



NC DEPARTMENT OF
INSURANCE
OFFICE OF STATE FIRE MARSHAL

OVERVIEW OF FIRE SERVICE RESPONSIBILITIES

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Crabtree Valley Mall Incident on August 13, 2016

- Panic ensued from what people thought was an active shooter
- Some stores had fire exits blocked
- There were several injuries as a result
- Steps can be taken to increase penalties on the local level

Potential Fire Code Enforcement Mechanisms

- First offense - a code official could assess a fine
- Second offense - a stiffer fine with a warning could be assessed
- Third offense - a code official could padlock a business or cut utilities, as per North Carolina Administrative Code

Impediments to Fire Code Enforcement

- Biggest impediment to Code Enforcement Officials - they are only inside the business once a year to every three years. The majority of the issues have to do with exits being blocked and ongoing construction. It is the building owner and occupant's responsibility to maintain clear and unobstructed paths of egress.
- Times have changed, now path of egress and exit ways are used for more than fire exits.
- Experts say your chances of survival, in an active shooter situation, are greater if you run and not to hide or lock yourself in a room.

Remedies for Code Enforcement

- First and foremost – education on what a code enforcer can and cannot do
- Educate Owners and occupants that it is their responsibility to maintain exit ways, proper access to fire escape routes and the enforcement mechanisms available to local code officials
- Educate local officials of the importance of maintaining good enforcement practices
- Utilize and train security and maintenance personnel as fire safety official of fire watch, per code

Educating Other Emergency Agencies on the Value of the Fire Service

- Each emergency agency need to be unified on every emergency situation
- Emergency agencies need to be aware of the roles and responsibilities that other agencies play (ie: LEO knowing FD's roles)

Goal of Insurance Commissioner and OSFM Chief Taylor

Development of relationships of all state and local jurisdictions to ensure agencies are unified and that they are the first line of domestic defense.

Challenges To Unified Response

- After 9/11, National Incident Management System began using CLEARTEXT
- Fire Departments have integrated CLEARTEXT
- Other agencies, particularly law enforcement, have been slow to transition
- However, NC State Highway Patrol showing good progress in transition
- Important to ensure that all agencies have a voice at an incident central command post

Questions?