



FIREFIGHTER SAFETY: THE ROLE OF INFORMATION SCIENCE

WHY IS FIREFIGHTER SAFETY IMPORTANT?

- ✘ Obvious humanitarian concerns
- ✘ Injured firefighters become part of the problem, not the solution
- ✘ Monumental costs



FIREFIGHTER SAFETY FACTS

- ✘ Serious problem in the United States
- ✘ Worldwide problem
- ✘ Focus of much data collection
- ✘ Research from many sources



FIREFIGHTER SAFETY SOLUTIONS

- ✘ Identify the problem
 - + Collect data from myriad of sources
 - + Make sure data is in a usable format
 - + Publish and Distribute the data for broad use
 - + Archive and expand the data pools over time
 - + Be aware of changing storage/retrieval tools



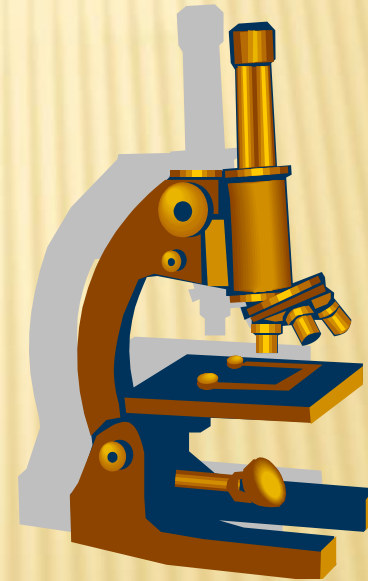
FIREFIGHTER SAFETY SOLUTIONS

- ✘ Analyze the data
 - + Human factors
 - + Equipment factors
 - + Environmental factors
- ✘ Accumulate anecdotal incidents
- ✘ Use these tools to describe the problem empirically



FINDING THE ANSWERS

- ✘ Support Research Initiatives
 - + Medical
 - + Behavioral
 - + Equipment
 - + Environmental



FINDING THE ANSWERS

✘ Applied Science

- + “Tricks of the trade”
- + Approaches to safety in other fields
- + Innovations from Industry
- + Common sense alternatives (obvious from data)



FINDING THE SOLUTION

- ✘ Adjusting the Environment & Procedures
 - + Building codes and standards
 - + Making industry/citizens aware
 - + Establishing risk parameters
 - + Developing safety protocols
 - + Developing and delivering Training, Training, Training

HOW CAN YOU HELP

- ✘ Nearly every point has an information collection, organization and dissemination element!
- ✘ You have tools to help in the analysis process
- ✘ You can help highly motivated people (often firefighters or students) who are new to the process



YOU AND YOUR FACILITY ARE ON THE TEAM!!

- ✘ Perhaps more than ever, you and your staff are part of the team to help save the lives of first responders and reduce the tremendous number of injuries
- ✘ Even more important: You are part of the team that has the very same mission as the fire service. That is: Save Lives, Reduce Suffering and Protect Property

DON'T EVER FORGET

Thank you very much for your attention.

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