



Will You Answer the Call?

By: Christopher Brennan

Our mission is simple: Forging Fire Service Excellence. That's why we take classes, struggle in the gym, and sweat on the drill ground. Our Ethos guides us in "How" to achieve that goal. Our Ethos is the road map, laid out clearly and concisely for each of us to measure our actions against. What is the product at the end of the day? We are a resource, an opportunity, and a community for firefighters who are prepared to thrive on the fireground so they can protect the lives and property of *their* neighbors.

These are not easy things to achieve. It might seem that this movement, this ideal, is the work of a handful of guys who put information out on a website. That is just the tip of the iceberg. The movement, the expression of this concept, is in each and every one of you. It is in the brother who strives again and again to improve his fitness. It is in the sister who overcomes the inborn fears we all have to master the hostile and dynamic world of the modern fireground. It is in the junior firefighter, the company officer, or the Chief of the Department who look in the mirror each morning and say, "How can I be better... for them?"

You all know in your soul if you got up this morning to make yourself better. You know if you are laying yourself bare out of a desire to improve yourself and show those around you a way to excellence. That is our call to you. Own your responsibility to your brothers and sisters and show them the way. You have found the message, you have found the path, and now you have the *Duty* to show it to others. We all have heard the anecdote about the man who falls in a hole, and when his friend comes along rather than go for help or send down a ladder he jumps in the hole too.

Ethos of a Fire Service Warrior

Fire Service Warriors accept the duty to stand between their neighbors and unrestrained fire.

Fire Service Warriors acknowledge the dangers of their vocation and do everything possible to minimize those dangers except shirk our duty.

Fire Service Warriors believe that all human life has value and will do everything possible to save a human life.

Fire Service Warriors know that buildings do not spontaneously combust; if we aren't 100% sure the building is vacant WE SEARCH.

Fire Service Warriors acknowledge that to reduce the risk of Cardiac Compromise they will maintain an elite level of fitness.

Fire Service Warriors wear seat belts, helmet straps, SCBA, and all PPE.

Fire Service Warriors train EVERYDAY.

Fire Service Warriors own their responsibility to their Brothers and Sisters.

Fire Service Warriors honor our fallen by learning everything possible from their deaths and from the injuries and near misses of our compatriots.

Fire Service Warriors acknowledge the reputation of the fire service was earned by those who came before us, often at the cost of their lives, and strive to never tarnish that reputation.

The first man looks at his friend, upset, bewildered and screams at him, "Why didn't you get me help? Now were both down here!" The friend just smiles, shakes his head, and says, "Yeah, I've been here before and I know the way out."

Each of us knows someone who has fallen into the trap of mediocrity. Of cheap results, easily achieved, and even more quickly forgotten. That is not our way. Our way is one of lasting effort. Of striving day-in, day-out to achieve a goal that is just out of reach. So now that you know the path it's time to show it to others. Jump into the hole with your friend and say, "Come on. I know the way out."