

Safety and Health Committee 2011

The mission statement of the Safety and Health Committee is to advocate and promote various Minnesota fire service safety initiatives. Committee members believe that an active safety and health committee can make a difference in reducing injury and deaths within our profession. In 2011, the Committee has been positioned to create and maintain an interactive and engaged safety presence; one which is committed to truly enhancing safety practices and programming in our state.

2011 Areas of Focus

The Committee made strides in adopting a progressive approach in advocating fire service safety in 2011. Several action items were identified by the Committee in late 2010 which formed the basis of our 2011 Committee goals.

These areas of focus include:

- Committee representation includes a representative from the MSFDA
- Continue to offer the Minnesota Fire Service Safety Symposium to focus upon topics that impact the safety and health of our first responders. The 2010 symposium was cancelled due to low registration; however we believe that this educational offering should be continued. In 2011, we met with the managers of the fire training programs for the technical college system to determine a “best” practices approach in offering this educational opportunity. In 2012, the symposium will again focus upon emergent fireground and safety management themes, offered through the sectional school system.
- Present the National Firefighter Near-Miss Program in Minnesota, including a train-the-trainer component. This session will be offered to regional associations.
- The IAFC/IAFF Firefighter Safety & Survival Safety initiative was promoted statewide with an article published in the State Chiefs magazine. Information was also posted on the MSFCA web site.
- Several educational subject themes have been posted on the MSFCA web site. Examples include lessons learned from Minnesota near-miss events as well as seasonal safety recommendations including industry best practices.

Striving for excellence in any safety initiative requires collaboration and partnering as key ingredients for success. I invite the Minnesota fire service to join us in advocating, educating and promoting safe work practices within the fire service.

Contact any of our safety committee members to provide feedback, ask questions, or offer your experience with Minnesota fire service safety.

Chief Kline may be contacted at rkline@plymouthmn.gov

MSFCA Safety and Health Committee Members

Rick Kline, **Chair** - Plymouth Fire Dept.

John Crelly, Fridley Fire Dept.

Pat Diloia, Eagan Fire Dept.

Mike Dobesh, St. Louis Park Fire Dept.

Dave Eisinger, MSFDA

John Ehret, South Metro Fire Dept.

Tim Farmer, Coon Rapids Fire Dept.

Mike Jernander, Chaska Fire Dept.

Rick Luth, Plymouth Fire Dept.

Paul Peltier, White Bear Lake Fire Dept.