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Connectivity

Connectivity is the name for the new organization of people in networks. The new way of communicating goes hand in hand with this. Not only people amongst themselves communicate via the „Internet of things,“ but also people with machines and machines with each other. Intelligent systems in vehicles, buildings as well as in operational clothing change the way fire departments work. However, on the flip side there is also a big danger of „incomplete superficial knowledge“ in the readily available information. The dependence on new technologies is also steadily increasing. It raises expectations of always being available and online.

Mobility

Mobility has become a basic requirement in our lives. Fire departments are facing altered operational scenarios through the new mobility. The range of mobility (E-mobility, multi-functionality, intelligent vehicles, ...) has so far created unrecognized demands for the emergency crews – but also offers new possibilities for firefighting vehicles. The trend towards „mobility/traffic“ holds a lot of opportunities in relation to life cycle, usage type, approach tactics and single-person operation. In addition, fire departments are increasingly expecting drive systems to be efficient, quiet, and clean.

Safety

The growing global prosperity heads lead to a growing need for safety. Global changes in the energy as well as cultural and political power structures combined with climate change leads to large movements of people, which will challenge the established norms of culture and security. As emergency crews and fire departments are perceived to be major pillar of safety, this also leads to additional challenges. Intelligent, networked operating system should ensure more safety support, monitor operations and reduce errors in the increasing number of operational activities. But cybercrime, in a broader sense, will also become more important due to increasing networking of fire departments and their vehicles.

New Work

The new work also mirrors the trend towards an instant society. Fire departments are also caught in this field of unresolved tension, which has been created by the change from an industrial to an information society. Lack of specialist expertise, ability to plan, and daily availability are the keywords which describe these new challenges. Additionally, handicraft skills are disappearing from the population due to the decline of craft careers. „New Work“ is dominated by social networks and cooperation. The new type of communication and more intensive networking of capacity will also characterize the work of fire departments.

Health

The „Health“ trend is characterized by the way fire departments deal with physical and mental stresses. Fire fighting operations and everyday operations increasingly focused on, among others, the reduction of stress and the monitoring and control of various vital parameters. Health therefore no longer means just the opposite of sickness, but rather a consciousness of the individual's balance of life vitality and quality. The desire for well-being and the readiness to accept personal responsibility for this yourself are also increasing for fire departments. Suitable framework conditions must be created for this. As part of health management, regular monitoring of vital functions is becoming more commonplace in fire fighting operations.

Knowledge Culture

We are on the road from an industrial to a knowledge society. Even the expectations for constantly available crowd knowledge has become virtually a matter of course. „Knowledge Culture“ as a trend describes how learning and training have changed in the age of knowledge explosion and virtuality. Education is now the key to the world. Digital media creates ever easier access to ever larger quantities of information. Online and live video training allows training to be carried out across ever larger distances in real time. Simulated training is becoming ever more important due to the high complexity of requirements.

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FIREFIGHTING TRENDMAP 3.0



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Silver Society

Life expectancy is increasing around the world. This is also true for the firefighting industry: We are all not only getting older, but also aging differently – and we are especially getting older later. This presents fire departments with a big opportunity. The longer emergency crews can stay active and the greater their experience is, the more effective the fire department. Also in this context, the passing on of practical experience and handicraft skills from the older generations to the younger ones is an important aspect. This includes new challenges for access, operation, and vehicle properties which should be suitable for different generations within a fire department. New technologies and support tools could assist the natural physical strength, for example, when lifting heavy loads.

Individualization

The trend towards „Individualization“ is one of the biggest driving forces which is massively changing society and economy – all over the world. In this society which is giving us more and more freedom, but which at the same time is putting more decision-making pressure on us, fire departments are still an important pillar in which values such as team spirit and cooperation matter. Technical systems must flexibly adapt to individual requirements.

Globalization

The trend towards „Globalization“ deals with the new global community. Nationality is losing ever more of its importance, while the surrounding region is becoming ever more important. So in this sense, the new challenge for fire departments lies in regionalization and in the merging of fire departments – also in view of capacity balancing, funds, and knowledge exchange.

Gender Shift

The „Gender Shift“ trend unveils a fundamental change in the classic gender roles in our world. An increasing number women are interested in fire fighting; equal rights is also a major keyword in fire fighting circles. The increasing deployment of female fire fighters is also changing the requirements for operating the equipment and vehicle properties. There are a lot of opportunities for the gender shift trend in daily availability and supplementary competences. Because even temporary role switching when bringing up children affects the usual availability.

Urbanization

The trend towards urbanization is presenting fire departments with new challenges. Cities are becoming more and more packed. For the first time in human history more people live in cities than in the country. By 2050, it is predicted that up to 74 % of mankind will live in cities. This brings with it corresponding danger potentials. Even volunteering and voluntary work have little meaning in the anonymous, urban world. On the other hand, through the rural exodus the young personnel for rural fire departments are reduced, which can lead to challenges as regards operational availability in the countryside.

Neo Ecology

The trend for „Neo Ecology“ is more than just „green washing“ and has finally left Birkenstock sandals behind. For fire departments, the new environmental consciousness brings with it a rethink in the areas of extinguishing agents, emissions reduction, and dependence on power. Natural disasters and climate change are areas which are also gaining importance. They also bring with them new challenges for the fire departments.

Migration

The trend towards „Migration“ represents a big challenge for the fire departments of tomorrow. Centers in which there are large concentrations of migrants require new operational tactics and a rethink of the fundamental operational procedures. Language and cultural barriers must be overcome. One extreme expression of this trend can be that migrants sometimes react to the „uniform“ of the emergency crews, due to their experiences with people in uniform. Because of these cultural differences, they are also generally only interested to a very limited extent in joining volunteer fire departments. The flow of refugees, caused by unrest, war and climate change, will only reinforce this trend in the foreseeable future.