

TotalFireE-News!

Early Summer 2006

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-Tragic Passing but a Positive Future.

There have been several tragic firefighter line of duty deaths in the past few months. From vehicle accidents (several very recent apparatus roll-overs) to electrocutions to drownings-the sad Firefighter Line of Duty Death losses are still with us, and all of us at Total Fire Group share in the mourning; after all, most of our Marketing staff *are* firefighters.

And while we share in the sadness, we also see a very positive and hopeful future with significant changes in firefighter safety and survival culture. At no time during the 3 generations that we have been involved with the fire service have we seen so much genuine focus on efforts to reduce firefighter injury and death. And while there is a ways to go, the future is promising for firefighting generations to come.

-As you receive this issue of TotalFireE-News, we are wrapping up of the International Fire Fighter Safety Stand Down.

Building on the success of the first Fire Fighter Safety Stand Down in 2005, the International Association of Fire Chiefs (IAFC), and the International Association of Fire Fighters (IAFF) called for a second stand down that started on Wednesday, June 21, 2006, and is continuing until all personnel have been covered. Fire departments are urged to plan to participate in the event... because the injuries and deaths of firefighters continue.

In case you missed it, a recommended activity schedule for the 2006 International Fire Fighter Safety Stand Down has been developed and is posted online:

[Click Here to Download 2006 International Fire Fighter Safety Stand Down Activity Schedule](#) or go to www.IAFC.org/standdown

The activity schedule includes suggestions for drills, topics for discussion. vehicle and equipment safety checks, healthy meals and physical activities. Also posted on the [Safety Stand Down Emergency Vehicle Resources Page](#) are a number of fire fighter safety resources on emergency vehicle safety.

The 2006 Stand Down sponsors and partners urged all fire departments in the United States and Canada to suspend all non-emergency activity and instead focus entirely on fire fighter safety. The Stand Down focused HARD on emergency vehicle safety, including seatbelt usage and safe driving through intersections.

-The NEW Bunker Gear Standard!

NFPA 1971 — the Standard that governs the specifications for turnout clothing, including coats, pants, helmets, gloves, footwear, and hoods — is being revised for a 2006 edition. Originally slated to be released in February of this year, the new edition has been delayed and is now likely to issue in August 2006 and include a number of significant changes. Organizationally, NFPA 1971 has been reformatted, but more importantly, it now covers both structural and proximity firefighting protective clothing, combining the former requirements of NFPA 1976 with NFPA 1971 in one Standard. Essentially EVERY FD will have to adjust their PPE specs to now meet 1971 for all future purchases, so be sure to talk to your manufacturer and ask for presentations.

Garments

A number of new or revised requirements in the Standard will be very obvious for garments. The most noticeable difference will be that all coats will be outfitted with a drag rescue device (DRD). This feature is an integrated system of webbing, rope, or other material built into the coat to permit the rescue of an incapacitated firefighter. The DRD must be designed so that a portion of the device is accessible from the coat exterior and it can be readily grabbed by other firefighters without interference from the firefighter's SCBA. The DRD must permit a firefighter to be dragged horizontally over a specified distance without breaking. The materials used in the construction of the DRD are also subject to certain breaking strength requirements. The DRD is not permitted to be used for any vertical operations - such as lowering a firefighter from a building - or for self-rescue.

A chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear (CBRN) option will also be available as part of the upcoming Standard for both structural and proximity firefighting protective ensembles. This option addresses protection against chemical, biological and radiological particulate agents that could be released during a terrorist incident. This CBRN option includes a series of design, performance, and labeling criteria to be met in addition to the base requirements of the Standard. In order to apply this option, the manufacturer must provide a full ensemble of garments, hood, gloves, footwear and SCBA (the helmet is excluded if it is not integral to CBRN protection).

Moreover, restrictions prevent simply placing covers on top of the ensembles. Instead, the CBRN protection must be built into the clothing system so it is available at any time. The new edition of NFPA 1971 includes a series of new tests and criteria to evaluate the integrity of the entire ensemble — including interface areas — in preventing inward leakage of chemical agents. In addition, there are new tests to assess the effectiveness of barrier materials against chemical warfare agents, toxic industrial chemicals, and biological toxins. All of these requirements must be met without compromising any of the normal requirements needed for protection during structural firefighting.

A number of changes to the design criteria will be made to permit flexibility of the ensemble design. While many of these were originally intended to address changes that foster CBRN design innovations, the committee decided to extend these changes to the base ensembles as well. These changes will take the form of integrated hoods and other new interfaces that provide better protection for structural fire fighting. Coats will now also include a lower collar, where 3 inches is the minimum, compared to 4 inches in the 2000 edition of NFPA 1971.

Some variations will also be permitted in addressing trim. Gaps in trim are now allowed as long as they don't exceed an eighth of an inch and the trim appears to be continuous from a distance of 100 feet. In addition, the bottom of the lower trim band will now be required to be within an inch of the sleeve hem.

There are also likely to be some material requirements. For one, the minimum requirement for garment composite breathability will increase. A total heat loss (THL) value of 205 W/m² will now be required, compared to the existing requirement of 130 W/m². This change will eliminate some current moisture barriers and heavyweight composites, but will afford a higher uniform level of stress reduction for structural firefighting protective ensembles. The conductive and compressive heat resistance (CCHR) requirements applied to the shoulder and knee reinforcements of garments are being raised. The net effect of this change will be that single outer shell reinforcements for knees and 3-layer composites for shoulders will no longer be acceptable in garment design. More extensive layering will be required for these reinforcement areas. A new ultraviolet light degradation requirement for garment moisture barriers will also change the types of moisture barriers available in the marketplace.

Helmets

Helmets must still be supplied with faceshields or goggles, but the goggles are no longer required to be attached to the helmet. This change is afforded to help extend the service life of the goggles. Flame resistance testing of the helmets will now include the application of the flame inside the brim at the goggle attachment points. This testing will provide an assessment of helmet components not previously evaluated. The helmet ear covers must now meet a thermal protective performance (TPP) requirement of 20 or more. Previously, there was no insulation requirement for this part of the helmet. The new insulation requirement is consistent with the minimum TPP requirement for hoods and wristlets and will result in more robust ear covers.

Gloves

Gloves must now extend a total of 2 inches beyond the wrist crease whether with a gauntlet or wristlet, representing an additional 1 inch of glove coverage from the existing standard. Two additional glove sizes have been added (XX-Small and XX-Large) to accommodate a wide range of hand dimensions. The conductive heat resistance test applied to gloves will be conducted at an elevated pressure (2 psi versus 0.5 psi) on the glove back and finger composite materials. This change will affect the thickness of insulation on the back side of the gloves without affecting the palm side, which has a greater impact on glove dexterity. A new test has been added to measure the liner retention in gloves. The previous test is maintained as a donning ease test after the gloves have been laundered. The new test measures the force required to separate the liner from the glove interior and will prevent separation of liners from glove shells.

Footwear

The measured height of footwear must be a minimum of 10 inches (compared to 8 inches in the existing edition). This height is measured from the interior of the boot — with the insole in place — to the lowest point of the boot where waterproof performance is provided; the measurement does not allow for stitched-through pull tabs and other features on leather boots, which could cause an area of water penetration. The overall effect of the new height requirement and measurement technique adds several inches to the total footwear height when

measured from ground level; some footwear styles may increase up to 4 inches in height in order to comply with these requirements. The implementation of this requirement will eliminate several footwear styles from the marketplace and have a dramatic effect on the design and availability of lace-up footwear. The puncture resistance plate used in the sole of footwear to prevent nail puncture will now be subjected to a flex cracking test to assess its durability, consistent with other industry footwear standards.

Hoods

Hoods are required to cover the top of the head where the helmet is positioned; however, thermal protective performance (TPP) testing applies only to the sides and neck areas of the hood. Hood cleaning shrinkage will now be measured for the entire hood, rather than the material only as is done in the current edition. This change in the testing approach may permit other types of materials to be used in hoods that have previously shown relatively high levels of cleaning shrinkage.

As currently scheduled, the new NFPA Standard will become effective in August 2006 barring any appeals or complaints. The Standard permits a grace period for the certification of gear to the old edition (2000) through February 2007. After February 2007, all new, manufactured gear will have to meet the new 2006 edition. An update on the progress towards industry implementation of the revised NFPA 1971 will be provided in the future.

-Hot Weather Firefighting...and Firefighting REHAB!

It's summertime, and the living is EASY!!...*until your tones go off!* Then, it becomes an issue of firefighting in the hot weather! And while some areas have this to deal with all year long, many don't!

When challenged with this situation, remember the LIFE SAVING TACTIC of firefighter REHAB! Once firefighters rotate out of the firefighting mode, they must head to REHAB so they can be ready to get back into the "working" mode when needed. But keep in mind that rehab is a critical process, so much more than a candy bar and a bottle of water. Fortunately, the U.S. Fire Administration has done a great job outlining the proper rehab procedure.

A copy of the original USFA Emergency Incident Rehabilitation manual may be viewed and downloaded from the following page of the USFA Web site:

<http://www.usfa.fema.gov/downloads/pdf/publications/FA-114.pdf>

Furthermore, there is an excellent piece on FIREFIGHTER REHAB at:

<http://www.firefighterclosecalls.com/downloads/FireEngineeringArticleinPrint.pdf>

...as well as a FREE PowerPoint program at:

<http://www.firefighterclosecalls.com/downloads.php> , and scroll 3/4 of the way down that page for this excellent program.

Typically, when firefighter safety and survival are the issues, *Total Fire Group/Morning Pride* is the leader and sets the example in creating solutions...and FIREFIGHTER REHAB is no different. Created by FIREFIGHTERS for FIREFIGHTERS, the Kore Kooler Rehab Chair is an amazingly simple, extremely low cost and **PROVEN** solution to dealing with a critical segment in FIREFIGHTER REHAB: cooling down quickly and effectively. Join so many other fire departments that have discovered a VERY affordable solution to making sure their firefighters are taken care of during extreme operations.

Click here for details on the Morning Pride Kore Kooler Rehab Chair:

<http://www.totalfiregroup.com/korekooler.asp>

-See You At The Show!

Whether it is a local regional fire conference, or one of the larger shows, we look forward to seeing you there! We will be at:

Firehouse Expo in Baltimore-July 26-29 2006 as well as

Fire-Rescue international in Dallas (IAFC)-September 14-16, 2006

Unable to attend some of the fire trade shows and conferences? ***No problem!*** We will come to you! With so much going on with the issues of FIREFIGHTER SAFETY AND SURVIVAL, there are few more important priorities than your firefighters' protective equipment. From your thermal imager, to your helmet, your hood, bunker coat/pants, boots and your gloves-NO BUSINESS is more committed to you than Total Fire Group/Morning Pride...***and we can prove it!***

Call us at 1-800-688-6148 and we will set up an "at your firehouse" meeting to allow you to decide how our over 100 patents "for firefighter safety and survival" can make a difference for your firefighters! Concerned about cost? Your Regional Director will show you how your fire department can afford the proven best through our innovative Total PPE Program.

We look forward to seeing you soon!

The TotalFire Crew!

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