

Firefighter Life Safety Initiative Program: An Overview and Progress to Date



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Line of Duty Deaths

- A total of 2,843 firefighters died in the line-of-duty from 1981 to 2003.
- One firefighter dies on average in the United States every 78 hours.
- The leading cause (45%) of firefighter deaths was Stress/Overexertion, most attributed to heart attacks resulting from stress.
- Second leading cause is vehicle collisions
- Oklahoma Has lost 39 firefighters in the line of duty since 1981

National Fallen Firefighters Foundation

“Our Mission is to Honor and Assist”

- Tax-exempt, nonprofit Foundation created by Congress in 1992 to lead a nationwide effort to remember America's fallen firefighters.
- Has developed and expanded programs to honor our fallen fire heroes and assist their families and coworkers.
- Cooperative venture with the National Institute of Standards and Technology to support a national research agenda to prevent line-of-duty deaths.

National LODD Summit

(Tampa, March '04)

National Perspective:

1. Health and Fitness
2. Vehicle Operations
3. Structural Operations
4. Training and General Research
5. Wildland Operations
6. Fire Prevention



National Summit Outcome

- 16 initiatives
- www.everyonegoeshome.org/initiatives.asp
- Support USFA goal of 25% reduction in FF death/injuries in 5 years, and 50% in 10 years
- Covered all aspects for change:
 - Engineering
 - Behavioral
 - Competency
 - Technology application
- All focused on safety

Initiative # 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.

Initiative # 2

Enhance the personal and organizational accountability for health and safety throughout the fire service.



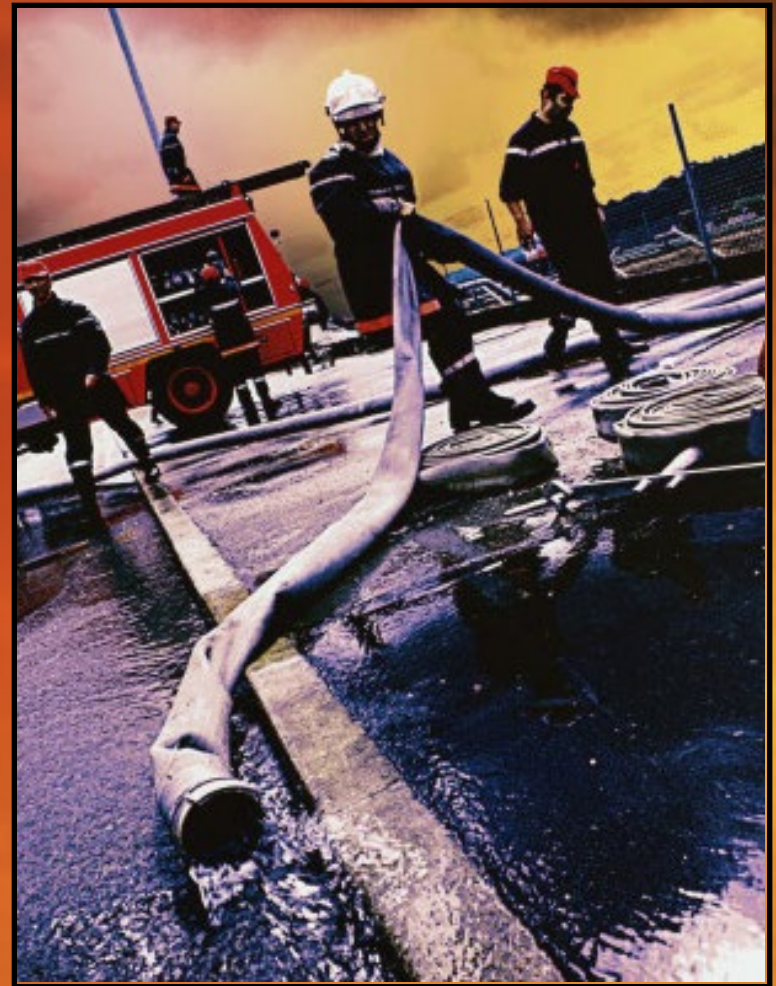
Initiative # 4

**All firefighters
must be
empowered to
stop unsafe
practices.**



Initiative # 5

Develop and implement national standards for training, qualifications, and certification (including regular re-certification) that are equally applicable to all firefighters based on the duties they are expected to perform.



Initiative # 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.

Initiative # 7

Create a national research agenda and data collection system that relates to the initiatives.



Initiative # 8



Utilize available technology wherever it can produce higher levels of health and safety.

Initiative # 9

Thoroughly
investigate
all firefighter
fatalities,
injuries, and
near misses.



NIOSH
Fire Fighter Fatality Investigation
and Prevention Program

***Death in the
line of duty...***

A summary of a NIOSH fire fighter fatality investigation

May 20, 2005



Initiative # 10



Grant programs should support the implementation of safe practices and/or mandate safe practices as an eligibility requirement.

Initiative # 11

National standards for emergency response policies and procedures should be developed and championed.



Initiative # 12

National protocols for response to violent incidents should be developed and championed.

**Ky. Firefighter Killed, Second Wounded in Shooting at Scene of Domestic
'Worst Nightmare': Domestic Dispute Call Turns to Tragedy**

**Memphis: History
Firefighting Presents More Dangers Than Just Fire**

**Six Firefighters Shot,
Injured in Indian Violence**
All Remain Hospitalized, One Seriously



Initiative # 13

Firefighters and their families must have access to counseling and psychological support.



Initiative # 14

Public education must receive more resources and be championed as a critical fire and life safety program.



Initiative # 15



Advocacy must be strengthened for the enforcement of codes and the installation of home fire sprinklers.

Initiative # 16

Safety must be a primary consideration in the design of apparatus and equipment.



Summary

- Comprehensive safety focus through
 - Personal and corporate responsibility
 - Empowerment and advocacy
 - Accountability
 - Standards and codes
 - Engineering and technology application (including apparatus and equipment)
 - Risk management (macro and micro)
 - Policies/procedures/ protocols
 - Public education and information, etc.
- The only initiative that was common to (came out of) ALL domains was *CULTURE*

Progress To Date

- Mini summits focusing on specific initiatives
- State summits
- National Fire Service Research Agenda
- Informational support
 - “near miss” reporting system
 - “stand down” day
- Negatives:
 - Minimal programmatic implementation/change
 - Struggling to maintain momentum
 - FF death and injury rate relatively unchanged



International Fire Service
Training Association



Fire Protection Publications



Oklahoma State University
College of Engineering, Architecture and Technology



Oklahoma State University



Fire and Emergency Management Program

POLITICAL SCIENCE DEPARTMENT – OKLAHOMA STATE UNIVERSITY – STILLWATER, OK

OKLAHOMA STATE UNIVERSITY
Fire Protection and Safety Technology™

FPST



FIRE SERVICE TRAINING
OKLAHOMA STATE UNIVERSITY



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Fire Protection Publications



Reducing Firefighter Line-of-Duty Death and Injury Rates Through Leadership and Selected Management Practices: A Comparative Analysis of U.S. and U.K. Best Practices

Purpose

The goals of this research are to

1. Produce a body of recommended best practices detailing leader level and manager level policies and activities designed to reduce firefighter line of-duty-deaths and injuries.
2. Produce a compilation of recommendations to further develop and support leaders, and to facilitate the most appropriate and effective leadership practices.

Aims

- To investigate and determine best practices in the U.S. and U.K. fire services that have a significant, positive impact on firefighter line-of-duty death and injury rates.
- To interpret the relationship between leadership/management practices and the effectiveness (outcome) of best practices (programs).
- To develop a guide of recommendations for the U.S. fire service to further identify effective leadership practices, and to develop and support leaders within the service.

Stillwater, OK

December 5, 2005

Oklahoma Fire Service Summit: Firefighter Line of Duty Death Initiatives

- **Fire Service leaders from around the state participated in working summit led by Chief (ret.) Dennis Compton, and break-out sessions led by OSU staff**
- **The goal of the Summit was to identify needs specific to the Oklahoma Fire Service and actions that would support the National Firefighters Foundation's sixteen Line of Duty Death Initiative established through the national "Everyone Goes Home" program within Oklahoma.**

Summit Process

- Summit participants divided into sub-working groups, each group focusing on 2 domains.
- Each identified needs specific to Oklahoma within each domain, and ID'd the national initiative that was most appropriate to that need.
- Following the group break-out sessions all attendees participated in a process that reached consensus on the highest priority actions for statewide implementation in Oklahoma.

Finding Priority #1

**Domain: Wildland and Structural
Firefighting (consolidated domains)**

Change the Oklahoma fire service's cultural attitudes about how we attack wildland fires, structure fires, daily incidents, and the level of respect shown to built-in protection.

- NFFF Initiatives Addressed: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 11, 14, 16

Finding Priority #2

**Domain: Wildland and Structural
Firefighting (consolidated domains)**

Improve the use of NIMS-ICS and standardized accountability processes throughout all jurisdictions in Oklahoma.

- NFFF Initiatives Addressed: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 8

Finding Priority #3

Domain: Training and Research

Explore regional approaches to unify and standardize all aspects of emergency services.

- NFFF Initiatives Addressed: 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 11, 12, 16

Finding Priority #4

Domain: Prevention and Public Education

Develop a resource clearinghouse to be utilized to share information, to develop partnerships, identify funding sources, and identify new program needs.

- NFFF Initiatives Addressed: 7, 9

Finding Priority #5

Domain: Prevention and Public Education

Identify and develop funding sources for cost sharing, partnerships, and grant writing.

- NFFF Initiatives Addressed: 7, 9

Finding Priority #6

Domain: Wildland Firefighting

Develop better public education and prevention programs targeted specifically at wildland and structural fires.

- NFFF Initiatives Addressed: 1, 14, 15

Finding Priority #7

Domain: Health – Wellness - Fitness

Recommend a minimal level of Health-Wellness-Fitness including baseline minimum physicals in short term and long-term plans for more frequent physicals

- NFFF Initiatives Addressed: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 12, 13, 14

Finding Priority #8

Domain: Organizational and Behavioral Science

Design a state level officer training and development program prior to and after promotion that includes supervisory and management skills and their practical application

- NFFF Initiatives Addressed: 1, 2, 3, 5, 7, 8, 11, 14, 16

Finding Priority #9

Domain: Vehicles and Transportation

Adopt annual CDL training for emergency vehicle operators including a training module for the use of privately owned vehicles

- NFFF Initiatives Addressed: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 14

Finding Priority #10

Domain: Prevention and Public Education

Enhance current programs to include ethnic specific issues and include multiple mediums for delivery

- NFFF Initiatives Addressed: 14, 15

Summary Conclusion

- Training is a critical component in all findings
- Current training programs do not meet needs as defined from the Summit as to number, scope, and specialization
- Current training methodologies and delivery systems will need to be expanded and enhanced to meet these needs
- Current training facilities are limited in number, scope, and availability - shared resources are an expectation for efficiency

Significance of Findings

- Training is necessary to positively and significantly impact Oklahoma:
 - Citizen safety
 - Community economic health
 - Rural economic health
 - Emergency service individual and organizational efficiencies (economic and performance)
 - Emergency service effectiveness
- It must be available, effective, targeted, comprehensive, adequate, and economically feasible for all firefighters and communities

Significance of Findings

Most importantly it must account for and mitigate risk to

- Communities
- Rural Oklahoma
- Environment
- Fire Departments
- ***Firefighters***

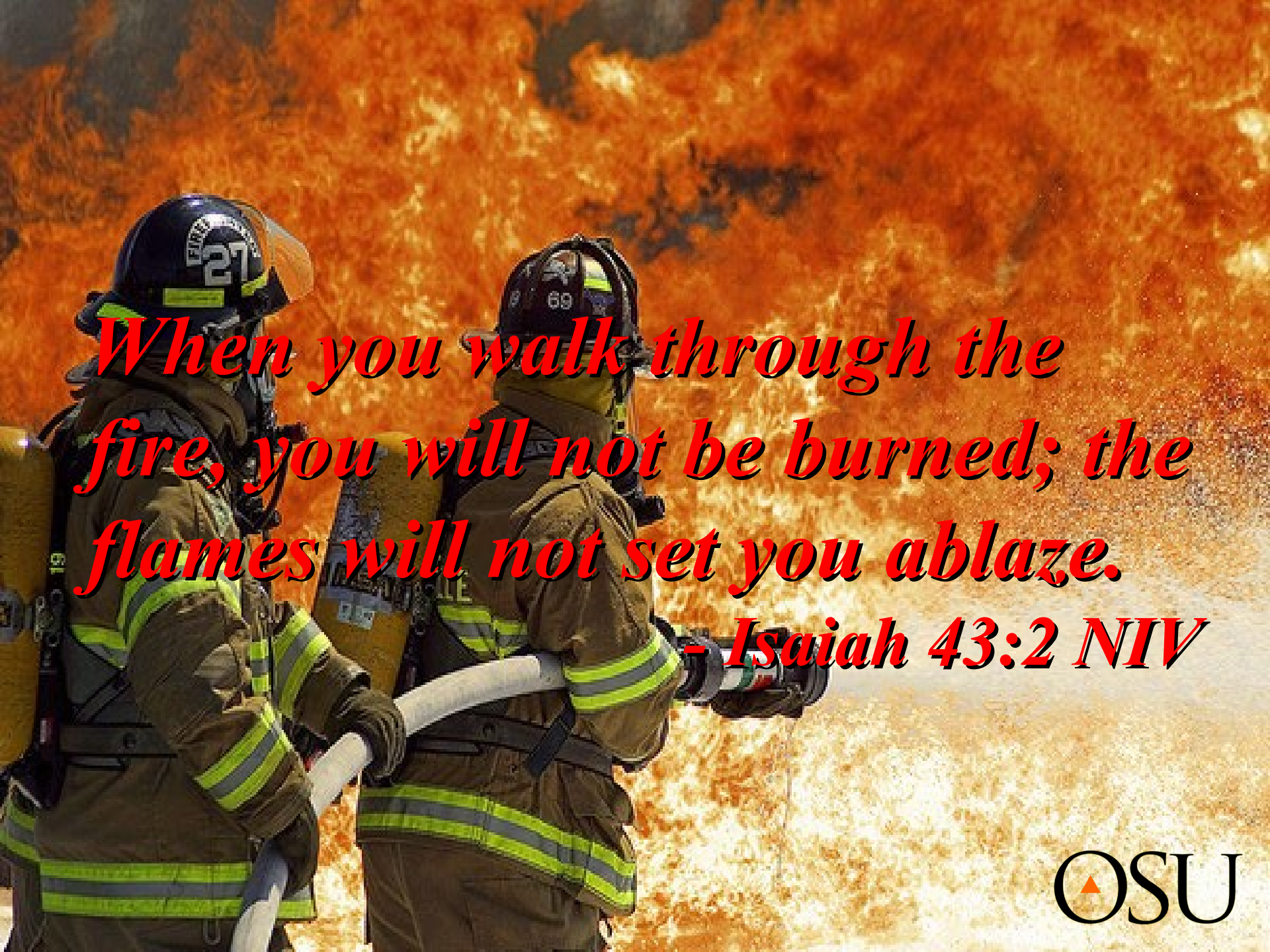


Recommended Focus of Legislation for Oklahoma Fire Training Needs

- 1. Ensure adequate resources for facilities to meet the varied training needs of the Oklahoma fire service, including rural, municipal, and industrial.**
- 2. Ensure adequate resources to meet the ongoing training needs of the rural fire service.**
- 3. Ensure adequate resources to meet the ongoing needs of the municipal fire service.**
- 4. Expectancy that existing resources (training facilities and staff) will be utilized to ensure efficient and best-use of investments.**
- 5. Expectancy that all training will be focused on community risk mitigation and firefighter safety.**

Recommendations Action Items

- Offer a motion to “support the findings of the Oklahoma LODD Summit and ‘Recommended Focus of Legislation for Oklahoma Fire Training Needs’ as outlined in the OSU LODD report.”
- COFT report today’s action to the legislature in accordance with its mandate and in support of the most recent COFT annual report.
- All COFT and Fire Council members report back to their respective organizations on the findings of the Summit and action today, and actively participate in a common and coordinated effort in support of the legislative recommendations.
- Call joint monthly meetings of both COFT and the Fire Council for the remainder of the legislative session to report and coordinate communications.



***When you walk through the
fire, you will not be burned; the
flames will not set you ablaze.
- Isaiah 43:2 NIV***



International Fire Service
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Oklahoma State University



Fire Protection Publications

Further Information

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