



It Happened in Seconds

Firefighter Burn Injury Awareness Training

Date: Wednesday, April 30, 2014
Time: 8:00am until 12:00pm
Location: Vanderbilt University Medical Center
Nashville, TN

Nashville Firefighters Local 140 and the Vanderbilt Burn Center would like to invite firefighters from the Nashville Fire Department to attend It Happened in Seconds. It Happened in Seconds is a burn injury awareness course developed for firefighters through the Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program. The course was developed by firefighters, burn surgeons, nurses, and protective garment manufacturers from across the United States.

Each and every day, thousands of firefighters place themselves in harm's way in the performance of their duty. They serve their respective communities selflessly and tirelessly. Too often, injury is perceived as "part of the job" or as something that "will never happen to me".

A burn injury can affect a firefighter's life in many ways. Without exception, burns are life altering. They can also be career changing or life ending injuries. Regardless of the level of PPE used, training completed or experience on the job, smoke and fire can overcome any firefighter and lead to a long and difficult battle for survival, which may not be won. Burn scarring can affect mobility, appearance, and function. Inhalation of smoke, burning debris, and toxic byproducts of combustion may seriously or permanently damage the abilities to breathe, function, and perform job related duties.

The long-term effects of a burn are not just physical. Following a burn injury, firefighters are at risk of developing psychological trauma associated with the events of injury, a lack of confidence in their professional abilities, and stress related to the time away from the job. As a result of a burn, an injured firefighter must deal with the emotional, physical, and financial challenges of recovery and a potentially career ending injury.

What does the program include?

The course was not developed to teach fire ground operations or tactics as these vary greatly around the country. It Happened in Seconds runs approximately 2 and a half hours and is instructed by a firefighter and burn unit professional through a lecture and video presentation. Course materials address the following topics:

- The risk associated with firefighting and receiving a burn injury
- The design, limitations, and use of personnel protective equipment
- Causes of firefighter burn injuries
- Firefighter safety, situational awareness, and risk assessment
- What we have learned from the past reviewing case studies
- The importance of receiving proper care and where to seek treatment for a burn injury
- Pre-hospital treatment of a burn injury
- Treatment and rehabilitation process following a burn injury
- Building partnerships with your local burn unit