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Snapshot Size-Up #129

Riding Assignments

It doesn't matter if you are in a career department or a volunteer fire department, the objectives are the same. Respond and operate safely and effectively - save life and property - put the fire out! The incorporation of "riding assignments" to a fire department's response can greatly assist in these objectives and enhance your operation.

With "riding assignments", your members know what to do before they even set foot in the rig. The officer can concentrate on his role



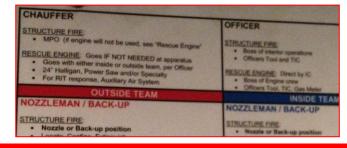
and what the company's overall role is once they arrive on scene at an incident (e.g. first due engine, first due truck, etc.). With proper training, a company officer will not even need to say much. Everyone would (as everyone should) know their job.

How can you incorporate "riding assignments" in your department?

- Establish an SOP/SOG that is simple and easily understood.
- Explain the benefits of the concept so members can easily "buy in" to the program.
- Train regularly so that everyone knows their job.
- Maintain discipline and avoid freelancing.
- Commit to the program and stick with it. Riding assignments work, but only when members carry out their assignments.

Because the fire department responds to such a variety of requests, you must train on the responsibilities of each riding assignment position for all responses. In creating your department's "riding assignments", be flexible. Have a contingency for the "Routine Response" (fire alarms, CO alarms, water leaks, etc.) and for "Structure Fires". This will allow you to maximize your crew and your capabilities.

Stay Safe!





Chief Donald Colarusso is a twenty five year fire service veteran. He is also the President of All Hands Fire Equipment and a Level-II Fire Instructor in New Jersey. Don has been a fire instructor for more than 15-years and is one of only a few instructors in the United States who is authorized to teach on all of the leading Firefighter Escape Systems. For additional information or to contact Chief Colarusso, please visit www.AllHandsFire.com