



National Fallen Firefighters Foundation Announces National Roll Out of New Behavioral Health Initiative

The way to help firefighters who have dealt with potentially traumatic events is changing. Much has been learned from the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation's work in New York after September 11th and following the loss of 9 firefighters at a furniture store fire in Charleston, South Carolina in 2007. A briefing on this new model at Firehouse Expo in Baltimore later this week will answer all your questions as to how-as a chief officer, family member or colleague-you can help firefighters deal with the stress, grief and trauma that often go along with this profession.

As part of the *Everyone Goes Home*® program, a briefing on Initiative 13 - Behavioral Health (Consensus Protocol on Firefighter Behavioral Health) will be presented at Firehouse Expo on Friday, July 23, 2010 at the Hilton Hotel in Baltimore, Maryland. This new initiative is based on over three years of interdisciplinary consultation and national consensus building exercises.

Dr. Richard Gist and Vickie H. Taylor, LCSW, who lead the research and development team, will present the briefing to fire chiefs, state officials and other individuals with the potential to influence change within the firefighting community. The briefing will begin at 2:00 pm at the Hilton Hotel in the Johnson Room A&B, adjacent to the Expo Center. Following the briefing, Chief Ronald J. Siarnicki, Executive Director of the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation, will host a reception that will include a participatory discussion seeking input on the implementation process for this new initiative. Pre-registration for this special event may be completed by E-mailing jkelly@everyonegoeshome.com or at the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation's booth #2808 during the trade show. Pre-registration is not mandatory, but seating will be limited to seventy-five.

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