

Below 100 Agency Risk Assessment & Best Practices

Initial Assessment and Determination of Issues

Consider agency experience regarding serious injury/death incidents including those where officer actions affected non-agency personnel. What were the causes? Were they preventable? Did officers bear some responsibility for the event?

Driving - Seatbelts

1. Do you have a policy addressing seatbelt wear?
2. Is your policy practical, accepted and understood?
3. Is the policy enforced?
4. Integrate to training (e.g., Driving onto firing range)
5. Determine level of use: Consider random sampling, low-profile observation, anonymous questionnaire (tailor to your situational needs). Be ready to dispel seat belt myths e.g., tactical problem, the Ninja Assassin.



Driving - Speed/Reckless Response

1. Review injury and lost time incidents to determine areas of risk.
2. Consider the experience of agencies within your region.
3. Look for pre-event indicators:
 - Nicknames (e.g. Crash, Hotdog) or reputations - It's not a secret.
 - Single-vehicle crashes. Multiple crashes. Inexplicable crashes
4. Review speed and pursuit policies. Are they practical, understood and enforced? Are pursuits debriefed? Is there accountability? Remember: *Ignored behavior is condoned behavior!*

Officers Struck by Vehicles - Preventing Injury/Death

1. Reflective gear - Is it issued? Is it used? Is there a policy? Do supervisors ensure use and set an example? Is it the norm when doing accident investigations?
2. Traffic stops - Conducting safe stops, passenger side approach, positioning vehicle.
3. Tire Deflation Devices used? Is there adequate and realistic training? Awareness of associated hazards and need for real cover (not the patrol vehicle)?

Body Armor

1. Is it issued? Is it the right armor for your operations? Will it stop duty rounds?
2. Is wear of armor mandatory? Review exceptions & whether they are *necessary*.
3. What's the practice/current culture? Required in training? (defensive tactics & range).
4. Do supervisors/managers/command staff set a good example when in uniform?
5. Required wear for investigators when situations indicate potential risk?
6. Are examples of "armor saves" talked about and known within your agency?

WIN - What's Important Now? (Prioritization & Situational Awareness)

1. Is the concept of WIN integrated into your department's training? (e.g., During use of force or scenario training, pose the question: What's Important Now?)
2. Do officers understand value of WIN in off-duty, on-duty & critical incidents?



Complacency

1. Objectively review traffic stops, subject contacts, response practices.
2. Actively engage officers in situational debriefs, look for lessons learned.
3. Review officer safety practices, discuss incidents, maintain the edge.
4. Is officer readiness, fitness, and vigilance part of personnel evaluations?

Instilling a Culture of Safety

Are academy and in-service training practices consistent with instilling safety? (e.g., Is body armor worn during training? Is seat belt use modeled and discussed as well as being required during training?) Be ready to confront and dispel myths.

Important: Are Field Training Officers engaged and are their actions consistent with your policies and procedures? Do they support and model Below 100 practices? Do not make assumptions. This is absolutely essential for a culture of safety.

Are field supervisors engaged and observe officers' in-field actions with an eye toward improving safety? Do supervisors discuss and model safe practices?

Are department training sessions used as opportunities to review Below 100 areas? Are Below 100 materials and/or similar safety resources made available to officers? Use visual reminders (like posters) and rotate them periodically. *Regularly* use stories from Officer Down Memorial page (www.odmp.org). Use their free app for LODD notification.

Are courageous conversations encouraged? Are officers encouraged to share "near-miss" incidents to improve safety?

Check with field supervisors and field training officers - Ask them what factor or deficiency is most likely to result in a serious injury or death to an officer in your agency. Now ensure it is addressed *before* there is a loss. You will not get a second chance.

Honor the Fallen by Training the Living!

www.Below100.org