**FCM 112-2015**

**FIRE CHIEF MEMORANDUM**

**DATE:** November 9, 2015

**TO:** All Department Members

**FROM:** Eric C. Tade, Chief of Department

**SUBJECT: PIA RELEASE AND INITIAL RESPONSE**

The Post Incident Analysis (PIA) of incident 15-0061817 that occurred at 3860 Blake Street on Sunday, June 28th, 2015 has been completed. This is the incident in which Engineer John Whelan sustained injuries which ultimately resulted in his passing. Thank you to those who participated in the difficult process of analyzing this event so that the lessons learned can be shared with the Department in the hopes of preventing a similar event in the future.

Please find attached a copy of the PIA for review by all members of the Department. Below you will find a synopsis of the recommended actions and process improvements that the Department as already implemented or that are ready to be implemented. The process improvements were identified through both parallel planning that has been taking place since the incident as well as the initial consideration of observations brought forth through the PIA. This list should not be considered exhaustive or all inclusive as ongoing review of the PIA may bring to light additional opportunities for improvement. The command staff of the Denver Fire Department remains committed to the safety and well-being of our members.

**Mandatory Safety Reporting Policy** - Effective November 10, 2015 all incident reports will have a new mandatory reporting field that will require the member completing the report to indicate whether any safety concerns were present at the incident. A response in this field is **required** in order to complete the incident report. This information will be automatically recorded on a daily basis and reviewed by the Assistant Chief of Operations as well as the Assistant Chief of Safety & Training. Additionally, refresher training will be provided to all members to ensure they know how to locate and utilize the existing DFD Safety Form.

**Similarly Constructed Buildings** – The Fire Prevention and Operations Divisions have identified buildings that have skylights/translucent panels that may pose a similar potential risk to firefighters. Those occupancies identified thus far have been entered into CAD. When crews are called to these addresses a caution note will appear on the mobile data terminal (MDT) alerting crews to identified hazards. The Technical Services Division will reinforce the importance of dispatchers “airing” the existence of cautionary notes as well as pertinent caller information to those crews responding

**Code Enhancement** – The Fire Prevention Division has submitted a code amendment proposal for fall protection around skylights/translucent panels. The amendment calls for fluorescent signage and guard rails around these types of roof openings. The proposed amendment, if approved, would be retroactive to include buildings already in existence. The Fire Prevention Division has already engaged identified properties to seek voluntary compliance with the proposed requirements. Some properties have already indicated their willingness to comply. Additional placarding opportunities are also being considered.

**Incident Safety Officer** - The Department is in the process of developing a proposal for a dedicated incident safety officer separate from the incident commander.

**Professional Development Training** - In December 2015 the Training Division will utilize the annual department-wide Professional Development Training to provide additional training based on the observations identified in the PIA.

**Incident Command Software** - The Department is currently beta-testing incident command software that will improve incident accountability, provide enhanced aerial and street view mapping, ensure National Incident Management systems consistency, and provide real-time access to preplans prior to and during an incident.

**Raptor Leatherman Tool** - The Department has purchased a Raptor Leatherman Tool for every company in the City and all companies are in possession of these tools. The Safety and Training Division will create a micro-training for dissemination to the Department.

**2012 Incident (12-0040771) -** While the PIA has been completed on the above mentioned incident, concerns have been raised over a similar incident that occurred back in 2012. An internal affairs investigation has been initiated to look into the facts of the earlier incident.

As mentioned above, this document is not meant to be all inclusive. The observations and recommendations contained in the PIA will continue to be discussed and evaluated. Again, the Department wishes to extend our sincere appreciation to all those that participated in the PIA process. Any members having suggestions regarding the implementation of recommendations contained in the PIA should bring them forward through the appropriate chain of command.

Attachment: PIA

DISPOSITION: Read at Roll Call for three (3) consecutive shifts.

DISTRIBUTION: Suppression and Support Services *(electronic)*