



Michigan Fire Inspectors Society  
Fall Education Conference  
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## Engine Companies that do more than Extinguishment

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## Engine Companies Doing More

### Goals

- Improve/Promote Community Risk Reduction
- Increase involvement of fire fighters
- Obtain buy-in from our fire fighters

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### Outcomes of obtaining the Goals

- Increasing our worth to the community
- Improving the safety of the community
- Improving the safety of our fire fighters

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### Learning Objectives:

- Discuss demands of operational staff in changing environment
- Review every day opportunities for operational crews on fire prevention
- Provide resources for department's considering engine company inspections

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## State of the Fire Service

- Decreasing property values
- Decreasing budgets
- Decreasing staffing – layoffs or attrition
- Aging Equipment
- Aging Buildings
- Aging Population
- Aging Staff

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## State of the Fire Service

- Status Quo
- Tradition
- We've always done it that way

These can no longer be the reasons why we do, what we do

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## Change is Needed to Survive

- Fire Fighter Safety and Survival depends on Change
- Fire Service Survival depends on Change
- Expectations of doing more with the same or less.
- We can no longer just wait for the tones to go off.

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## Change Management

- How do we change?
  - Systems Thinking
  - Leading/Managing Change
    - Planning – I.D. goals
    - Organizing – members working toward goals
    - Leading – articulating a clear vision
    - Controlling – evaluating progress

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## Value Added Fire Protection

- What can be done to meet our goals and outcomes?
  - Increasing our worth to the community
  - Improving the safety of the community
  - Improving the safety of our fire fighters

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## Value Added Fire Protection

- Are we being productive?
  - ICMA – the average on-duty fire fighter spends between 30 mins. and 2 hours per shift on emergency incidents.
    - How are your fire fighters activity levels perceived?
- How do we fight against layoffs and budget cuts with a statistic like that?

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## Accountability

- Documenting and Accounting for our activity and productivity.
  - Recording more than just incidents
    - Training
    - Public Education Details
    - Public Relations Details
    - Inspections
    - Etc.

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## CompStat Reporting

FIRE PREVENTION ACTIVITY - July 2011				
ACTIVITY	THIS MONTH	CURRENT Y-T-D	PREVIOUS Y-T-D	% CHANGE
<b>ENGINE COMPANY INSPECTIONS:</b>	Jun-11	Jun-11	Jun-10	
ANNUAL	50	228	194	16%
BI-ANNUAL	103	956	720	12%
<b>SUBTOTALS:</b>	<b>153</b>	<b>1034</b>	<b>914</b>	<b>13%</b>
<b>COMPLAINT INVESTIGATIONS</b>	4	18	16	13%
SPECIALTY INSPECTIONS	5	73	70	4%
RE-INSPECTIONS	97	642	407	58%
FIRE PROTECTION SYSTEMS/FINAL OCCUPANCY	30	154	84	83%
PROPERTY/OCCUPANT INFORMATION UPDATES	26	229	292	-22%
<b>GRAND TOTALS:</b>	<b>315</b>	<b>2150</b>	<b>1783</b>	<b>21%</b>
<b>VIOLATIONS CITED</b>	89	719	497	45%
CITATIONS ISSUED	0	1	0	
FIRE INVESTIGATIONS	3	13	16	-19%
<b>PLANS REVIEWED:</b>				
SITE PLANS	9	39	41	-5%
FIRE PROTECTION SYSTEM PLANS	16	102	104	-2%
MISCELLANEOUS REVIEWS	2	30	28	7%
<b>TOTALS:</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>171</b>	<b>173</b>	<b>-1%</b>

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## Value Added Services

- Priority will always remain Emergency calls for our services.
- Between these requests, we can be doing:
  - Fire Safety Inspections
  - Inspection and acceptance testing of fire protection systems (sprinklers, alarms, hood systems etc.)
  - Pre-incident Surveys
  - Drawing floor and site plans
  - FFRTK Compliance and Pre-planning

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## More Value Added Services

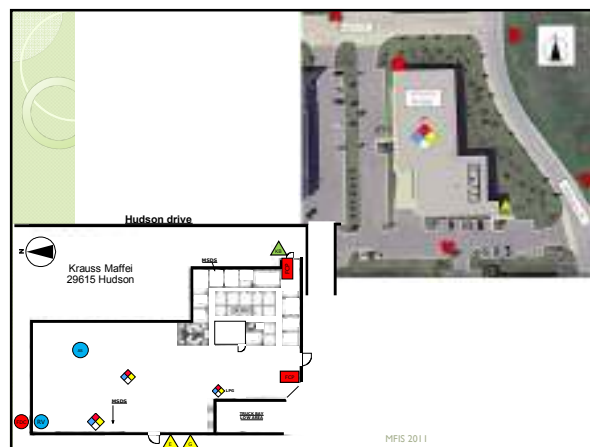
- Fire Safety Education
    - Risk Watch
    - Learn Not to Burn
  - Home Fire Safety Inspections
  - Older Adult fire and fall prevention inspections
  - Hydrant maintenance – winterization, weed & snow removal
- Anything else that will add value and provide risk reduction for your community

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## Pre-Incident Survey

- Pre-plans, FFRTK, Floor & Site Plans
- NFPA 1620 – Pre-Incident Planning
- NFPA 170 – Fire Safety & Emerg. Symbols
- Plans Should Contain:
  - Site Considerations
  - Occupant Specific Considerations
  - Water Supply & Fire Protection Systems
  - Special Hazards – Hazardous Materials

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## Dangerous Buildings I.D.

- Dangerous to public/firefighters
- Risk little to save little
- Evaluating and Marking Buildings
  - Placarding – Caution Stay Out



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## Public Fire Safety Education

- Company level personnel should be involved in delivering the fire safety message.
  - Schools
  - Educating the Public during Home Fire Safety Inspections
  - Educating the Older Adult Residents with a Fire and Fall Fire Safety program

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## Public Fire Safety Education



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## Fire Safety Inspections

- Great use of personnel time
- Fire Prevention Bureau is no longer for the “Light-Duty” of the fire service.
- A well run and well trained Company Inspection Program can be very effective in reducing fire loss and more.
- Educational for the FF and Community
- Firefighter safety –need to know buildings

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## Challenges

- Push-back from the troops
- Legal
- Time to manage and administer
- Supervision
- Training
- Inconsistencies
- Support - \$\$\$

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## Legality of Inspections

- Who can inspect?
- Who can enforce?
- Minimum training qualifications?
- Michigan's PA207

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## Inspector Training

- NFPA Fire Inspector: I, II, Plans Examiner
- National Fire Academy
  - Fire Inspection Principles
  - Fire Protection for Built Environment
  - Fire Protection Structures & Systems
- Local and State Inspector Classes
- Fire Inspector Organizations

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## Managing a Company Inspection Program

- Start off Simple
- Provide clear objectives, goals, expectations
- Provide clear, written policies
- Designate a code savvy staff officer (Fire Marshal) to supervise, manage program
- Designation must carry responsibility and authority to manage
- Program will not work without proper supervision

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## Software/Hardware Options

- Limited by \$\$\$
- Start simple
- Find what will work for you
- Written form – Checklists, Long-form narrative
- Firehouse, Sunpro, Mobile Eyes, Code-Pal, etc.
- Pen, Tablet, Laptop, etc.

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## Novi's Company Inspection Program

- Started 21 years ago @ union's request
- In-house 80 hour training class – NFPA CFI-I
- Stations are assigned inspections at beginning of month
- Pre-Inspection letter and checklists
- Utilize tough-book tablets and printers
- Mobile Eyes inspection program

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## Novi's Company Inspection Program

- Inspectors take ownership
- Inspections are educational based
  - What is the violation
  - Why is it a violation
  - How to correct the violation
- Simpler concept of fire prevention inspections
  - Prevent a fire from occurring
  - Be sure the Means of Egress are functional
  - Be sure the fire protection features are functional

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## Fire Fighter Buy-in

- Not all will buy-in
- Look for those willing to accept a challenge
- Communicate the challenges facing your community & department
- Communicate your vision & goals
- Give them ownership in the program
- "Who Packs Your Parachute?"
- Never Forget the Charleston Nine

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**Is this Achievable?**

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