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Ambulance Crashes: Can Your Safety Program Prevent Them?

Ambulance crashes account for 74% of the fatalities in EMS. The injury rate in these crashes is seven times the national average, making ambulances a very dangerous work environment. In a case study of two very serious ambulance crashes, you will be able to recognize the events that led these crashes. A case study will focus on how an EMS service recovered from a fatal crash by adding Road Safety to its fleet. But in order to fully benefit from this technology, a high performing safety program must be deployed. In this presentation you will learn what key aspects of a driver safety program must be in place to successfully reduce your crash rate. You will learn how to do a self audit of your driver safety program, develop a program, key metrics to measure, training, culture shifts, crash investigation and staff rewards/recognition.

David McGowan has more than 32 years of experience in Emergency Medical Services serving as a clinician and administrator for fire and hospital based services. He is an accomplished administrator in Operations, Communications, Business Development and Systems Quality and recognized nationally for his expertise in ambulance safety programs. Mr. McGowan is the Director of Clinical and Operational Quality for HealthEast Medical Transportation in St. Paul Minnesota, providing 911, Critical Care and pre-scheduled transports for over 40,000 patients in the Twin City area annually. Mr. McGowan initiated a new vehicle safety program for HealthEast. McGowan holds a Bachelors in Business Management, currently serves on the Board of Directors for the North Central EMS Cooperative and served as President in 2005 and 2006.

After attending this session, the learner will be able to:

1. Evaluate a safety program and make changes to reduce the risk of injuries and fatalities in an ambulance crash.
2. Examine true costs of a loss and save thousands of dollars by investing in several different types of driver safety programs.
3. Identify risk behaviors prior to hiring new employees.
4. Develop a crash investigation team that will assist in determining preventability.

Outline:

1. Crash Statistics
 - a. US dept of Labor
 - b. NIOSH
 - c. CDC
2. Risk Factors associated with crashes
3. Analysis of HealthEast crashes (fatal)
4. Recovery
5. Steps taken to increase safety awareness
6. Road Safety
7. Developing manuals
8. Financial savings
9. Future for EMS safety