

## **Firefighter Injury - Goals/Objectives**

### **Mission**

The Delaware State Fire Prevention Commission shall gather and evaluate data on firefighter injuries, Maydays, and training injuries to develop recommendations for reducing injuries.

### **Why we are collecting injury data**

Under Delaware Code, the Delaware Legislature charged the Fire Commission with gathering and evaluating data on injuries. The rules requiring regulated entities to report injuries to the Fire Commission are in Delaware Administrative Code 709, section 3.0. The law requires fire departments to report injuries so that the Fire Commission can gain as accurate picture as possible concerning injury trends in the Delaware Fire Service.

### **Scope of the Investigations**

- The root cause of an injury
- If current training or standards were used by firefighters
- If proper protective gear was utilized
- If proper command structure was utilized, and
- Whether there was a command-and-control function

### **Information the commission collects**

- Minor, serious, and fatal injuries,
- Activities where fire personnel are injured
- Types of injuries (burns, strain-sprains, wounds, etc.)
- Body parts being injured
- Tasks performed at the time of injury
- Malfunctions/failures of personal protective equipment (PPE), self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA), personal alert safety system (PASS devices), and standard operating procedures.

### **How this will help the fire service**

- Identify common injuries and exposures
- Identify trends in injuries and exposures
- Identify needed training
- Evaluate and find improvements in procedures

### **Who is involved**

The Investigative Team is made up of several personnel from different sections within the Fire Commission. Fire Commission Investigators, Delaware State Fire Marshal's, Senior Training Administrators from the Delaware State Fire School, Technical Services of the Delaware State Fire Marshall's Office, and any other persons and or experts needed.

### **How does the team operate**

Depending on the seriousness of the incident, the team will operate under three levels, level III will be for minor injuries where the fire chief or designee may complete an online form to be submitted to the Fire Commission. Level II and I is where representatives from the team will respond to the scene and contact the fire chief or officer in charge. From there the team members will begin to gather information on the extent of injury, photograph the scene and provide any resources to the fire department that may be needed. The fire chief and or incident commander will remain in charge of the fire scene. Team members will not interfere with fire suppression efforts.