

Project Title

EMT/First Responder Falls Prevention Education

Sponsoring Organizations

1. Wellness Institute of Greater Buffalo

Summary of Program

First responders including EMT's and Fire Fighters often become involved in falls among community dwelling older adults. Falls in this population can occur in the evening or on weekends, or when there is no other person to call to help the older adult return to a sitting or standing position. In the absence of anywhere else to turn, often these first responders are called to support older adults as they recover from a non-injury causing fall.

Although these professionals are often called upon to support older adults following a fall, they receive no training on this important issue. This program sought to bring introductory level education to first responders regarding the prevalence and common causes of falls among older adults. By raising awareness of this group of professionals they were empowered to encourage older adults to seek the appropriate intervention for his/her fall. The program did not seek to have first responders react to or educate older adults about how to decrease falls risk; rather it was a way to help older adults realize this may be an issue that requires appropriate medical intervention.

Toolkit Component

1. PowerPoint Presentation utilized for education of First Responders

Impact on Falls Prevention

This program effectively raised the awareness among first responders of the common causes of falls in community dwelling older adults. It also supports this profession in understanding the appropriate places for older adults to seek medical information and intervention regarding falls and falls risk.