

Staff Report

TO: (Command Staff)
CC: (Operations Personnel)
FROM: (Insert Name Here)
DATE: (Today's Date)
RE: **Firefighter Rescue Survey**

Action Requested:

Policy change to implement use of the Firefighter Rescue Survey project on all fire ground civilian rescues. This would include filling out a survey anytime a civilian is removed from an IDLH atmosphere.

Background:

The Firefighter Rescue Survey was created to highlight the most important aspect of our profession. Saving Lives. Until now fire service data has been solely focused on only the negative. "Line of Duty Deaths" and "Civilian Fatalities" were the only statistics that were available to the average civilian. Why not put the spotlight on what really matters?

By recording the number and details of a rescue made on the fireground we will be able to tailor our training to methods and techniques of what actually works. Improving our results to benefit the populations we serve.

The United States Fire Administration, who controls the parameters of the NFIRS, recently stated "The lack of data, especially for these residential fatal fires masks the true picture of the fire problem" (National Fire Data Center, 2018, p. 9). A shame that 45 years of reporting has not moved the needle.

There is a void of qualitative information in fire reporting, and a nearly absent basis of information on rescued victims. In 2016, a group of firefighters who had been collecting firefighter rescue reports decided that news reports alone were not providing enough detail in regard to where the victims were located, how they were removed, and the outcome. To address this gap, the group developed the Firefighter Rescue Survey.

The survey provides an online platform for the firefighters who performed a rescue to provide information on the operation and outcome. Since its inception there have been roughly 2750 surveys submitted, containing firsthand reports of location, conditions and the process of civilian rescues by firefighters. While the data set is small in comparison to NFIRS, the quality is high.

The Fire Engineering February 2020 article *Search and Rescue by the Numbers* demonstrates proof in concept for that value.

Policy Implications:

Option #1:

Ask that the crew responsible for removing the civilian from the IDLH open the Firefighter Rescue Survey webpage and fill out a rescue survey to include information about the location, time, method of removal, and potential patient treatments.

Options #2

Designate a specific person (training officer, administration staff, etc.) as a single point contact to gather the information from the crew(s) responsible for removing the civilian from the IDLH and fill out a Firefighter Rescue Survey. This may help with consistency.

Budget Implications:

None, other than the designated person's time to fill out the survey. The survey is currently made up of 56 questions and takes 10-15 minutes to complete.

The Firefighter Rescue Survey is a free service designed to increase the knowledge of firefighters and enhance fireground efficiency.

Potential Issues:

N/A

Recommended Actions:

Implement use of Firefighter Rescue Survey as a reporting tool.