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IMPROVING FIREFIGHTER SAFETY & DEPLOYMENT

Dear Chief,

April 2009

As you are aware, your department was scientifically selected for a national study that will help develop tools for local fire departments like yours to better assess risks in their local communities and deploy resources more effectively and efficiently. We would like to thank you for returning your station form and let you know that we are launching the next phase of the study.

In this phase, we ask you to <u>designate someone</u> who will be asked to enter incident information into our web-based data collection system. Employees with in-depth knowledge of departmental response data are best for this duty. This may include your data management staff, your information systems managers, or quality improvement staff. Once identified, please contact me or ask the designee to do so at 202-824-1594 or by email at Lmoore@iaff.org.

Upon contact, these individuals will be instructed on how to access and undergo a short web-based training session on the data entry system. The training process is critical to ensuring the quality of the data. When the training is complete, the department will be issued a password to access the surveys and begin data entry. Your department will enter approximately 100 fire incidents and 100 ALS EMS incidents. We anticipate that each entry will take less than 10 minutes. The overall time frame for data entry depends on the frequency of these events in your jurisdiction.

Please remember that this study has the potential to effect change in the staffing and deployment practices of the fire service overall and although participation is voluntary, all selected departments are encouraged to cooperate so that the scientific integrity of the study is maintained.

Thank you in advance for your contribution to this most important effort and to a brighter future for those on the frontline. We look forward to hearing from you!

Sincerely,

Dr. Lori Moore-Merrell Principle Investigator

Firefighter Safety and Deployment Study