

LOOKOUTS
COMMUNICATION
ESCAPE ROUTES
SAFETY ZONES

COUNTY OF VOLUSIA

SAFETY GRAM

Commander Barry G. Ellis
Safety Officer

May 1, 2005

MOTOR VEHICLE INCIDENTS

From October 1, 2004 to March 30, 2005 Volusia County Fire Services had 25 motor vehicle incident claims.

1. Three claims with others at fault.
2. Five backing accidents.
3. Four damaged vehicles found during truck checks.
4. Thirteen damage claims to vehicles by apparatus hitting bay door, apparatus driving into parked cascade, apparatus hitting power pole while turning down a street, ARFF apparatus light bar damaged by misplaced ladder, damage to apparatus from turning around in median, and apparatus hitting tree branch, etc.

The majority of the incidents that occurred are preventable. There has been approximately \$24,000 in damage to vehicles and stations since this fiscal year.

Drink plenty of water

Last month a firefighter went down with heat exhaustion. The best way to prevent dehydration is to drink at least 8 oz. of water every hour from the time you start the shift. Incident Commanders should follow Standard Operation Policy 1003.003 (Incident Personnel Rehabilitation); providing rest and hydration periods during extreme conditions.



Extension cords plugged into wall outlets and stretched across a wall while being used as a permanent source of power to a battery charger is a safety violation.

Dispersion level Chart

- Dispersion Range 0-40 is stable air, low fire intensity, less long range spotting.
- Dispersion Range 41-70 is moderate, unstable air, increased fire intensity and long range spotting.
- Dispersion Range 70+ is unstable air, high amount of upper lifting, intense fire activity, potential for long range spotting and plume dominated wildfires.

Fireline Handbook Jan.'98

Fight fire aggressively but provide for safety first.

Initiate all action based on current and expected fire behavior.

Recognize current weather conditions and obtain forecasts.

Ensure instructions are given and understood.

Obtain current information on status.

Remain in communication with crewmembers, your supervisor, and adjoining forces.

Determine safety zones and escape routes.

Establish lookouts in potentially hazardous situations.

Remain in control at all times.

Stay alert, keep calm, act decisively.

NWCG Handbook 3