

Firefighter Injuries 2002-2006

Ninety-One Responders Injured

Between 2002 and 2006 there were 91 responders injured in HAZMAT events in North Carolina. Of these, 46 (51%) were firefighters injured in 15 events. Twenty-one firefighters were reported to be HAZMAT trained, fifteen were not HAZMAT trained and training status was unknown for 10 firefighters. Injuries ranged from respiratory irritation to dizziness to gastrointestinal irritation (Figure 1). Most injured firefighters were treated and released from a hospital (Figure 2).

Use of personal protective equipment (PPE) is shown in Figure 3. Twenty-eight firefighters who reported using either turnout gear with respiratory protection or Level C gear suffered respiratory irritation, skin irritation and exertion with elevated blood pressure. Two firefighters who reported PPE use with respiratory protection were admitted to the hospital, 11 were treated with first aid and 15 were treated and released from a hospital. Using a positive pressure SCBA and using PPE for the proper length of time could have prevented most of these injuries.



What is wrong with this photo?
Respiratory protection prevents injuries!

Figure 3

Type of Personal Protective Equipment Used

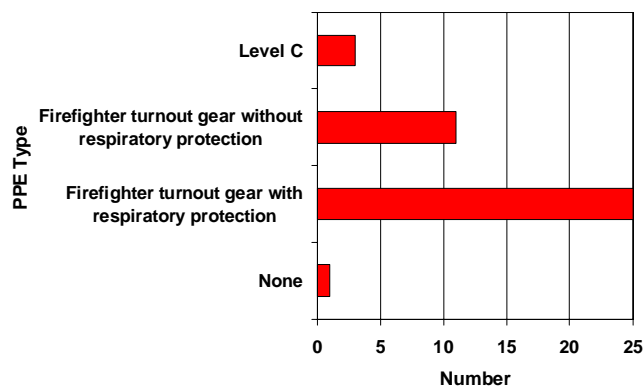
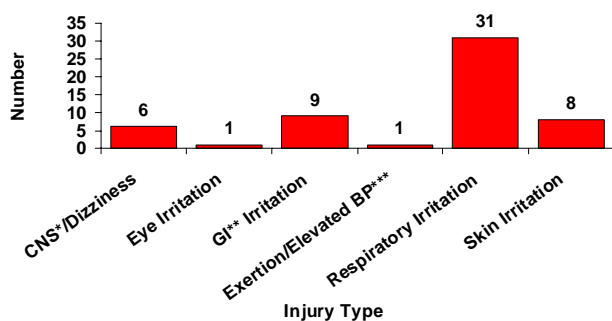


Figure 1

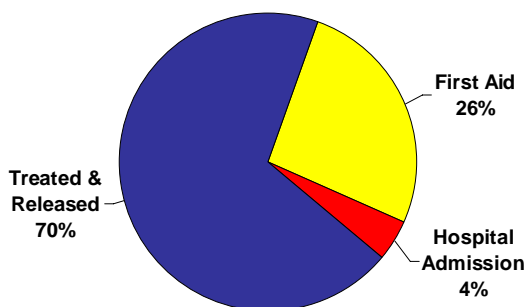
Injury Types
2002-2006



*Central nervous system **Gastrointestinal ***Blood Pressure

Figure 2

Severity of Injury
2002-2006



Prevent Respiratory Injury

Using personal protective equipment correctly could prevent most respiratory injuries. Respiratory protection should be used until the scene is determined safe from monitor readings. When responding to a HAZMAT call be sure to use your SCBA or select the proper cartridge for the chemical involved in the incident. All fires should be approached with caution whether dispatched as a HAZMAT or fire call.

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