

Comparison of Recommendations NIOSH/KCFD Investigation Reports

NIOSH Recommendation 1: *Fire departments should ensure, when a collapse zone is established, that the collapse zone is properly managed and enforced by the division supervisor and/or assistant safety officer. Command should also consider designating exclusion zone(s) or no-entry zones as needed due to dangerous or hazardous conditions.*

KCFD Recommendation 1: *The department should develop a Collapse Zone policy.*

General Operating Guideline 10-41 (effective June 1, 2016) addresses collapse zone issues. It has been distributed for implementation across all battalions.

NIOSH Recommendation 2: *Fire departments should ensure that once command is established at an incident, the incident commander maintains control of situation status, resource status, and communications, plus ensures the completion of the tactical objectives.*

KCFD Recommendation 3: *The department should develop an inclusive training program that revolves around the merits of Situational Awareness.*

A comprehensive *Incident Safety Officer* class was delivered to all Battalion Chiefs and District Safety Officers February 16-22, 2016. It is now included in training for incoming company officers, beginning March 7-9, 2017. Situational awareness is a central focus of this course. (See also responses to Recommendation 10 regarding tactical worksheets and Recommendation 8 respecting accountability tracking.)

NIOSH Recommendation 3: *Fire departments need to consider the impact of a structural fire on building construction and the potential for structural collapse. This process must be incorporated into the strategic-, tactical-, and task-level operations of an incident.*

KCFD Recommendation 6: *Train all emergency personnel on building construction.*

Building Construction for the Fire Service is now included in training for incoming company officers, commencing March 7-9, 2017. It is also scheduled for early department-wide dissemination as we implement the new training systems acquired through the Assistance to Firefighters Grants program. Incorporation into command of incident operations is being addressed through multiple venues and approaches (see also responses to Recommendations 7, 9, 10, 12, 13, and 15).

NIOSH Recommendation 4: *Code-setting organizations and municipalities should consider requiring the use of sprinkler systems in multi-occupancy structures.*

No specific KCFD recommendation (Life Safety Code adopted by reference in ordinances; NIOSH recommendation directed more toward NFPA as standards making body).

NIOSH Recommendation 5: *Fire departments should consider implementing a pre-incident planning program that complies with NFPA 1620, Standard for Pre-Incident Planning.*

KCFD Recommendation 14: *The department should enhance its current building data collection methods utilized by emergency operations and facilitate high hazard risk identification with Fire prevention records.*

An online building information/preplan retrieval system (Rhodium) was acquired as part of an earlier Assistance for Firefighters grant and is in pilot testing phase downtown (Battalion 102). Work is also underway on complete technologic overhaul of our inspections system as a part of the City's movement to new property tracking systems; this will include an inspection platform specifically built for the Kansas City environment. Together, these systems can greatly enhance the creation, retrievability, and on-scene utility of preincident planning while expanding both the breadth and depth of out preincident planning capabilities.

NIOSH Recommendation 6: *Fire departments should consider implementing a critical building information system that is available to responding units to enhance situational awareness.*

KCFD Recommendation 14: *The department should enhance its current building data collection methods utilized by emergency operations and facilitate high hazard risk identification with Fire prevention records.*

This set of recommendations is also addressed through the Rhodium pilot project and Energov inspection platform development described above.

NIOSH Recommendation 7: *Fire departments should ensure incident commanders incorporate the principles of Command Safety into the incident management system.*

KCFD Recommendation 3: *The department should develop an inclusive training program that revolves around the merits of Situational Awareness.*

This element is also a key component of the *Incident Safety Officer* training provided to all Battalion Chiefs and District Safety Officers (field command teams) and instructed as part of the training program for incoming company officers (identified in responses to Recommendations 2 and 3 above).

NIOSH Recommendation 8: *Fire departments should develop and consistently use a system to maintain accountability for all resources assigned to the incident.*

KCFD Recommendation 8: *Develop, train, and deploy an Incident Accountability System for use in all emergency incidents.*

KCFD had an existing accountability system (General Operating Guideline 11-9) but its effective utilization has presented a number of challenges. The organization was already examining enhanced accountability systems prior to this event and that examination has intensified, as reflected in discussion accompanying the recommendation.

NIOSH Recommendation 9: *Fire departments need to ensure incident commanders establish a stationary command post that is tied to a vehicle for effective incident management. The command post should be staffed with the incident commander and a staff assistant. The incident commander and staff assistant should maintain the tactical worksheet, fireground communications, and resource status.*

KCFD Recommendation 4: *The department's current Incident Management System manual should be updated to include current practices and new standards.*

The *KCFD Incident Management Manual* (General Operating Guideline 10-1) was thoroughly reviewed by the Operations Committee and revisions entered as indicated.

NIOSH Recommendation 10: *Fire departments should ensure that a tactical worksheet is used by the incident commander during initial fireground operations and maintained throughout the incident.*

KCFD Recommendation 4: *The department's current Incident Management System manual should be updated to include current practices and new standards.*

A system-wide Tactical Worksheet was developed as a result of the reviews above and is being produced in a laminated (dry erase) version for utilization in all working fire events.

NIOSH Recommendation 11: *Fire departments should provide a checklist for the incident commander regarding procedures in the event of a Mayday.*

KCFD Recommendation 4: *The department's current Incident Management System manual should be updated to include current practices and new standards.*

KCFD Recommendation 12: *The department should review the current MayDay GOG and update to include new communications considerations.*

This was included in the revisions to General Operating Guideline 11-2; laminated (dry erase) checklists are being distributed as above.

NIOSH Recommendation 12: *Fire departments need to ensure incident commanders assign a safety officer as early in the incident as possible. Consideration should be given to the appointment of assistant safety officer(s) if the incident escalates or the situation dictates.*

KCFD Recommendation 4: *The department's current Incident Management System manual should be updated to include current practices and new standards.*

These aspects have been included in the revisions to the *KCFD Incident Management Manual* and reflected in Incident Safety Officer training referenced elsewhere (see also Recommendations 2, 7, and 13).

NIOSH Recommendation 13: *Fire departments should develop a training program for staff assistants or incident command technicians.*

KCFD Recommendation 6: *Train all department officers regarding the certification of Safety Officer.*

A comprehensive *Incident Safety Officer* class was delivered to all Battalion Chiefs and District Safety Officers February 16-22, 2016. It is now included in training for incoming company officers, beginning March 7-9, 2017. Situational awareness is a central focus of this course.

NIOSH Recommendation 14: *Fire departments should ensure all operating engine, truck, and rescue companies have a thermal imager.*

This was included in FY 16 Federal Assistance to Firefighters Grants application. This grant, including this element, was awarded in the most recent cycle. Purchasing is in process.

NIOSH Recommendation 15: *Fire departments should ensure that all members engaged in emergency operations receive annual proficiency training and evaluation on fireground operations.*

Major overhauls to training system designed to effect this objective were KCFD's central focus in its FY15 Federal Assistance to Firefighters Grants application. This grant, representing a nearly \$1M overhaul of our inservice training systems, was developed specifically to address this need. Separate materials regarding this multifaceted effort and supplied separately.

NIOSH Recommendation 15: *Fire departments should establish a water supply group when the lack of water supply affects fire-fighting operations.*

This recommendation is addressed in KCFD General Operating Guideline 10-28 and included in IMS and fireground training initiatives.

KCFD Recommendations Not Reflected in NIOSH Report:

KCFD Recommendation 2: *The department should update current communications policies as they apply to emergency incidents.*

General Operating Guidelines 3-3 (Company Response) and 3-4 (Radio Communication Procedure) have been reviewed and updated.

KCFD Recommendation 7: *Ensure all personnel properly wear all assigned Personal Protective Equipment when required by policy.*

This involved consistent application of existing policies and is addressed in company officer development program and in Incident Safety Officer training.

KCFD Recommendation 10: *The department should develop a policy that addresses formation of an investigative team concept to be employed in serious injury accidents.*

This concept was key in the production of KCFD's investigation of the incident.

KCFD Recommendation 11: *The department should develop and implement a behavioral health training, referral, and education program that also addresses peer counseling, suicide prevention, and intervention.*

This recommendation has been fully implemented in partnership with International Association of Fire Fighters, with KCFD serving as a pilot site for a nationwide effort.

KCFD Recommendation 13: *The department should further develop leadership and foster management capabilities as part of a formal Officer Development Program.*

This project has been initiated as discussed in several recommendations above.