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| ***REPLACE WITH YOUR MASTHEAD*** |
| **VFIS logo black JPG** | **SOG Title:** |
| **SOG Number:** |
| **Original Date:** | **Revision Date:** |
| **ABC Fire Department General Operating Guideline** |

**Safety Culture**

***This is a sample of a standard operating guideline (SOG) on this topic. You should review the content, modify as appropriate for your organization, have it reviewed by your leadership team and if appropriate your legal counsel. Once adopted, make sure the SOG is communicated to members, implemented and performance monitored for effective implementation.***

**Purpose:**

To promote and establish a safety conscious attitude and encourage reporting and acting on safety hazards.

**Procedure:**

Emergency services are steeped in tradition, which, for the most part, is a good thing. Many tradition-rich organizations have deeply held beliefs and may be slow or even resistant to change. Emergency services organizations (ESOs) face challenges when attempting to change or enhance their work culture, with respect to safety, operations or personnel relations. Given the high risk and high stakes work environment, ESOs that remain static may be more vulnerable to work-related accidents, injuries, fatalities and lawsuits.

Safety is the most important factor in an effective firefighting or rescue operation. Adherence to established safety practices, reporting of hazards and the use of good common sense are the best means for each individual to help prevent needless accidents. Basic safety guidelines in various functional areas and promotion of a safety conscious attitude and encourage the reporting of safety hazards are critical to success.

**Note:** Your organization should establish your culture’s safety point in each of the following categories:

1. Safety officer
2. Eye, hand, foot, respiratory protection
3. Tool and equipment safety
4. Vehicle operation safety
5. Station safety
6. Hazard reporting
7. Enforcement of safety rules
8. Interior operations safety
9. Exterior operations safety

***This is a sample guideline furnished to you by VFIS. Your organization should review this guideline and make the necessary modifications to meet your organization’s needs. The intent of this guideline is to assist you in reducing exposure to the risk of injury, harm or damage to personnel, property and the general public. For additional information on this topic, contact your VFIS Risk Control representative.***

**References:**

VFIS Communique – “Safety Culture – Communication is the Key”