

Standard operating procedures or standard operating guidelines? Understanding fire service liability and risk management.

Guidelines and procedures have become increasingly important to fire departments in our complex, litigious society. Beyond simply reducing liability, effective policies improve operations and enhance the safety and health of firefighters. They are the cornerstone of organizational learning, and have proven to be the best method for incorporating lessons learned into a fire department's daily operations. Yet the lack of policies is repeatedly cited in NIOSH firefighter fatality reports as a contributing factor in firefighter fatalities. In addition, the lack of policies figures prominently in many lawsuits holding fire department's liable. This program provides attendees with a fundamental understanding of how to reduce liability and manage risk in their department.