



**VULNERABILITY
ASSESSMENT
PROGRAM**

Have you ever wondered if your department is doing enough to prevent a catastrophic injury to one of your firefighters? Or worse? Could something have been done to mitigate the risk, but you weren't aware of it, or didn't know if you had the resources to address it?

The National Fallen Firefighters Foundation (NFFF) has developed and is now making available the Vulnerability Assessment Program (VAP), an online assessment tool that provides fire departments with a systematic process to evaluate risks and ultimately mitigate these threats to firefighter safety. At the end of the process, departments will have a free customized report identifying areas of vulnerability linked to firefighter injuries and deaths. Each report contains resources that are available immediately when the survey is complete.

Fire departments can then use these reports to develop operational and strategic plans to implement the risk reduction recommendations necessary to minimize or eliminate injuries and LODDs. The VAP has many advantages over traditional fire department evaluations: it is on-line and private, secure, customizable, easy to use and free. Similar studies conducted by private consultants could cost thousands of dollars.

Over 1,000 departments have registered in VAP's first year. A number of small departments have wondered if the VAP is for them. Or, a volunteer-only organization has questioned if they are candidates for a VAP review. As one of this nation's leading authorities on fire service volunteer organizations, Chief Bill Jenaway (King of Prussia [PA] Volunteer Fire Company) has evaluated the VAP and says this: "Even though the VAP may appear to address deficiencies not applicable to small volunteer departments, *all organizations can improve* and this is a tool for identifying gaps in service for every fire department in the United States." In other words, the VAP sets a series of goals for which every department can and should aspire.

The NFFF suggests that every fire department in the United States go through the VAP exercise to identify and eliminate preventable risks. Firefighters should not die because they are unaware of safety practices that could save their lives. Please visit the VAP website at www.firevap.org to begin the process today. For more information please contactVAP@firehero.org.

Honeywell

Exclusive Corporate Funding for the VAP

