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PURPOSE

The purpose of this procedure is to establish standard guidelines for conducting structural training fires while complying with NFPA Standard 1403. All other Peoria Fire-Medical Department procedures will also apply to training fires where applicable. See Standard Operating Procedure 202.14a for training fires at GRPSTC Academy.

The objective of a training fire is to provide realistic fire ground training under actual fire conditions for recruit and uniformed firefighters while providing high levels of safety and minimizing risk to firefighters.

Training fires will be designed to minimize the risk and to control the fire conditions so that firefighters are not unnecessarily exposed to hazards or injuries.

Training fires present the same hazards as those encountered at actual field incidents. The Incident Command System employed at actual fire incidents will be Standard Operating Procedure at all structural training fires. Refer to Volume II, Standard Operating Procedures.

POLICY

Command

One Officer on the scene shall be designated as “Command” and will assume the Command functions.

A Command Post shall be established and positioned to afford maximum visibility of the structure, operating companies and fire conditions.

Communications

Command is responsible for establishing radio communications with each company officer or training officer involved in the drill. Channel assignment must be coordinated with the Alarm Room and Deployment and all companies involved. Companies operating at the training fire will continuously monitor the assigned radio channel. All radios will be checked for proper functioning and correct channel prior to initiating training fire operations.

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Sectors

To eliminate confusion, and provide adequate scene control, all personnel operating within the fireground perimeter shall operate under the direction of a sector officer. The fireground perimeter shall be defined as the hazardous area surrounding the burn structure and shall be determined by Command following guidelines stated in Fireground Safety.

The following sectors shall be established on all structural-training fires.

- Interior
 - Company or training officer directing interior suppression activities.
- Exposure
 - Provide manned, charged hoseline positioned to protect exposed property. More than one hoseline (and therefore, more than one sector) may be required, depending on the exposure present.
- Rescue (RIC)
 - Provide a manned, charged back-up line for each fire attack team, in position to assist in fire extinguishment and rescue of interior personnel. This sector will be manned by experienced firefighting personnel (not recruit firefighters) and each Rapid Intervention Crew (RIC) shall consist of a minimum of three firefighters. A company officer shall be in charge of each RIC unit. Three shall be one rescue (RIC) team for each fire attack team. The RIC will be positioned in a ready-state near the exterior point of entry.
- Rehab
 - All personnel not assigned to other sectors will be under the direction of Rehab. Rehab area will be established in a location that reduces congestion around the fire building.
- Safety
 - The Safety Officer (or a safety representative) will be in attendance at all structural training fires and will assume safety sector responsibilities. The safety sector will monitor personnel and fire conditions, and work with Command to ensure all safety procedures are complied with, and that risk to personnel is minimized.
- Other Sectors
 - Other sectors may be established as necessary to control training/fire control operations and to minimize risk to firefighters.

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Safety

The Safety Officer shall have full authority to intervene and control or stop any aspect of the operations when in his/her judgment, a potential or real risk to personnel exists. He/she will not be assigned other duties that would distract from his/her safety responsibilities.

Additional Safety Officers may be assigned to the training fire if the conditions dictate. Responsibilities of the Safety Officer(s) will include but not be limited to the prevention of unsafe acts and elimination of unsafe conditions.

Company Officers acting as instructors will be responsible for the direct supervision of assigned students and their safety and welfare, including the prevention of unsafe acts and the elimination of unsafe conditions.

Fire Department personnel will not be permitted to operate on the roof during active fire conditions in the building.

The number of personnel involved in training fires often exceeds the number normally assigned at actual incidents. To reduce risk, and assist with scene management, training fire participants shall be formed into individual companies consisting of no more than four (4) members and supervised by a company officer.

Exposing recruit firefighters to structural training fires presents special safety considerations. All sector officers should anticipate that a recruit firefighter's exposure to interior fire conditions might be less than orderly. To reduce the possibility of injury, the span of control for interior operations shall not exceed two recruits for each company or training officer.

All firefighters involved in structural training fires shall have received training to meet the performance objectives of Firefighter I, NFPA 1001 in:

- Forcible Entry
- Protective Breathing Apparatus
- Fire Hose, Nozzles, and appliances
- Fire Streams
- Ladders
- Ventilation
- Rescue

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- Safety
- Fire Behavior

No personnel shall be permitted to act as a victim(s) during live training fires.

To reinforce safety procedures, a protective clothing and equipment inspection shall be conducted on all firefighters immediately prior to and after engaging in suppression activities. The inspection shall insure that all clothing and equipment is serviceable and worn in a manner to provide the maximum personal protection.

The Safety Officer will be responsible for completing the safety checklist prior to initiating the training exercise.

One Officer on the scene shall be designated as an accountability officer and will assume the accountability functions.

To enhance accountability and to improve tracking of firefighters in the Hot Zone, the "PASSPORT" system shall be used.

Personnel Accountability Report or "PAR" shall be used at the following accountability benchmarks:

- Upon entering the structure.
- Any report of a trapped or missing firefighter.
- By all crews reporting an "all Clear".
- At a report of fire under control.
- Upon exiting the structure.
- Sudden hazardous event.
- Change from offensive to defensive mode.
- At the discretion of Command.

Passports will remain with the designated accountability officer near the "point of entry" to the Hot Zone. Upon entry, crews will turn in their PASSPORT. Upon exit, the crew must retrieve their PASSPORT. The accountability status board will contain only the PASSPORTS of those crews in the Hot Zone.

Access to the training fire building will be controlled by fire line tape that shall be stretched around the fire building perimeter.

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Personnel within this perimeter may be permitted to operate with the SCBA facepiece removed. All other protective clothing items shall be in place.

All personnel not wearing appropriate protective clothing and equipment shall remain outside the fire line perimeter.

Required Fire Equipment and Companies

Two separate sources of hydrant water or water tenders that are compliant NFPA 1403 standards shall be established (two Engine Companies minimum). The water supply shall be test flowed by the forward pumper to insure adequate water supply of a minimum of 500 gallons per minute.

All fire attach hoselines shall be supplied by one pumper. A second pumper shall supply the RIC unit backup hoselines. All hoselines will be flow tested to confirm a minimum of 95 gallons per minute.

An On-duty Battalion Chief or other Chief Officer designated by the Operations Chief shall be on scene to supervise the overall operations.

A utility truck and a rescue shall be on scene prior to the start of the burn. An ALS company shall also be on scene.

Access to the scene shall be controlled to permit emergency access to and from the site.

All apparatus will be appropriately placed or staged in accordance with the Peoria Fire-Medical Department Standard Operating Procedures.

Starting the Fire

The use of flammable or combustible liquids, s defined in NFPA 30, shall be prohibited for use in live fire training evolutions. Only Class A material shall be used in live fire training. The ignition process will be conducted under the direct supervision of the Safety Officer. Command shall assign an experienced firefighter to become "FIRESTARTER". It is the responsibility of the FIRESTARTER to initially ignite the fire.

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FIRESTARTER shall also regulate the fuel load for each evolution to maintain a tenable atmosphere inside the burn rooms.

Pre-Planning

The officer in charge of the drill will conduct an initial inspection of the burn site. If the building appears acceptable, he/she will make an appointment with the Safety Officer to inspect the building.

Single-story structures shall always be considered first choice when selecting training in interior firefighting operations. Two-story structures will only be considered when the building has been thoroughly inspected by the Safety Officer and the Command Officer. Both officers must agree that the building is structurally sound for training burns. Adequate egress/access points on the second floor must be readily available.

The officer coordinating the training fire will inspect the building with the Safety officer. The building must meet fire safety and structural integrity criteria before approval to conduct a training fire is given by the Safety Officer. The Safety Officer shall have full authority to deny approval if the building is determined unsafe. Buildings incapable of withstanding exposure to fire conditions shall not be utilized. Buildings with bars on windows or doors that cannot be removed shall not be utilized.

Traffic control will also be a major factor for consideration in approving live structural training fires. Approval will not be given where traffic cannot be effectively controlled or re-routed.

Building Preparation Obtaining Permission and Permits

The Training Officer coordinating the live structure burn shall be responsible for obtaining all releases, permits and other approvals and releases relating to the training fire. They shall include, but not necessarily be limited to the follow:

- Confirm a clear title on the property.
- Obtain written permission from the building owner.
- Verify ownership of the selected building.
- Obtain documented proof of cancellation of insurance on the selected building.
- Obtain a burn permit from Fire Prevention.
- Obtain permission to burn form Air Quality Control.
- Obtain approval from immediate supervisor.

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- Obtain approval of Safety Officer.
- An approved asbestos removal contractor shall ensure that all forms of asbestos deemed hazardous to personnel have been removed.

Site Preparation

The following preparations will be made prior to conducting a training fire in a structure:

- Confirm that utility service (gas and electric, etc.) has been disconnected.
- All debris will be cleared from entrances and exits and from the immediate exterior area.
- At least two points of egress shall be provided in all training fire structures.
- All interior contents shall be arranged to permit free access to and egress from all rooms.
- No additional combustible, or smoke generating substance other than wood pallets or other Class A materials will be added to any structure.
- The fire load shall be conservative.
- Low-density combustible fiberboard and unconventional interior finishes shall be removed.
- All windows and doors to be used for egress or emergency evacuation will be checked for and made capable of unrestricted opening.
- Structures will be pre-vented at the roof. The roof vent opening may be covered with an appropriate material. A metal cable will be attached to prevent burn-through and the cable will be extended to the ground. The vent cover will be removed at an appropriate time during fire attack operations to permit ventilation and prevent flashover or backdraft.
- Heavy roof, attic, or ceiling equipment or fixtures, etc., shall be removed.
- Pre-trained fire checklist shall be completed.

Attack Plan

The Officer in charge shall develop an attack plan based upon information obtained during the pre-plan and building preparation stages.

- Points of ignition
- Amount of fire load
- Position of entry attack lines
- Position of RIC units
- A rescue plan

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All personnel involved in the drill shall be instructed on each element of the attack plan prior to igniting the structure and shall receive a **walk through briefing** of the building prior to **each** training fire. An evacuation plan and signal shall be reviewed and agreed upon.

Re-Burn of Live Burn Building

The building will be re-inspected by the Safety Officer for structural integrity and for any hazards or unsafe conditions prior to each additional training fire in the structure.

Notification of Training Fire Activities

Prior to conducting structural training fires, the following notification must be made.

- Fire Prevention – A burning permit must be obtained for all burns
- Dispatch & Deployment – location, time, type of burn, companies being utilized.
- On-duty Public Information Officer (PIO)
- Battalion Chief whose battalion the training fire will be in.
- Safety Officer
- Air Quality Control
- Occupants of adjoining property
- Police Department
- City Council member whose district the training fire will be conducted

Records and Reports

The following records and reports shall be maintained on all live fire training for two years.

- An accounting of the activities conducted.
- Roll call of all participants, including the Safety Officer and other support personnel.
- Documentation of unusual conditions or events encountered.
- Any injuries and treatment provided.
- Copy of “Transfer of Authority” form signed by property owner.
- Copies of all permits, releases or other documents relating to the training fire.
- Records of critiques.

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Pre-Training Fire Checklist

- On site building inspection by Safety Officer
- Building structure was analyzed for structural integrity
- Exposures evaluated
- Special Hazards considered
- Access to site and all sides of building adequate
- Water supply from two hydrants or water tenders are adequate
- Street traffic blockage considered
- Exterior debris, trees, and brush cleared
- Two points of egress/exits available
- Windows/doors unrestricted
- Interior access unobstructed; uncomplicated
- Ceiling fixtures removed
- Interior combustibles fire load reasonable/conservative
- Permits/permission and other documentation obtained
- Evidence of prerequisite training (NFPA 1001) obtained for students from outside agencies
- Adjacent property owners notified
- All utilities disconnected
- Heavy attic or roof objects removed
- Porches, steps, or railing made safe
- Notification made
- Fire Prevention
- Dispatch & Deployment
- Public Information Officer
- Battalion Chief in Training Area
- Safety Officer
- Police
- Air Quality Control

ON-SITE BURN OPERATIONS CHECKLIST

- Adequate fire apparatus on site
- ALS company on-scene
- Rescue on-scene

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- Rehab on-scene
- Utility truck on-scene
- Two separate hydrant water sources secured or minimum of 2000 gallons supplied by water tenders, for structures without exposures.
- Pumpers flow tested for a minimum 500 GPM water supply
- Roof pre-vented with adequate opening
- Vent covers with cable ground
- Fire load; conservative; not excessive
- Ignition location determined
- Safe ignition fuel utilized
- Ignited person fully protected with protective clothing/SCBA
- Protective line for igniter person; manned and charged
- Ignition from exterior only
- Chief Officer on site as Incident Commander
- Safety Officer (or representative) on-scene
- Command and sectors established
- Command location identified and announced
- All radios checked for proper functioning/channel
- Sectors established
 - Interior
 - Exposure(s)
 - RIC(s)
 - Rehab
 - Safety
 - Other
- Attack lines in place, flow tested for a minimum of ~~95~~ 150 GPM each
- RIC unit in place, flow tested for a minimum of ~~95~~ 150 GPM each
- RIC unit staffed by minimum of three firefighters
- One backup RIC unit in place (with hoselines) for each fire attack entry team
- Attack lines from one pumper, RIC lines from a separate pumper
- Fire attack entry and RIC unit fully “suited up” in protective equipment, PASS unit and SCBA checked for proper functioning
- Company Officers in charge of each entry and RIC unit
- Specific plan of operation established, understood by all
- Walk through briefing conducted for all crews

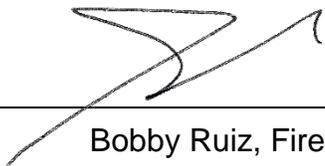
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- Rescue plan established, understood by all
- Emergency evacuation plan and signal determined and agreed upon
- Fire line tape in place
- Provisions for on site sanitary facilities/ "Porta Jon", etc.
- Accountability Officer established

POST BURN CHECKLIST

- All personnel accounted for
- Equipment and clothing checked for damage
- Remaining fires overhauled/controlled
- Critique conducted
- Total Extinguishment completed at end of training operations
- Copy of "Transfer of Authority" form signed by building owner
- Building secured or made safe
- Bunker gear and equipment decontaminated

Approved:



 Bobby Ruiz, Fire Chief

06/17/2020

 Date