

The background of the slide features a large American flag with its stars and stripes, set against a clear blue sky. In the upper right corner, a portion of a fire truck's aerial ladder is visible, extending into the sky. The text is overlaid on a dark, semi-transparent triangular shape that points towards the bottom right.

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Firefighter Line-of-Duty Deaths: COMBAT THE STATS

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Line-of-Duty Death (LODD) Statistics (General)



<u>Cause</u>	<u>2015 Statistics</u>
Occupational Hazards	17 (19%)
Transportation – To/from/on-scene	13 (14%)
Health – Cardiac, Stroke, etc.	60 (67%)

Note: Some fatalities occurred during training

Then & Now

Original actions were in 2004

2004

117 LODDs total

- Firefighter Occupational Hazards - 21 (18%)
- Transportation – To, from, and on-scene - 30 (26%)
- Health – Cardiac, Stroke, etc. - 66 (56%)

2015

90 LODDs total

- Firefighter Occupational Hazards - 17 (19%)
- Transportation – To, from, and on-scene - 13 (14%)
- Health – Cardiac, Stroke, etc. - 60 (67%)

That's the
problem;
now what?



Nature of Risk Takers

- Human beings were born wild – it's in our nature
- Firefighters are no exception – they are risk takers
- Desire to be part of something bigger
- Adventure
- Manage the Risk Takers
- Invite them in to fire service adventure
- Preach what is acceptable/ un-acceptable risk



Normalization of Deviance

“Normalization of Deviance is a real phenomenon. It’s when it becomes normal to deviate from industry/ agency standards, guidelines and/or policies. It is a gradual process. Examples are SCBA straps not being used, not wearing SCBA during overhaul, not wearing gloves, speeding, running red lights, etc. It is predictable and therefore preventable. As leaders, we must eliminate these and other issues at the lowest/earliest levels to prevent the erosion into a sentinel event.”

– Battalion Chief Anthony Kastros





Leadership as a Solution

- Leaders need to manage the risk with solid human resource engagement
- Culture – safety attitude
- Administrative controls – policy/ procedure/training
- Engineering controls – FDNY seat belt retrofit
- Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)



Wellness, Physical Fitness and Firefighters

- Cardiac and other medical issues still the highest category of risk
- Prevention should be a leadership priority
- What steps did I take to make wellness a priority?

"You can lead a horse to water, but you can't make it drink."

Driver Safety

- Vehicle crashes still occurring going to/from emergency calls
- Firefighters are being ejected
Seat belts, seat belts, seat belts!

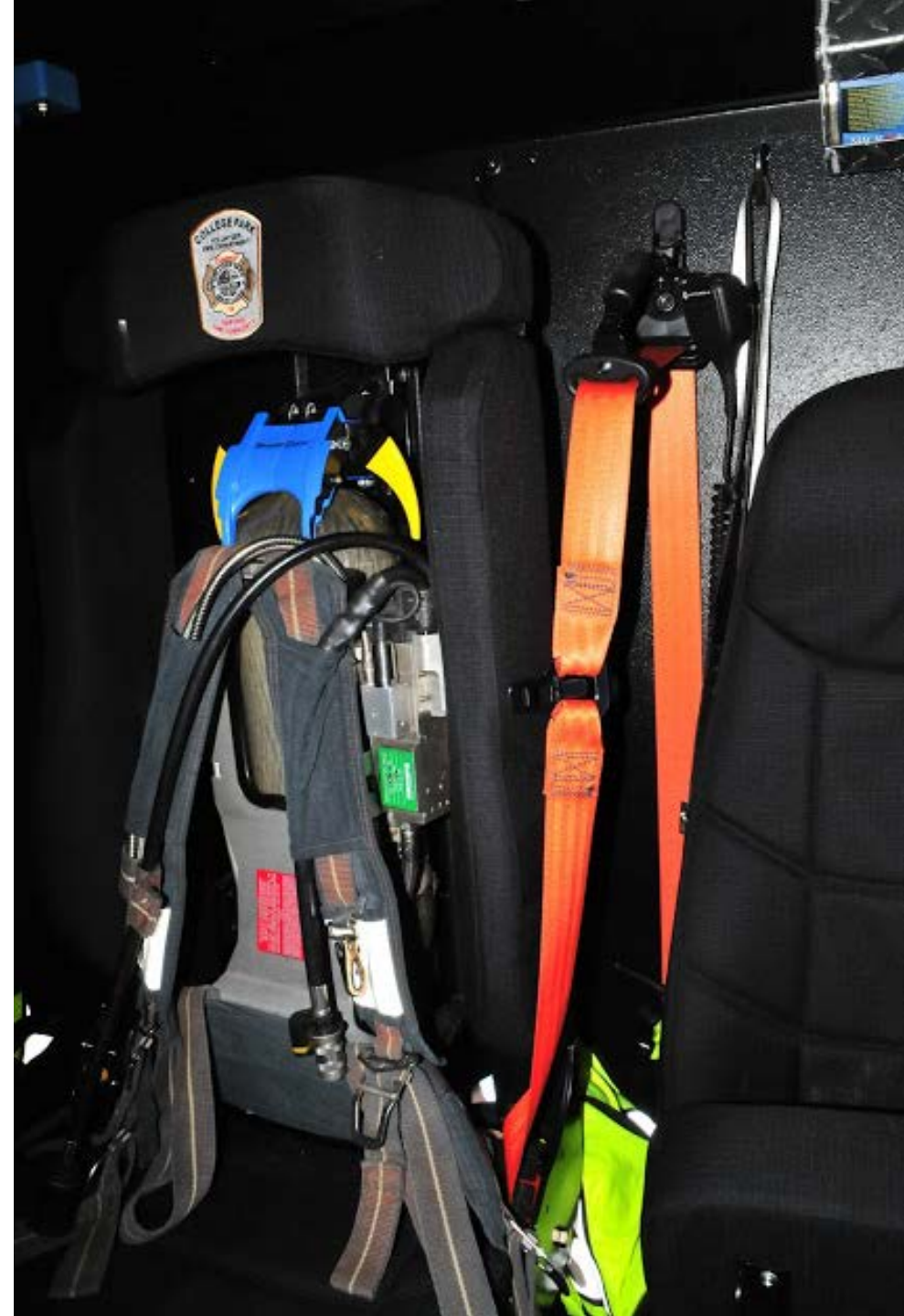
Training:

- Minimum training standards – State Fire Training, EVOC, department training
- Next-level driver training: Professional driver training courses – Smith System
- Insurance/risk pool help?



FDNY Seat Belt Retrofit

- Firefighters responding to fires in full PPE are notorious for not wearing seatbelts
- Seat belts are designed for automobiles and **NOT** for persons wearing PPE
- Engineering controls developed by manufacturers to make the wearing of seat belt easier for members wearing PPE
- Capital outlay is expensive
- Is the investment worth a safer outcome?



High-Risk/Low-Frequency Activities

- Dodging Bullets in Sacramento County
- 65th Street Nail Supply Fire
- Stilt Court House Fire
- Jackson Road Wildfire

What event in your town?

TRAINING, TRAINING, TRAINING



Motives for reducing LODDs

- Financial risk reduction? Yes, but it needs to be more.
- In order for your people to “buy in,” they need to believe safety initiatives are primarily designed to help them.



“They don’t care how much you know until they know how much you care.”

– John C. Maxwell, or was it Teddy Roosevelt?



Untracked statistics – the forgotten deaths

- PTSD
- Suicide
- Cancer
- Substance abuse

➔ These are the frontiers of prevention
yet to be sufficiently addressed

➔ IAFF making strides

*“An ounce of prevention is worth
a pound of cure.”*

– Benjamin Franklin

Father of the American Fire Service

Leadership

- MUST SET THE EXAMPLE
- Can't do it all – need employee buy-in
- Can – equipment, energy control, environment (PPE)
- Employees – lead, motivate, manage (in that order)
- There is personal responsibility
- Recognize firefighter stress is beyond what “normal” people endure
- Potentially equivalent to 30 years of combat
- Slow progression of emotional wounds





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PREDICTABLE IS PREVENTABLE®



THANK YOU