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EFFECTIVENESS OF AN AMBULANCE RISK AND HAZARD PRESENTATION

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Objective: To evaluate the effectiveness of a risk and hazard presentation among pre-hospital care-related providers.

Methods: This was a multi-site survey at five sites of attendees at an ambulance safety presentation. The survey was administered before and after a one hour graphic risk and hazard presentation. The survey assessed past work experience, on-the-job injury, and attitudes toward ambulance transport safety.

Results: Of approximately 275 participants, 234 completed the survey. A total of 185 pre-surveys and 200 post-surveys were completed; 151 of 234 respondents (matched group) completed both pre- and post-surveys. Respondents were 67% male, median age was 41 years (range: 21 to 68), and 14% had attended this presentation previously. Respondents had a median work experience of 13 years (range: 1 to 51 years) and were emergency medical technicians (EMTs) (52%), paramedics (28%), nurses (18%), and other (2%). Environments were 44% urban, 29% suburban, 20% rural, and 7% mixed rural, suburban, and urban. One fifth reported injury in a moving ambulance. Standing in the patient compartment was frequently attributed to accessing supplies, providing patient care, and reaching for equipment. Of the matched group, perception of the rear compartment as a high risk for serious injury increased from 43% (pre) to 76% (post) ($p < 0.0001$). In a ten-point Likert scale (10 = highest), the concern for safety in the back of the ambulance increased from a median of 8 (pre) to 10 (post) ($p < 0.0001$); 36% (pre) and 72% (post) scored it a 10 ($p < 0.0001$). Self-report of always wearing a seat belt was low, 14% (pre) to 19% (post). Furthermore, considering wearing a limited motion safety harness increased from 81% (pre) to 97% (post) ($p < 0.0001$); and wearing a helmet in the patient compartment increased from 31% (pre) to 81% (post) ($p < 0.0001$).

Conclusion: This presentation increased awareness and positively changed safety attitudes among pre-hospital providers, and significantly increased the consideration for use of a helmet.

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