

Sample Daily Training Bulletin LODD and Serious Injury Investigations

SCENARIO: Firefighter John Gordon was working a structure fire and didn't get away from the involved building in time. He was hit by falling debris, and he suffered serious neck and shoulder injuries and a concussion. You were nearby, and you saw Firefighter Gordon's actions prior to the injury. You know that he was not following safety precautions. An investigation team is now interviewing witnesses. In a few minutes, they are going to speak with you.

ISSUE: What are your obligations to the investigation team?

REFERENCE:

PROCEDURE

As soon as practicable after a serious injury or line-of-duty death has occurred, the Chief or the authorized designee shall assign an investigation team to conduct an investigation into the circumstances of the event.

- (a) A Battalion Chief designated by the Chief should function as the team leader and direct the investigation of the line-of-duty death or serious injury. The investigation team should report to the team leader, who is responsible for the management of the investigative process.
- (b) All members of the department shall give their full and complete cooperation to the investigation team.
- (c) The state's worker safety investigation board will conduct an investigation of incidents involving the death of an employee.
- (d) The department should cooperate with all other government agencies that have a legal cause to be involved in the investigation of a line-of-duty death or serious injury and should voluntarily share relevant information with other organizations working in areas of fire service occupational safety and health education and training. Participation by these agencies shall be at their own discretion, depending on the circumstances of the incident. These agencies may or may not produce their own reports of the incident with recommendations for corrective actions. These reports do not supersede the investigation team report.
- (e) The investigation team report and all related documentation shall be an internal department administrative report.
- (f) Any public release of the report requires the approval of the Chief or the authorized designee. Such release will generally be processed in accordance with the provisions of the public records law name and citation.

ANALYSIS: When a line-of-duty death or injury occurs, department policy requires that a team be established to investigate. Members who witnessed the incident may have information that is relevant to the outcome of the investigation. Such members are required to fully cooperate with the investigation team.

CONCLUSION: Members who have witnessed an incident involving a line-of-duty death or injury are required to cooperate fully with the investigation team.

QUESTION: We have an obligation to give our full and complete cooperation to the team investigating a line- of-duty death or injury.

(a) True

(b) False

CORRECT ANSWER:

True