



FIRE DEPARTMENT

9 METROTECH CENTER

BROOKLYN, N.Y. 11201-3857

PETER E. HAYDEN

Chief of Department

Office of the Chief of Department

Room 8W-1

August 18, 2005

Peter L. Gorman
President
Uniformed Fire Officers Association
225 Broadway
New York, NY 10007

Dear Pete:

We have received your suggestion to use the recent L-120 accident as an initiative to emphasize the need for all members to wear their seat belts anytime they are riding in a Department vehicle.

The Safety Command has concluded their investigation into the accident involving L-120. The cause of the accident was the apparatus turning within an arc of approximately 40 feet while traveling at a speed of approximately 27 mph (+ or - 2 mph). Apparatus having the greatest potential for roll-over is found in our Tower Ladder fleet due to their high center of gravity. Other apparatus types have a lower center of gravity, but there still exists a potential to roll-over if the speed and tightness of the turn are excessive.

Safety is planning on updating a video made in the early 90's that shows the effect of excess speed during a turn. That video was made by members of the Safety Battalion, but was not widely distributed. The testing performed during the making of that video was the basis of an amendment to the Regulations (Section 11.1.17 D) requiring no apparatus be driven in excess of 15 mph when turning corners.

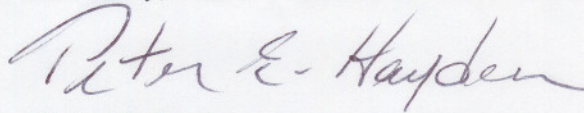
The updated video will feature our current apparatus and emphasize the necessity of driving at speeds commensurate with prevailing conditions. The extended braking distances of apparatus, the effect of anti-lock braking systems, and the potential to have an apparatus roll-over will also be addressed in this video. Highlighting the need for all members to wear their seat belts every time they drive or ride in any vehicle will be emphasized as well.

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Some members of the UFOA will be requested to assist in the making of this video, and I am sure that I can count on the support of the UFOA on this initiative to increase the safety of members.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Peter E. Hayden". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "P".

Peter E. Hayden
Chief of Department

PEH:ld