

# This month's *Working Fire...*

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**Volume 00-1: January 2000**  
**Approx. Program Length: 52:12**

## **FIRELINE**

### **Trench Recovery Gloucester Township, NJ**

**Approx. length: 10:01**

A water line worker was working in a twelve-foot deep trench when it caved in, partially burying him. He was dead by the time rescue workers arrived after attempts to rescue him by co-workers failed. The recovery took seven hours using three technical rescue teams as the trench had to be completely shored before rescuers could begin the removal in earnest. Mutual aid coordination, rotation, and rehab were all a part of this incident. For more information, contact Battalion Chief Dennis Reilly, Cherry Hill Fire Department, 301 Burnt Mill Road, Cherry Hill, NY 08003 or call him at 856-424-5546.

### **Ferris Wheel Rescue Newark, DE**

**Approx. length: 6:19**

Only two passengers were riding the church carnival Ferris wheel when the ride's cable fell off its pulley — fortunately, they were only twenty feet off the ground. After stabilizing the Ferris wheel with ropes and chains and the ride's chair from below with a pike pole, rescuers brought in an aerial ladder and slowly removed the two occupants. Both occupants were harnessed to the ride while the removal was accomplished. Also included is an interview with an assistant state fire marshal as the ride operator had neither the proper permits nor insurance. For more information, contact Engine Captain Larry Duhadaway, Christiana Fire Company, 2 East Main Street, Newark, DE 19702 or call him at 302-737-2433.

## **HANDS-ON**

### **Ventilation Basics, Part IV**

**Approx. length: 10:06**

This is the conclusion of a multi-part series on ventilation basics. This month, we take a good look at the tools used for ventilation, both on the roof and horizontal ventilation on the ground. For more information, contact Captain Robert Czerwinski, Head of Training, Pittsfield Fire Department, Main Fire Station, 74 Columbus Avenue, Pittsfield, MA 01201 or call him at 413-448-9255.

## **This month's *Working Fire*...**

### **HANDS-ON (cont.)**

#### **Firefighter Arson Part II**

**Approx. length: 6:44**

In the second of four segments, we continue to examine the subject of firefighter arson. This month, our fire marshal roundtable discuss the psychological motivation for the crime, statistics on the behavior, the vanity aspect involved, the prevalence of the youth-firesetter, and the attitude of the courts. For more information, contact Working Fire at 800-516-3473.

### **FIRE MEDICS**

#### **Vehicle Check: BLS Part II**

**Approx. length: 11:52**

We continue our useful series on checking EMS vehicles for the new year; this month, we examine a Basic Life Support (BLS) unit and review its inventory of medical equipment and aids. Responders should check their own state and local regulations for mandatory requirements regarding what equipment must be on board. For more information, contact Captain Raymond Davis, EMS Coordinator, City of Troy Fire Department, 2175 6th Avenue, Troy, N.Y. 12180 or call him at 518-270-4471.

### **EVOLUTIONS 2000**

#### **Kramer vs. Kramer Technical Rescue**

**Approx. length: 2:42**

*Working Fire* and Professor/Chief Bill Kramer present our Continuing Education segment that's worth one credit from the University of Cincinnati. Following up on this month's *Fireline* segments on rescues, Bill discusses the issue of technical rescues and questions whether the existence of technical rescue teams enhance or diminish the firefighting mission. For more information, contact Professor Bill Kramer at the Open Learning Fire Service Program, College of Applied Science, 2220 Victory Parkway, ML #103, Cincinnati, Ohio 45206 or call 513-556-6583.

## **This month's *Working Fire*...**

### ***From the Departments Involved...***

#### **DISCUSSION QUESTIONS FOR THIS MONTH'S INCIDENTS**

The departments involved in this month's incidents pose some discussion questions that you can use as discussion-starters in your own department's training sessions. Let's kick it around!

#### ***Trench Recovery/Gloucester Township, NJ Battalion Chief Dennis Reilly, Cherry Hill Fire Dept.***

1. Does your department try to keep current on construction projects in your jurisdiction that could be preplanned?
2. In this incident, workers tried to rescue the victim first before calling for help. Have you ever considered offering a safety procedures course to local construction and utilities companies on what to do in the event of an emergency of this type?
3. Mutual aid assistance was crucial in this incident. Consider simulating a trench rescue with your mutual aid partners.
4. Any rescue involving a fatality is difficult, particularly when the recovery involves working in the proximity of the corpse for any length of time. Do you have a Critical Incident Stress Management procedure established and know when to implement it?

#### ***Ferris Wheel Rescue/Newark, DE Engine Captain Larry Duhadaway/Christiana Fire Company***

1. Think about your department or fire marshal paying local fairs and carnivals a visit to check for permits and insurance. Shutting offenders down in advance could avoid a rescue — or worse — later.
2. In the event of such a rescue, take information from the operator advisedly; he/she may not be truthful or accurate in his/her statements. Proceed with the rescue exercising all due caution for the safety of the responders. All rescuers and victims should be harnessed if they are off the ground and relying on the structure for stability.

# Enhanced Training

## Ventilation Basics, Pt. IV

### Objectives

After watching this program, the student shall:

1. be made aware of the tools involved and understand how they are used
2. be made aware of the need for safety while working on roofs.

### Standards & Regulations

This training is consistent with NFPA 1500 and all relevant OSHA regulations.

### Training Outline

#### TOOLS & PROCEDURES

##### I. LADDERS

- A. Make sure the butt of the ladder is anchored in stable ground. On concrete, macadam, or blacktop, make sure additional personnel are available to secure the ladder and keep it from kicking out.
- B. Consider tying off the ladder to something stable on the building.
- C. With an extension ladder, make sure the pawls are locked and that the ladder extends above and beyond the roof line by a few rungs.
- D. On a steep pitched roof, use the roof ladder to give you support and spread your weight out over the roof line.
- E. If the ladder is wood or fiberglass, make sure the beams have no cracks; if they're aluminum, check that there are no bends. Check the rungs for stability and make sure the roof hooks are clean and functioning.

##### II. HAND TOOLS

- A. "The Irons": a Halligan Bar and a Pick-Headed Ax.
  1. Use the flat-head side of the ax to pry up shingles; you can use the top part of the flat head to break up slate roofs.

## Ventilation Basics, Pt. IV

**SAFETY POINT!** BE SURE AND WARN OTHERS DOWN BELOW ABOUT FALLING SLATE BEFORE YOU BEGIN!

2. Use the pick to grab or pull apart plywood or planking under the shingles after a hole is cut through.
3. Use the halligan bar to break up slate and as a safety anchor. Drive the pick into the roof to secure the tool. Then put your foot against the adz end to brace yourself when working aloft.

### B. Power Tools: Rotating, Circular (“K-12”) Saw and the Chain Saw

1. On the Rotary Saw, the drive belt operates the saw blade.
2. Keep an assortment of blades for cutting different materials: a carbide-tip blade is good for cutting wooden roofs and thin sheet metal; a masonry blade is used for concrete, bricks, etc.
3. Make sure there are no cracks in the blades, the saw has gas, and will start on command. Test-run it every week.
4. The Chain Saw was adapted from the forestry industry and is now used in the fire service for roof ventilation. The depth guide helps control the depth of the cut. Check it regularly and service all saws once a year.
5. Keep a blade cover over the blade when not in use to protect the blade from getting nicked and from nicking firefighters. Invest in a good blade that will last and which may be able to be refinished.

### C. Climbing the Ladder

1. Use the “bear” technique: right foot, right hand; left foot, left hand. Always hold on as you step off carefully, making sure the ladder is stable and doesn’t kick out as you get off.
2. Having brought hand tools with you, use the ax head to rap it vertically against a wood roof to sound out the position of roof rafters and supports. On a sheet metal roof, nail heads will tell you where the sheet metal is attached.
3. Cut in between the rafters so as not to ruin the integrity of the roof underneath you. Making a three-sided cut, start with an inspection hole three to four feet wide, if possible. It’s better to cut one large hole than numerous small ones. Make it a good-sized hole, as close to the roof peak as possible. Start high and work your way down, always working toward the windward side of the building.
4. Always bring with you a fifty-foot nylon rope which you can tie off and use to bring equipment up or down. Also bring a well-charged flashlight — it may be dark up there!

Answers to the questions on Page 7:

1. True 2. False 3. False
4. d. 5. e.

## Ventilation Basics, Pt. IV

### III. HORIZONTAL VENTILATION

- A. With a room-and-contents fire, open a window, if possible, on the side of the house to ventilate the room ahead of an advancing hose line.
  1. Break the window with a tool (ax, halligan, or pike pole). **SAFETY POINT!** ALWAYS WEAR GLOVES AND EYE PROTECTION! Start high, so the first vented smoke will go out over your head; then work down.
  2. Clear away all the glass and frame. Reach in and grab the curtains and pull them out as well, so there will be nothing to burn, tangle, or impede progress.

### IV. GENERAL SUGGESTIONS

- A. Preplan: think about the kind of ventilation you would use on the structures in your jurisdiction.
- B. **PRACTICE SAFETY!** Always wear the proper personal protective equipment (PPE) and SCBA. Exercise extra care when working on roofs.

## Ventilation Basics, Pt. IV: Quiz

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Chief/T.O. \_\_\_\_\_

Firefighter (print) \_\_\_\_\_

Education Credits/  
Hours/Units \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

### Select the best answer:

1. True or False: A Halligan Bar can be used for stability when up on a roof.
2. True or False: Having a rope on a roof is a bad idea because it can get tangled and trip you, knocking you off the roof.
3. True or False: There is nothing wrong with doing tall ladder work by yourself.
4. When it comes to handling saws:
  - a. saw blade covers are a good idea
  - b. blade depth gauges are a good idea
  - c. checking the blade while it's spinning is a bad idea
  - d. all of the above are true.
5. When it comes to handling ladders:
  - a. always secure a ladder standing on hard ground to the leg of the firefighter holding the ladder
  - b. make sure the ends of the ladder come up just a little short of the eaves of the building so you can more easily hop off the ladder and on to the roof.
  - c. roof hooks are primarily used for hanging the ladder on a fire truck.
  - d. Bends in the beams of an aluminum ladder are useful for climbing up on a curved structure.
  - e. none of the above are true.

*(See answers at the top of page 6)*

# Enhanced Training

## Firefighter Arson. Pt. II

### Objectives

After watching this program, the student shall:

1. understand the motivation for the behavior of firefighter arson
2. be more aware of the judicial system view of firefighter arson.

### Standards & Regulations

This training is consistent with NFPA 1500 and appropriate OSHA regulations.

### Training Outline

#### I. PSYCHOLOGICAL BEHAVIORS

- A. Behaviors occur only if the person practicing the behavior gets something out of it; that is, the behavior “works” for that person.
  1. If we don’t get something out of the behavior, we drop the behavior.
  2. Firesetters are getting something out of the act: excitement, attention, or some other gratification.
- B. The “Hero” Aspect:
  1. Much like sports figures, firefighters are often viewed as heroes because they command respect and are looked up to in the community.
  2. To the child growing up, the firefighting activities appear exciting as well. The dysfunctional person doesn’t realize that the hero aspect isn’t the job *itself*; it just comes *with* job of firefighting.

#### II. FIREFIGHTER/DEPARTMENT RESPONSIBILITY

- A. We as firefighters are often at fault for the way we describe what we do: “that was a *good* fire, that was a *great* fire.” A person with a poor grip on reality may misunderstand such remarks.
- B. Statistics indicate that firefighter arsonists often incorrectly assume that other firefighters also share their fascination with fire. Part of their fantasy is seeing themselves putting out fires they themselves have started. Firefighters should play down the glamorizing aspect of the job.

Answers to the questions on Page 10:

1. False 2. True 3. False  
4. d. 5. e.

## Firefighter Arson, Pt. II

- C. Departments that use stipends for “calls made” or otherwise incentivize the firefighting activity may be doing a disservice. A better alternative would be to incentivize for training or “drills made.” This removes the fire reward from the reward process.

### III. VANITY & PEER PRESSURE

- A. Vanity prompts the insecure firefighter to act negatively: attempting to seek recognition from his peers and/or the community.
- B. In one case, a firefighter stated that he set fires because other firefighters had teased him because he had never been inside a working fire. Caution should be practiced among firefighters not to let peer pressure provoke the dysfunctional firefighter to act rashly by sending the wrong message.
- C. Peer pressure of this type has been a claim made by convicted firefighter arsonists who have attempted to seek a prison sentence reduction.
- D. Departments will continue to receive resumes from identified firesetters, affirming the fantasy, delusional aspect of the behavior.

### IV. JUDICIAL VIEW

- A. Because arson fires are often small, the court system doesn't take such fires seriously.
- B. The danger is that the firesetting behavior grows as the perpetrator sets bigger and bigger fires. Such perpetrators should be identified early and supplied with therapy before they become a menace to the community at large.

## Firefighter Arson, Pt. II: Quiz

Date\_\_\_\_\_

Chief/T.O.\_\_\_\_\_

Firefighter (print)\_\_\_\_\_

Education Credits/  
Hours/Units\_\_\_\_\_

Signature\_\_\_\_\_

### Select the best answer:

1. True or False      All people understand that firefighters aren't heroes; they're just doing their job.
2. True or False      A behavior that "works" is maintained.
3. True or False      Firesetters think putting out fires is too much work.
  
4. What behaviors should firefighters avoid?
  - a. Referring to fires as "great."
  - b. Teasing other firefighters about their lack of experience or self-image.
  - c. Rewarding the aspect of *fire* response.
  - d. All of the above.
  
5. In the mind of the firefighter arsonist:
  - a. he continues to think that he's qualified to be a firefighter
  - b. he's completely truthful about his behavior
  - c. no one will notice what he's doing
  - d. other firefighters share his fascination with fires.
  - e. Three of the above are true.

*(See answers at the top of page 9)*

# **Evolutions 2000**

## **University of Cincinnati Continuing Education Program**

### **Technical Rescue**

If you're enrolled in the **Open Learning Fire Service Program** at the **University of Cincinnati**, here's your opportunity this month to earn one college credit hour for watching *Working Fire*.

#### **VOLUME 00-1**

#### **Technical Rescue Pros and Cons**

**Complete written responses to the following three essay questions:**

1. Do you feel that technical rescue operations enhance or detract from the fire service mission?
2. What technical rescue capabilities exist in your response district, and how are they mobilized when needed?
3. Explain why you would expand or reduce technical rescue capabilities in your own organization?

**Send your responses to:**

**Mr. Bill Kramer  
University of Cincinnati  
College of Applied Science  
2220 Victory Parkway, ML #103  
Cincinnati, OH 45206**

#### **ENROLLMENT INFORMATION:**

For more information on enrolling in the Open Learning program to gain college credit, call *Working Fire* at 800-516-3473 for a brochure or, to register directly, call the University of Cincinnati at 513-556-6583. Associates and Bachelors programs are available. Call to have your transcripts evaluated.