Below 100 - Agency Risk Assessment

Driving – Seatbelts

1. Do you have a policy addressing seatbelt wear?

2. Is your policy practical and accepted?

3. Is the policy enforced?

4. Consider random sampling, low-profile observation, anonymous questionnaire (tailor to meet your situational needs). Be ready to dispel seat belt myths (e.g. tactical problem).

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 policy – Is it practical? Is it practiced? Is there accountability?

Preventing Injury/Death - Officers Struck by Vehicles

1. Reflective gear – Is it issued? Is it used? Is it effective? Is there a policy?

2. Traffic stops – Conducting safe stops, passenger side approach, positioning.

3. Awareness of dangers (between vehicles, stops on curves, etc.)

Body Armor

1. Is it issued?

2. Is it the right armor for your operations?

2. Is there policy? Is wear of armor mandatory?

3. What's the practice/current culture?

4. Are examples of "saves" talked about and known within your agency?

WIN – What's Important Now?

1. Is the concept of WIN integrated into your department's training?

2. Do officers understand the applicability of WIN in off-duty, on-duty and critical incident situations?

Complacency

I. Objectively review traffic stops, subject contacts, response practices.

2. Actively engage officers in situational debriefs, looking for lessons learned.

3. Review officer safety practices, discuss incidents, maintain the edge.

Instilling a Culture of Safety

Are academy practices consistent with instilling safe practices? (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.

Are officers encouraged to share 'near-miss' incidents in an effort to improve safety?

Are department training sessions used as opportunities to review Below 100 areas? Are seat belts required during training sessions that involve vehicles?

Important: Are Field Training Officers engaged and are their actions consistent with your policies and procedures? Do they support and model Below 100 practices?

Are field supervisors engaged and observe officer's in-field actions with an eye toward improving safety?

Are Below 100 materials and similar safe practice resources made available to officers?

Proactive Assessment

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.

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REMEMBER - If it is predictable, it's preventable.

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