



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

Rich Gasaway
Fire Chief (ret.)
Situational Awareness Matters!
SAMatters.com

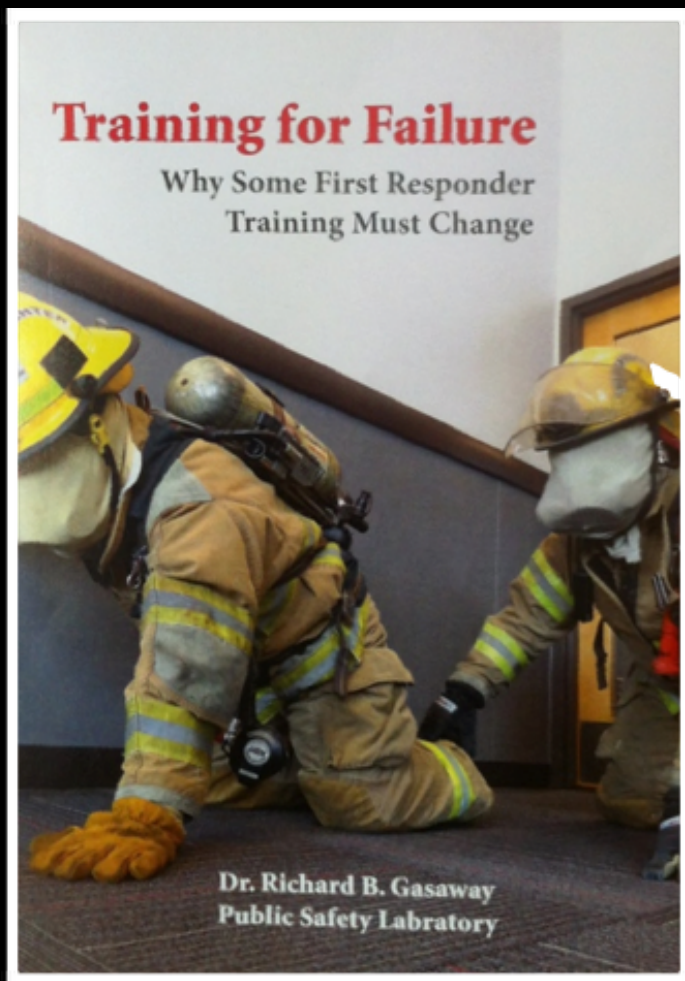


If you are interested in
hosting a program
please contact
Dr. Gasaway at

www.SAMatters.com

Phone: 612-548-4424

rich@RichGasaway.com



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.



@RichGasaway

Dead firefighters have told me:

At my fire...

We didn't have an incident commander.



@RichGasaway

Dead firefighters have told me:

At my fire...

No one did a 360 degree size-up.



@RichGasaway

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.



@RichGasaway

Dead firefighters have told me:

At my fire...

The shortcuts we took in training showed up on the fireground as poor performance.



@RichGasaway

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.



@RichGasaway

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



@RichGasaway

Practice makes permanent.

Routines

Improve muscle memory



@RichGasaway

You are a creature of habit.

Stress induces automatic habitual performance.

Automatic Performance (robotic 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.



@RichGasaway

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.



@RichGasaway

What are the two most likely ways a firefighter will die while inside a residential dwelling fire?



@RichGasaway

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.



@RichGasaway

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 I



@RichGasaway



4

3



@RichGasaway



@RichGasaway

Decision Making Scenario 2



@RichGasaway



@RichGasaway

Decision Making Scenario 3



1

4



@RichGasaway



@RichGasaway



4

3



@RichGasaway

Decision Making Scenario 4



@RichGasaway



@RichGasaway



@RichGasaway

My first
training
fire...



@RichGasaway

Let's talk vertical ventilation.

Sounding the roof

Victim search.

Size-up

Think

Decide

Act



@RichGasaway

Handout of today's program...

Leave me your business card.

Or a piece of paper write your email address.

Write NEATLY!

“HO”

“FU”



@RichGasaway

A collage of emergency response scenes. In the center, a firefighter in full gear is using a chainsaw to cut through a structure. To the left, a helicopter is in flight. In the foreground, a person in a black ghost costume stands with their back to the camera. The background shows a large fire with bright orange and yellow flames. The overall scene is dark and dramatic, with a focus on emergency services and a ghostly figure.

Don't ever let the ghost
of any responder say...

My training failed me.



@RichGasaway

Situational Awareness Matters!



Helping you see the bad things coming...
in time to change the outcome.

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

Dr. Richard B. Gasaway
St. Paul, Minnesota
www.SAMatters.com
Rich@RichGasaway.com
612-548-4424



