Study: Health and Safety Issues for Volunteers

(Source: USFA)

The U.S. Fire Administration (USFA) is joining forces with the National Volunteer Fire Council (NVFC) to study emergency occupational health and safety issues faced by volunteer firefighters and EMS responders around the country, including wildland firefighters. The study will assist the development of initiatives and programs to reduce on-duty injuries and fatalities.

A variety of things can contribute to health and safety problems for volunteers, who represent 69 percent of all firefighters in the country. Keeping enough personnel is a constant concern when most people can’t leave their jobs at a moment’s notice. Accessible training programs and facilities, dangers unique to rural operations, budgetary issues, and difficulty buying newer equipment all play a role.


Tourniquet and Hemostatic Dressings Webinar

(Source: NWC3)

The second in the EMS Focus Webinar series, Tourniquets and Hemostatic Dressings: The New Evidence-based Guideline, will be held on Tuesday, August 5th at 2 p.m. Eastern. The webinar is free; those interested in attending should register (https://redflash.clickwebinar.com/EMSFOCUS_AUG5_EBG/register).
Tourniquet use is seeing a revival in emergency response. After going out of favor for various reasons, the trauma medicine practiced in Iraq and Afghanistan brought renewed interest in their use. Houston, Texas, police now carry them as part of their gear (http://www.kob.com/article/stories/s3495170.shtml?cat=504), and Boston police started carrying them (http://www.usatoday.com/story/news/nation/2014/04/17/boston-marathon-bombing-police/7829557/) after the marathon bombing.

The August 5th webinar will bring experts together to talk about lessons learned from war zone medicine and to discuss the new prehospital guidelines on external hemorrhage control (http://informahealthcare.com/toc/pec/18/2) published by the American College of Surgeons Committee on Trauma. Attendees are encouraged to have questions for the panel; the question and answer period is expected to last an hour.

The INFOGRAM is distributed weekly to provide members of the Emergency Services Sector with information concerning the protection of their critical infrastructures. For further information, contact the Emergency Management and Response-Information Sharing and Analysis Center (EMR-ISAC) at (301) 447-1325 or by e-mail at emr-isac@dhs.gov.

http://www.usfa.fema.gov/fireservice/subjects/emr-isac/index.shtm