

SAFETY WEEK 2011 STARTS JUNE 19TH

This year's Fire/EMS Safety, Health and Survival Week — also known as Safety Week — runs June 19-25.

(<http://www.iafc.org/safetyweek>)

Sponsored by the IAFC and the IAFF, and in partnership with other national fire service organizations, the theme for this year's event is Surviving the Fire Ground – Firefighter, Fire Officer & Command Preparedness. With so many changes (budget cuts, staffing reductions, reduced training, etc.) in so many fire departments, it is critical for fire fighters to focus on their own survival on the fire ground. The incidents in which fire fighters have lost their lives, or lived to tell about it, have a consistent theme — inadequate situational awareness put them at risk.

Fires are unpredictable and volatile, and what a firefighter knows initially about a situation may radically change within minutes once inside a burning structure. Smoke, low visibility, lack of oxygen, structural instability and an unpredictable fire ground can cause even the most seasoned fire fighter to be overwhelmed in an instant.

The IAFF Fire Ground Survival (FGS) program is the most comprehensive survival skills and Mayday prevention program currently available and is open to all members of the fire service. Incorporating federal regulations, proven incident management best practices and survival techniques from leaders in the field, and real case studies from experienced firefighters, the FGS program aims to educate all fire fighters to be prepared if the unfortunate happens. The IAFF Fire Ground Survival Program will provide participating fire departments with the skills they need to improve situational awareness and prevent a Mayday. Topics covered include:

- **Preventing the Mayday:** situational awareness, planning, size up, air management, fitness for survival, defensive operations.
- **Being Ready for the Mayday** personal safety equipment, communications, accountability systems.
- **Self-Survival Procedures:** avoiding panic, mnemonic learning aid “GRAB LIVES” — actions a fire fighter must take to improve survivability, emergency breathing.
- **Self-Survival Skills:** SCBA familiarization, emergency procedures, disentanglement, upper floor escape techniques.
- **Firefighter Expectations of Command:** command level MAYDAY training, pre-MAYDAY, MAYDAY and rescue, post-rescue, expanding the incident command system, communications.

In addition to the resources found on the Safety Week Web site, the U.S. Fire Administration (USFA) provides firefighter health and safety resources at no charge. For a list of available items, please visit the USFA's Publications Catalog. (<https://www.usfa.dhs.gov/applications/publications/browse.cfm?sc=14>)



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