer, seasonal, and part-time firefighters accounted for 78 deaths.
- Half of the firefighters that died in 2004 died from traumatic injuries such as asphyxiation, burns, drowning, vehicle crashes, and other physical injuries.
- The balance of firefighter deaths in 2004 were attributed to non-traumatic injuries, such as heart attacks and strokes. Heart attacks caused the deaths of 49 on-duty firefighters.

**Goal:** In 2004, a number of organizations joined together to develop the Firefighter Life Safety Initiative program. The program calls for fire departments to implement 16 Firefighter Life Safety Initiatives to reduce firefighter fatalities by 25% within 5 years, and by 50% within 10 years.

### Firefighter Life Safety Initiatives:

1. Define and advocate the need for a cultural change within the fire service relating to safety; incorporating leadership, management, supervision, accountability and personal responsibility.
2. Enhance the personal and organizational accountability for health and safety throughout the fire service.



3. Focus greater attention on the integration of risk management with incident management at all levels, including strategic, tactical, and planning responsibilities.
4. All firefighters must be empowered to stop unsafe practices.
5. Develop and implement national standards for training, qualifications, and certification (including regular recertification) that are equally applicable to all firefighters based on the duties they are expected to perform.
6. Develop and implement national medical and physical fitness standards that are equally applicable to all firefighters, based on the duties they are expected to perform.
7. Create a national research agenda and data collection system that relates to the initiatives.
8. Utilize available technology wherever it can produce higher levels of health and safety.
9. Thoroughly investigate all firefighter fatalities, injuries, and near misses.
10. Grant programs should support the implementation of safe practices and/or mandate safe practices as an eligibility requirement.
11. National standards for emergency response policies and procedures should be developed and championed.
12. National protocols for response to violent incidents should be developed and championed.
13. Firefighters and their families must have access to counseling and psychological support.
14. Public education must receive more resources and be championed as a critical fire and life safety program.
15. Advocacy must be strengthened for the enforcement of codes and the installation of home fire sprinklers.
16. Safety must be a primary consideration in the design of apparatus and equipment.



**Duty and Responsibility --  
Make EVERY DAY a TRAINING DAY....so that...  
EVERYONE GOES HOME!**