EXPOSURE REPORTING AND TRACKING

Exposure reporting is important to provide medical assistance if you get injured on the job, reinforce worker compensation claims, and support your health throughout your career. It can be difficult to connect an occupational disease with the specific exposure that caused it. Exposure reporting provides background information for medical exams, screenings, diagnoses, and treatments.

Disaster response exposures may vary greatly from common fire and EMS occupational exposures. There are many unknowns, and proper PPE isn't always accessible.

It is important to track the activities completed when deployed to a disaster site and document any exposures or injuries sustained.

TRACKING ACTIVITIES

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) has created hurricane response activity sheets that contain a brief overview of the activity; a list of safety and health hazards and recommended engineering controls, work practices, administrative controls, and personal protective equipment (PPE); additional applicable training needs; and references to other potentially applicable activity sheets and reference materials.

These activity sheets can help members document these activities and ensure they have proper protections in place.

CREATING EXPOSURE REPORTS

After tracking your activities, it is important to report your exposures on incident reports and personal exposure reports to officially document the exposure.

Exposure reports should include incident details/ history information, such as:

- Date
- Incident #, Incident name (if occurred on an incident)
- Address/location of incident
- Time/duration on incident
- Type of incident (refer to OSHA activity sheets)
- Any chemicals you may have been exposed to or used, such as fluorinated foam
- If visible smoke and/or fire was present
- Which duties/positions you performed on scene of incident

Each fire fighter or emergency medical worker should establish their own method of capturing and documenting their exposures using department systems or programs like the National Fire Operations Reporting System (NFORS).