



Other Cultural Considerations

- Firefighters consider their comrades as family.
- They place their lives in the hands of their peers.
- It's common to prioritize the needs of the crew over the needs of the true family members.
- Willingly risk their lives.
- Member of a culture very few outside of firefighting can understand.

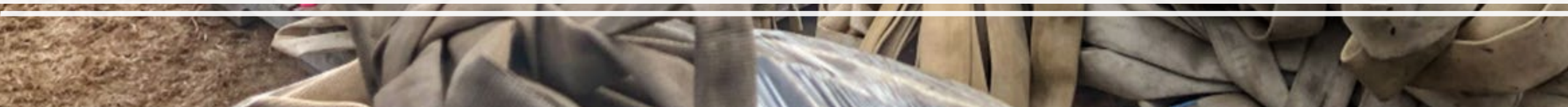
It's a Calling...Not a Job

- Knowing from the **first day** it was a **career**.
- **Opportunities** to see beautiful places and forge **lifelong friendships**.
- Adventure, excitement, and **hard work**.
- "I feel like I **got a lot more** out of being a firefighter than I **was ever able to give back**."





But What is the Cost of Doing Business?



Costs:

- **Absence** from home/spouse/family.
- **Missed** events such as birthdays and holidays.
- Life happening at home everyday and **you're not there.**
- **Long workdays** at home can be the same as being gone.
- **Continuous anxiety.** The cycle of being gone and reintegration.



Longer, Catastrophic Fire Seasons

- Coming back from an assignment or season **beaten up** from the **intensity** and **rigorous physical and mental demands**.
- **Increased exposure** to psychological trauma
- **Complexity** of assignments / lack of resources
- **Increased health hazards**
 - Smoke inhalation
 - Covid
 - Toxic substances
- **Political Concerns and Expectations**

