

Everyone Goes Home Comes to Kansas  
By  
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Did you know that two firefighters die in the Line of duty each week in the United States? Did you know that firefighters die in the line of duty nearly 100 times a year- every single year- in burning structures, wild land fires, vehicle accidents, and from cardiac/stress related incidents just to mention a few. We know all too well the pain and loss suffered when a LODD occurs here in Kansas as we have experienced at least four tragic losses this past year. As Fire Investigators, we will be called upon to investigate fires involving the loss of one of our own, and we must be familiar with the policies and programs currently be undertaken nationally to mitigate such losses.

There is a national momentum now building for reducing LODD's across our nation. A national goal was established in 2004 with the development of 16 Firefighter Life Safety Initiatives by the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation to reduce LODD's by 25% in five years and 50% within 10 years. Now is the time for the Kansas fire service to draw a line in the sand when it comes to firefighter life safety. Now is the time to take action and say "No More LODD's" It is time for you to step forward and take a leadership role regarding firefighter life safety. Nothing less than the lives of your firefighters may depend on your willingness to take action.

There are several ways you can immediately begin to impact firefighter life safety within your department: Go to: [www.everygoeshome.com](http://www.everygoeshome.com)

- 1) Visit the EGH website for a copy of the 16 Firefighter Life Safety Initiatives and monthly newsletter. Every firefighter should be familiar with these initiatives. This website is packed full of free training downloads and vital firefighter life safety information that is updated regularly.
- 2) Request your department's free DVD sets Volume #1 & #2 entitled the "Courage to Be Safe" program. This is an excellent training program that can be immediately placed into use by your department.
- 3) Have your department take the Brian Hunton Seat Belt Pledge. This is a very effective awareness tool and targets a critical area of firefighter safety. The pledge form is also available from this website

Mr. Todd Miles with the Kansas Fire & Rescue Training Institute, and I are your Kansas Advocates for the Everyone Goes Home Program. We can be contacted via the Everyone Goes Home website should you have any questions or comments regarding the EGH program. Planning is currently underway for additional firefighter life safety programs and activities to be made available for Kansas firefighters. Stay tuned....