



## Training Program

### Savannah Fire & Emergency Services



The National Fire Fighter Near-Miss Reporting System invites departments who utilize [www.firefighternearmiss.com](http://www.firefighternearmiss.com) to send us a description of how the Web site is used by their departments. Training program descriptions we receive will be available in "Training Tools" on the Resources Section of [www.firefighternearmiss.com](http://www.firefighternearmiss.com).

Program description courtesy of Training Chief Timothy Sendelbach, Savannah Fire and Emergency Services ([tsendelbach@ci.savannah.ga.us](mailto:tsendelbach@ci.savannah.ga.us))

#### ***Company Officer Development***

##### **Part I (Week One):**

As an introductory project, COD participants are given an assignment to visit the [www.firefighternearmiss.com](http://www.firefighternearmiss.com) website and review one report for a five (5) minute presentation to the class. When presenting this report, students are asked to give a quick synopsis of the incident, describe the lessons learned and how members of Savannah Fire & Emergency Services can prevent this type of incident from occurring here in Savannah.

##### **Purpose:**

In week one we use the Firefighter Near Miss report as an instructional tool for developing presentation skills. While the focus of this assignment is directed at teaching presentation skills, the content of the Near Miss Report is what motivates the student to learn and seek additional information. Many students have said that it was tough to choose one report; there were a number of reports that they could relate to. This comment and several others demonstrate the importance of the content and the effectiveness of the reports provided.

##### **Part II (Week Two):**

COD participants are requested to develop a short PowerPoint slide presentation detailing the Firefighter Near Miss Report from week one. The presentation must be no less than five slides, incorporate the department's logo while addressing the lessons learned from the Near Miss Report.

The week two assignment is a basic PowerPoint exercise, teaching students how to use PowerPoint and how to insert photos, logos, etc. Using the Near Miss Report from the previous week, the students are once again required to review the report and develop a detailed presentation covering the lessons learned and the specific methods of prevention for SFES. The PowerPoint presentation is then presented to the entire class on the final day.

As an instructor, I have been very pleased with the results of these assignments. While the focus of this assignment was originally designed to focus on the development of instructional skills, the content has driven the overall

effectiveness of the assignment. To hear seasoned firefighters talk about cultural change, risk management, the big picture and slowing down has been very encouraging. The Near Miss Reports are a great tool, and I encourage every department to incorporate them into their training programs wherever they can.