Dead Man Talking:
The shocking truth about how we may be training first responders to die.

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This program is available as a 3 part DVD series.

If you are interested in purchasing it:

Click the “store” link on the SAMatters.com website
Dead firefighters have told me:

At my fire…

I was doing high-risk activities and we didn’t have enough staffing there.
Dead firefighters have told me:

At my fire...

Our incident commander was doing hands-on activities.
Dead firefighters have told me:

At my fire...

We didn’t have an incident commander.
Dead firefighters have told me:

At my fire...

No one did a 360 degree size-up.
Dead firefighters have told me:

At my fire…

I should have never want inside…

But I did!
Dead firefighters have told me:

At my fire...

I tried to fight a big fire with a small hose line.
Dead firefighters have told me:

At my fire...

There was a lot of freelancing.
Dead firefighters have told me:

At my fire...

The shortcuts we took in training showed up on the fireground as poor performance.
Dead firefighters have told me:

At my fire…

We made a bunch of little mistakes…

Mistakes that we had been making for years.
Dead firefighters have told me:

At my fire…

I died in a flashover.
Dead firefighters have told me:

At my fire…

I died in a collapse.
Dead firefighters have told me:

At my fire...

I wasn’t thinking.
How we learn...
Training develops two types of memory.

Cognitive
- Thinking memory

Kinesthetic
- Movement memory
Practice makes permanent.
Routines

Improve muscle memory
You are a creature of habit.

Stress induces automatic habitual performance.
Automatic Performance
(robotoxic action)
Subconscious Programming

Automatic actions that occur without conscious awareness.
Bad habits…

Performing an undesirable action automatically…

without conscious thought.

Acting…

Without thinking.
Physical performance of tasks are often based on...

Muscle memory.
Training routines + Stress + Muscle Memory = Action without thinking.
My Confession
Examples of how some responders may be trained to act without thinking.
Let’s talk patient care.
Every responder should ensure a scene is safe prior to engaging in patient care.
What are the two most likely ways a firefighter will die while inside a residential dwelling fire?
Flashover

Collapse
Prior to entry into a structure fire, every firefighter should have concern for a flashover on their mind.
Prior to entry into a structure fire, every firefighter should have concern for a collapse on their mind.
Size-up
Prior to entry into a structure fire, the first arriving officer should conduct a size-up.

The size-up becomes the foundation for situational awareness.
Go or no-go
The decision to go... or not to go... should be made by first-in officer or IC.
Hoseline selection
The decision for hose line selection should be made by the officer leading the crew or the IC.
Decision Making
Scenario 1
Decision Making
Scenario 2
Decision Making
Scenario 3
Decision Making
Scenario 4
My first training fire...
Let’s talk vertical ventilation.
Sounding the roof
Victim search.
Size-up
Think
Decide
Act
Handout of today’s program...

Leave me your business card.

Or a piece of paper write your email address.

Write NEATLY!

“HO”

“FU”
Don’t ever let the ghost of any responder say...

My training failed me.
Helping you see the bad things coming... in time to change the outcome.

If I can help you in any way, please contact me:

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