“THE FIREFIGHTER AND THE GRAIN FACILITY”

“Creating a Partnership With a Purpose”
PRESENTED BY:

James P. Zarek
Battalion Chief, DeKalb Fire Department
DeKalb, Illinois
Team Leader, MABAS 6 Technical Rescue Team
DeKalb County Illinois
Introduction

- Who Is this talking to me?
  - James P. Zarek
  - Battalion Chief
  - TRT Team Leader
  - Experienced in the emergency service field

- Why is he here?
  - Responded to many incidents
  - Seen problems that can be corrected

- What are we going to do?
  - Present ideas for discussion
  - Hopefully answer some questions
Objectives

- To show why it is important to have a partnership
- To review different emergencies that can be encountered
- To discuss what we can do together to solve these emergencies
- To discuss what we can do before the emergency occurs
- To discuss what we can do after the emergency incident
Importance of a Partnership

- Teamwork
- Sharing of knowledge
- Become more efficient
- Safer working environment
Grain Bin Entrapments

THE FIREFIGHTERS VIEW

- A very dangerous situation
- Rescue vs. recovery
- Similar to a trench rescue

HOW WE APPROACH THESE

- Safety of the responder is first and foremost
- LOTO
- An organized methodical approach
- Co-worker emotions
- Family emotions
- Dignity of the victim
Grain Bin Entrapments

HAZARDS

- Further engulfment of the victim
- Engulfment of rescuers
- Operating equipment
- Atmosphere
- Environment
- Emotions

HOW TO HELP

- Provide expertise for LOTO
- Provided operators for some equipment
- Assist with the family if needed
- Provided information on the possible victim location
Grain Equipment Entrapments

THE FIREFIGHTERS VIEW

- Similar to car accidents
- Life over equipment

HOW WE APPROACH THESE

- Remove equipment from victim not victim from equipment
- LOTO
- Safety
Grain Equipment Entrapments

HAZARDS

- Operating equipment
- Environment
- Emotions

HOW TO HELP

- Expertise on LOTO
- Expertise on operating some equipment
- Family and co-worker support
Grain Bin Fires

THE FIREFIGHTERS VIEW

- Defensive posture
- Extinguishing the fire vs. product conservation

HOW WE APPROACH THESE

- Work from the outside
- Empty the bin till we get to the fire
- Safety
Grain Bin Fires

HAZARDS

- Environment
- Atmosphere
- Water gas
- Engulfment

HOW TO HELP

- Expertise on LOTO
- Expertise on operating needed equipment
- Knowledge on where to obtain resources
Grain Dryer Fires

**THE FIREFIGHTERS VIEW**
- Difficult to get at
- Labor intensive

**HOW WE APPROACH THESE**
- Methodical
- Safely
- Put the extinguishing agent on the burning material or
- Remove the burning material and then extinguish it
Grain Dryer Fires

HAZARDS
- Operating equipment
- Entrapment
- Environment

HOW TO HELP
- LOTO
- Information on access
- Expertise on operating needed equipment
Medical Emergencies

The Firefighters View

- This is what we do

How We Approach These

- Depends on our level of training
- We act quickly to save lives
- A take charge attitude
HAZARDS

- Bloodbourne pathogens
- What hurt the victim can hurt us

HOW TO HELP

- Have personnel with first aid training
- Call for help quickly
- Try to keep the victim calm so they do not hurt themselves further
- Family support
Before The Incident

- **Preplan**
  - The facility
    - Look for different area that can cause incidents
    - Look for access points
    - Pre-identify LOTO points
  - Roles
    - What are the jobs of plant personnel
    - What are the jobs of responders
  - Potential Scenarios
    - Make plans for the know problem areas
    - These plans should include access points, roles, and mediation methods
Before The Incident

- Educational Opportunities
  - Training Drills
    - Conducted at the facility
    - Drills with all potential responding agencies
    - Perform a post drill critique to correct any issues
  - Classes in each others discipline
    - For the plant personnel
      - Medical training
      - Some first responder rescue training
    - For the firefighter
      - Plant familiarization tours
      - Machine operations classes
After The Incident

- Have a post incident critique
  - Not a fault finding mission
  - Is to find issues so that future incidents run smoother
- Produce a report on the incident
  - Use as a training tool
  - Document the facts surrounding the incident
- Implement changes in procedures and policies
  - Based on the critique and report make changes as needed
  - Make sure all those involved sign off on the changes
  - Publish these changes so that everyone is aware of them
Closing

- Remember this is a partnership
- Ego’s on the emergency scene will only interfere with the effort
- The only goal should be to save lives and then property
Contact Information

- James P. Zarek
- Battalion Chief, DeKalb Fire Department
- DeKalb, Illinois

- E-mail: Jim.zarek@cityofdekalb.com
- Cell: 815-761-7009

- 700 Pine St.
- DeKalb, IL 60115
QUESTIONS