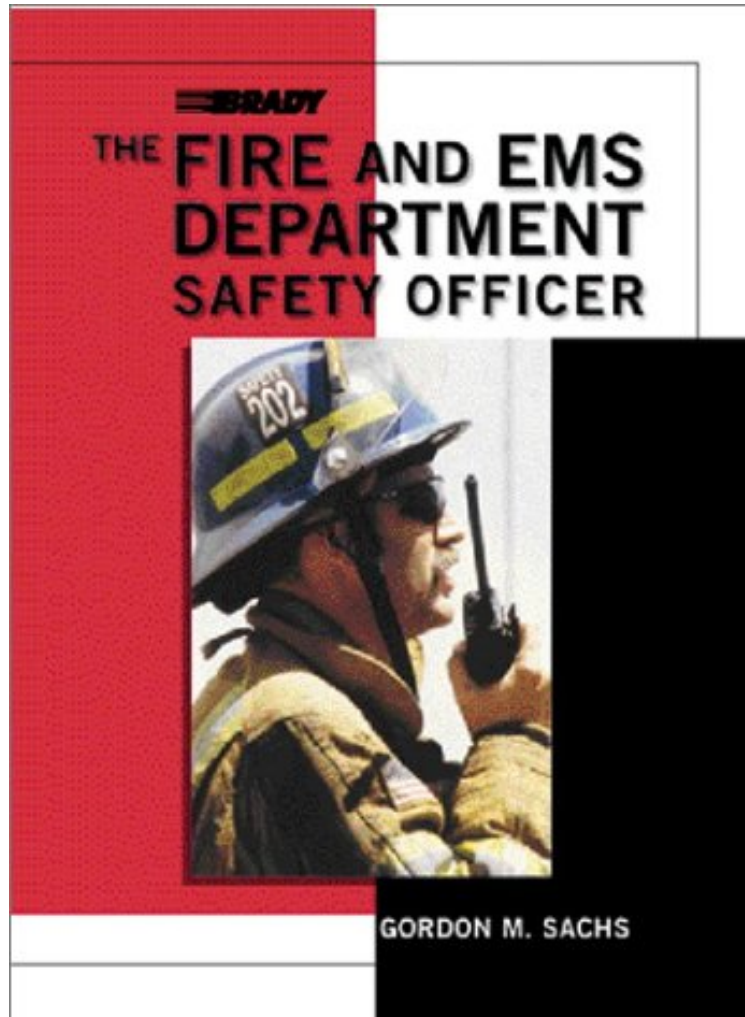


[Free pdf] The Fire and EMS Department Safety Officer

# The Fire and EMS Department Safety Officer

*Gordon M. Sachs*

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**Gordon M. Sachs : The Fire and EMS Department Safety Officer** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Fire and EMS Department Safety Officer:

For courses in Fire Service Supervision, Fire Service Management and Incident Operations. This text addresses the characteristics, roles, and responsibilities of the Safety Officer in a fire and/or EMS department from the two primary aspects of the position-operational and administrative. It provides an overview of applicable laws, regulations, and standards that affect the functions of a Safety Officer, and identifies other areas of knowledge, skills, and abilities that a competent Safety Officer must have.

From the Inside Flap Preface There is nothing more important than the life of an emergency responder. This person, dedicated to protecting the lives of strangers by putting themselves in harm's way, plays a critical role in society. Unfortunately, this role is often summed up after a tragedy, such as that which occurred on December 4, 1999, when six firefighters were killed in a fire in Worcester, Massachusetts: "Today the sun didn't rise. It didn't rise because last night we lost six members of our families. They were our brothers, our fathers, our sons, and our friends. And they were our protectors. Yes, they were firefighters, but more importantly they were members of our family and today our entire city grieves." Worcester Mayor Ray Mariano, the morning after the tragedy ". . . They were firefighters to the core, heroes already, as we have heard, to their friends and loved ones, not to mention the people they saved through the years. For all six, being a firefighter was more than a job, it was in their blood. So when they went into that building that night, they were following their dream to serve, to save lives, and to stick together. "Like their fellow firefighters everywhere, they embodied the best of our nation of commitment and community, of teamwork and trust values at the core of our character; values reflected in the daily service not only of those we lost, but in this awesome parade of men and women who have come from all over our country and from some countries beyond our borders to honor their comrades and console their families. "Too often, we take them for granted, our firefighters. In the days ahead, I hope every American will find an occasion to thank those in their communities who stand ready every day to put their lives on the line when the alarm bell rings." President Bill Clinton, at the memorial service in Worcester

How do we protect the emergency responder firefighters and emergency medical personnel while they face the risks associated with their jobs? By providing them with proper equipment, giving them proper training, developing comprehensive standard operating procedures or guidelines, and instilling a positive, safety-oriented attitude. Still, sometimes that's not enough. Fire and EMS departments need to focus on safety and health at the station, in the apparatus, and at the incident scene. To do this, an individual the safety officer must be dedicated to the administrative and incident-related aspects of the emergency services. They must be an advocate of the responder, someone whose mission is to help keep the responders alive. This book provides guidance for the individual serving in the role of fire or EMS department safety officer. This individual may be the department's health and safety officer, whose primary role is to look at safety from a program standpoint to prevent injuries, illnesses, exposures, and accidents involving emergency responders. Or, it might be a line officer appointed at an emergency scene to be the incident safety officer. This officer must understand and recognize safety cues and have the fortitude to identify unsafe conditions, operations, or acts and to take the appropriate measures to prevent harm to the operating crews. This book is divided into three sections, plus a comprehensive set of appendices. Part 1 addresses general concepts and requirements, including an overview of the position of safety officer and information on laws, regulations, and standards affecting the position. The topic of record keeping and documentation is addressed in this section, as well. Part 2 addresses administrative aspects, keying on the role of the health and safety officer. The key topics in this section include risk management, health maintenance, and accident and injury investigation. Part 3 addresses operational aspects, including emergency incident risk management and operating at emergency incidents. Obviously, this section is important for anyone who may serve as incident safety officer. The appendices contain information and material that will be useful to a fire or EMS department safety officer. In addition to points-of-contact and synopses of laws, regulations, and standards that will be useful to any health and safety officer, there are forms and checklists for use at emergency incidents of all types by the incident safety officer. It is important to note that the fire and EMS department safety officer is but one link in a very important link in the chain of safety. Each responder needs to look out for his or her own safety. Each officer must look out for the safety of their crew. Each battalion or division chief or division, group, or sector officer must look out for the safety of everyone assigned to or operating within their assigned area. Each fire or EMS chief or incident commander must look out for the safety of everyone in the department or operating at the incident. The safety officer, to put it succinctly, is an important part of this last link—the chief's risk manager, or the eyes and ears of the incident commander in the chain that keeps emergency responders safe and healthy.

From the Back Cover Gordon M. Sachs The safety officer in a fire or EMS department has several roles and responsibilities, both operational and administrative. This book provides an overview of applicable laws, regulations, and standards that affect the functions of a safety officer, and identifies other areas of knowledge, skills, and abilities that a competent safety officer must have. Focusing on the "how to" aspects of the job, *The Fire and EMS Department Safety Officer* is the perfect reference for both students and working professionals alike. FEATURES Presents a blend of theoretical and practical information to help the safety officer understand how to apply the concepts to real-world incidents. Complements National Fire Academy Health and Safety Courses. Appendices include an annotated list of laws, regulations, and standards; sample forms; the United States Fire Administration guidelines for Emergency Incident Rehabilitation; and Incident Safety officer checklists for structure fires, multi-casualty incidents, hazardous materials emergencies, and technical rescue incidents. Other titles of interest: *Emergency Incident Rehabilitation* by Edward T. Dickinson and Mike Weider (ISBN: 0-8359-5375-0) *Fire Service Personnel Management* by Steven T. Edwards (ISBN: 0-13-012885-6) *Introduction to Fire Prevention, Fifth Edition* by James C. Robertson (ISBN: 0-13-013916-5)

About the Author GORDON M. SACHS has over 23 years of fire service and EMS experience, including over 10 years as a chief officer in both career and volunteer departments. Currently, he is chief of Fairfield Fire and

EMS in Pennsylvania and is the director of the IOCAD Emergency Services Group, a consulting firm providing management and technical support and solutions for the emergency services across the country. He holds a Master of Public Administration Degree, a Bachelor of Science degree in education, and is a graduate of the National Fire Academy's Executive Fire Officer program. Chief Sachs is the author of *Officer's Guide to Fire Service EMS* (Fire Engineering Books, 1999) and has co-authored several books and publications, including *Fire Department Occupational Health and Safety Handbook* (NFPA, 1998) and *The Fire Chief's Handbook, Fifth Edition* (Fire Engineering Books, 1995). He has also written numerous trade journal articles and made several major presentations in the areas of fire service/EMS leadership and management, emergency responder health and safety, and incident command. He is a course developer and adjunct instructor at the National Fire Academy and is a former U.S. Fire Administration Program Manager. He has been a member of several national committees, including some NFPA Technical Committees on safety and health issues, as well as various federal and state committees on emergency service issues.