

GERMAN TOWNSHIP VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPT.

Rapid Intervention Training *Course Objectives*

The objectives of these training sessions is to:

- highlight safety precautions a fire fighter should follow when operating self-contained breathing apparatus
- improve an individuals ability to function with an SCBA
- review and practice techniques that will allow them to exit a hazardous position in an emergency situation or in the event of SCBA failure
- review and practice primary search techniques
- develop skills to participate in a rapid intervention team emergency operation
- develop and improve skills of fire fighter to safely and rapidly remove victim from a hostile environment
- improve an individuals self-esteem about being an interior structural fire fighter able to complete a primary search during hostile emergency operations
- increase an individuals comments on other department members abilities
- improve an individuals ability to function as a member of a team during hostile emergency operations

Operations Material required

- Wax paper
- Sounding device for evacuations
- Duct tape
- Search rope (100' & 2-50' sections)
- 600' of 1 ½ hose
- 3 - nozzles
- SCBA for each fire fighter
- extra PASS device
- tape recorder / player
- bullet heater
- red light bulb
- automatic defibrillator
- oxygen
- transport/triage plan
- fire sounds audio tape
- clipboards
- person positioned at the light panel controls on each floor

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SEARCH GUIDELINES

- wear full protective clothing including SCBA
- work in groups of two or more
- communicate frequently with each other
- use when possible a guideline such as a rope, electrical cord, or hoseline (hoseline will slow down the search)
- maintain contact with a wall when a hoseline or rope is not used. **Always stay together.**
- crawl unless vision is good
- search one room completely before moving to the next
- search under furniture, in closets, and other concealed spaces
- listen for sound of victims
- leave a sign on door for other teams to show that the room has been searched
- note fire extension and notify attack crews

Individual Material required

- Towels
- Dry shirt

Coach preparation of student at training site

At the door to the training site all coaches should fully explain the operation and briefly review the type of operation that will be performed. This coaching must be thorough and completely familiar all team members with specific assignments and emergency procedures.

Physical and mental stress involved with using SCBA

- wears close to 50 pounds of protective equipment
- tremendous cardiovascular stress on the body
- wearer should be in good physical condition and certified by the department physician
- should be alert for signs of heat-related illness
- should know personal limitations

Points to look for

1. Ask each student a different question about the SOP's. Listen carefully to their answers and correct any mistakes.
2. Be sure the students know where these SOP's are located. Give examples of past incidents of search and rescue operations, building collapse and how the team reacted.
3. Discuss the resource lists used by their departments to obtain prearranged outside resources.

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EMERGENCY PLAN

In the event an emergency is declared by any team leader all training shall immediately cease. The floor coach shall sound the freon style horn provided and advise on the tactical channel being used of the emergency and where the emergency is located. ALL lights shall be turned on in the facility. ALL training participants shall report back to Command staging. A serious medical emergency shall be treated at the scene to the best of our ability. If transport is required off the training site it shall be done to St. Mary's Hospital. Transport shall be accomplished if necessary by using fire department rescue squad at training site. The decision to transport shall be made by the IC>

While training is occurring there shall be a trained medical person with EMS equipment and defibrillator manned at all times. It shall be this person responsibility to respond to the floor where the emergency has been declared with appropriate EMS equipment.

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PRACTICAL DRILL ORIENTATION

Assemble the students at the entrance to the area that is to be used for the practical drill. Allow the students to ask questions and explain your answers clearly. Guide the students as to the evolution scenario. Check out the team preparation. Before allowing students in the scenario review all safety procedures and safety equipment.

SCBA AIR SUPPLY LIMITATIONS

1. fire fighter conditioning
2. task being performed
3. level of training
4. operational environment
5. degree of excitement
6. controlled breathing technique

SCBA SAFETY PRECAUTIONS

1. check to make sure SCBA is functioning properly before entering hazardous atmosphere
 - check to make sure that low air alarm is functioning
 - check cylinder and mainline valve to see that they are fully open
2. close mainline and use by-pass valve intermittently in an emergency
3. remove the SCBA only when fire fighter is clear of hazardous atmosphere
work in groups of two
4. never leave your partner in a hazardous area or allow them to leave you
ENTER and EXIT TOGETHER ALWAYS

SCBA EMERGENCY SITUATIONS

1. do not panic
2. stop and think where you are, how you got there, and then reverse steps
3. listen for other fire fighters, sounds outside the building, etc.
4. follow hoseline or safety rope out (remember at the coupling connection, the male coupling is on the exit side of the connection)
5. follow wall to exit or window
6. make noise so that others can hear you
7. activate PASS device
8. stick hose from mask inside turnout coat
9. evacuation signal (one continuous blast on horn)

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Evolution #1

Intended to test a fire fighters ability to exit the structure in an emergency situation

Coach can lead fire fighters into the room or structure and tell them to find their way out before having the fire fighters enter the room tell the fire fighter which evacuation method to use

- follow a hoseline
- follow a safety line
- follow the walls to a door or exit
- crawl in a straight line

Fire fighter may be sent in to perform a search, and the standard evacuation signal can be sounded to order them out

The following criteria should be met for each evolution:

1. fire fighter exits in a timely manner - absolute maximum time should be before the air supply in the SCBA expires
2. fire fighter is calm; a sense of panic is not detected
3. teams stay together at all times
4. fire fighter follows the techniques that he or she has been instructor to use
5. fire fighter does not stand up or remove facepiece
6. fire fighters uses the proper emergency breathing technique, if instructed to use one

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Evolution #2

ASSISTED EXIT EVOLUTION

The purpose of this evolution is for a R.I.T. to locate a disoriented fire fighter and lead them to the exit.

Scenario Description

A fire fighter is separated from their partner and instead of trying to find their own way out they **will sound their PASS device** and the R.I.T. will enter the building and locate the disoriented fire fighter and lead them out. Once located the fire fighters leave the building using one of the previously listed techniques. Evolution is complete when all fire fighters are safely outside the training area. Each evolution should be evaluated by a qualified instructor or senior fire fighter.

The following criteria should be met for each evolution:

1. the disoriented fire fighter must make enough noise to be located
2. the search team must locate the disoriented fire fighters within 10 minutes of entering the structure / preferably before anyone exhausts their air supply
3. the fire fighter exits in a timely manner. The absolute maximum time should be before the air supply in the SCBA expires
4. fire fighter is calm; a sense of panic is not detected
5. teams stay together at all times
6. fire fighter follows the techniques that he or she has been instructor to use
7. fire fighter does not stand up or remove facepiece

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Evolution #3

SEARCH AND RESCUE FOR CIVILIAN

The objective of this training session is for a team of fire fighters to enter a structure and complete a primary search of the area for a civilian victim without encountering fire.

Scenario Description

Firefighters arrive at the scene of a working structure fire and are assigned to complete a primary search of one floor.

1. two fire fighters enter a structure to complete primary search of the entire structure in full protective clothing with SCBA and PASS device in operation
2. search team shall use a hoseline (rope) as their life line
3. search team shall complete primary search of area in a rapid fashion
4. search team shall use the wall search (crash and dash) technique
5. search team shall safely exit the building upon locating victim

The following criteria should be met for each evolution:

1. the search team must locate the injured civilian within 10 minutes of entering the structure / preferably before anyone exhausts their air supply
2. the fire fighter exits in a timely manner. The absolute maximum time should be before the air supply in the SCBA expires
3. fire fighter is calm; a sense of panic is not detected
4. teams stay together at all times
5. fire fighter follows the techniques that he or she has been instructor to use
6. fire fighter does not stand up or remove facepiece

Review questions to be discussed immediately at the conclusion of the evolution

1. Does our department have an effective procedure for ordering an evacuation?
How can it be better?
2. Which was more effective, yelling, calling for help on radio or sounding the PASS device, for locating the disoriented fire fighter?
3. Which was the best method for exiting the structure?
4. Do our department's emergency breathing techniques work well? What would be better?
5. Describe our departmental search and rescue procedures. Are they consistent with standard techniques? Could they be improved?
6. Did the guidelines make the search easier
7. What is the easiest way to remove an unconscious victim?
8. Was the training exercise realistic?

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Evolution #4

LOST FIRE FIGHTER EVOLUTION

The objective of this training session is for a team of fire fighters to enter a structure and complete a primary search of the area for a lost fire fighter. The team may encounter fire.

Scenario Description

Two fire fighters leave the building and report to the Incident Commander that one fire fighter of a three person crew has been lost on the third floor of the building. The exiting crew report that they had searched two rooms completely when they returned to the hallway they found a nozzle but could not locate fire fighter Jefferson. They made a primary search of the hallway along with a primary search of the remaining rooms on the third floor but could not locate fire fighter. There is **no PASS device sounding**.

You are the R.I.T. leader with an assigned crew of two fire fighters. Your task is to locate the missing fire fighter.

1. three fire fighters enter a structure to complete primary search of the entire structure in full protective clothing with SCBA and PASS device in operation.
2. search team shall use a hoseline (rope) as their life line
3. search team shall complete primary search of area in a rapid fashion
4. search team shall use the wall search (crash and dash) technique
5. search team shall safely exit the building upon locating victim

The following criteria should be met for each evolution:

1. the search team must locate the lost fire fighter within 10 minutes of entering the structure / preferably before anyone exhausts their air supply
2. the fire fighter exits in a timely manner after locating the lost fire fighter. The absolute maximum time should be before the air supply in the SCBA expires
3. fire fighter is calm; a sense of panic is not detected
4. teams stay together at all times
5. fire fighter follows the techniques that he or she has been instructed to use
6. fire fighter does not stand up or remove facepiece

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Evolution #5

PASS DEVICE LOCATION ACTIVITY

1. Place a PASS device that is sounding in a given location on the second floor.
2. The coach instructs students about the evolution and the goal of the scenario.
3. The timer starts when the fire fighters enter the stairway leading to the second floor. The fire fighters must crawl for the entire duration of the activity.
4. When the PASS device is located, the fire fighters must pick it up, reverse their direction, and exit the area through the same exit they entered. Stop the timer when the last fire fighter clears the exit.

The PASS device must be located in the exact same spot for each team until all teams have completed that round.

An appropriate award may be presented to the team that completes the evolution in the least amount of time.

DISQUALIFICATIONS

- If the fire fighters are following a hose or rope, they may not lose contact with it.
- The fire fighter may not split up and operate apart from each other.
- A fire fighter stands up.

The following criteria should be met for each evolution:

1. the search team must locate the PASS before anyone exhausts their air supply
2. the fire fighter exits in a timely manner after locating the lost PASS device.
The absolute maximum time should be before the air supply in the SCBA expires
3. fire fighter is calm; a sense of panic is not detected
4. teams stay together at all times
5. fire fighter follows the techniques that he or she has been instructor to use fire fighter does not stand up or remove facepiece

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Evolution #6

DRESS FOR FIRE ACTIVITY

This activity tests the fire fighters ability to quickly dress for an alarm when you arrive on scene.

The timer starts when the fire fighter touches the first piece of protective clothing. The fire fighter dons the protective clothing; including buttoning or snapping all closures. Protective clothing includes; trousers, coat, hood, gloves, helmet, SCBA on air and PASS is turned on. The timer ends when the fire fighter touches the entrance door.

DISQUALIFICATION

- Any item is missed
- Protective clothing is not properly donned.
- The SCBA is not turned on
- The facepiece seal is leaking

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Evolution #7

Rope Search Techniques

The general description of this scenario is that instead of using a hoseline or after reaching the nozzle and still trying to complete a R.I.T. operation the team of 3 firefighters would use a main line rope of approximately 100' in length and two tag lines not to exceed 25' in length to complete a search of an area.

This evolution can be used as a modified version of #2, #4, #5 scenarios attached.

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SKILLS CHECK / SEARCH AND RESCUE RAPID INTERVENTION TEAM

#	Action / evolution	Date	Initial
1.	Classroom training completed		
2.	Training site orientation completed		
3.	Verification of fire fighter health / fitness for qualification as an interior structural fire fighter from home department.		
4.	Protective clothing check. (helmet, hood, gloves, coat, pants, boots, accountability tag)		
5.	Safety rules check (page #4)		
6.	Evacuation procedures check (page #4)		
7.	Search guidelines review (page #3)		
8.	Preparation of self and team for R.I.T. capability		
9.	Completion of basic search and rescue evolution with hoseline for a civilian		
10.	Completion of basic search and rescue evolution with rope system for a civilian		
11.	Completion of lost fire fighter evolution		
12.	Completion of assisted exit evolution		
13.	Completion of PASS device location evolution		
14.	Completion of dress for fire evolution		
15.	Completion of maze search evolution		

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COACHING CHECKLIST PRIOR TO ENTERING STRUCTURE

- Give Assignments**
- Coach Students on Search Procedures**
 - work in groups of two or more
 - communicate frequently with each other
 - use when possible a guideline such as a rope, electrical cord, or hoseline
 - **Always stay together.**
 - crawl unless vision is good
 - search one room completely before moving to the next
 - search under furniture, in closets, and other concealed spaces
 - listen for sound of victims
 - leave sign on door for other teams to show that room has been searched
 - note fire extension and notify attack crews
- Coach Students on Survival Skills**
 - remove the SCBA only when fire fighter is clear of hazardous atmosphere
 - work in groups of two
 - never leave your partner in a hazardous area or allow them to leave you
 - **ENTER and EXIT TOGETHER ALWAYS**
 - do not panic
 - stop and think where you are, how you got there, and then reverse steps
 - listen for other fire fighters, sounds outside the building, etc.
 - follow hoseline or safety rope out
 - follow wall to exit or window
 - make noise so that others can hear you
 - activate PASS device
 - stick hose from mask inside turnout coat

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- Coach Students on Emergency Evacuation Procedure**
 - evacuation signal (one continuous blast on horn)
- Coach Students on Firefighter “Mayday” signal**
- Check Students Readiness**
 - SCBA**
 - check to make sure SCBA is functioning properly before entering hazardous atmosphere
 - check to make sure that low air alarm is functioning
 - check cylinder and mainline valve to see that they are fully open
 - close mainline and use by-pass valve intermittently in an emergency
 - Protective Clothing**
 - Helmet**
 - Hood**
 - Bunker Coat**
 - Bunker Pants**
 - Gloves**

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