

This Month's Working Fire...

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Volume 06-5: May 2006
Approx. Program Length 58:53

Fireline Incident Analysis

FIRELINE

Monmouth Commercial Fire/Firefighter Fatality **Monmouth, IL**

Approx. length: 9:41

An idle school bomb threat initially diverted firefighters who came back to fight a commercial building fire that was brought under control with 2-3 handlines. Firewatch continued for a while to avoid a rekindle. The next morning a fire was reported at the same commercial building. Due to the previous fire and a weakened structure, interior handlines were kept to a minimum and an aerial was used to extinguish the blaze. During the blaze, an Assistant Chief walking behind the building apparently tried to open an overhead door. The weakened concrete surrounding the door gave way, burying him under the debris. He died later. CISD was used and the coincidence of the bomb threat plus two fires started an arson investigation which led to convictions. For more information, contact Chief Jim Conard, Monmouth Fire Department, 600 South Main Street, Monmouth, IL 61462 or call him at 309-734-8428.

Galesburg Crash/Violent Patient **Galesburg, IL**

Approx. length: 10:11

Responders rolled up to this vehicle crash with four occupants. An eight year-old girl in the back had some serious injuries but the front-seat passengers had to be removed to gain access to the rear. However, as extricators tried to remove the door, the passenger in the front was hysterical, screaming at rescuers, kicking at them and resisting any assistance. Responders finally got her into a position where they could bear-hug her and drag her out of the vehicle. She had to be handcuffed by police before she could be put on a stretcher. She had no injuries but had to be fully immobilized prior to transport. Extricators ended up removing the windshield, cutting the roof posts and flapping the roof to remove the injured girl in the rear seat. Giving psychological support to children is essential in such an incident. For more information, contact Battalion Chief Tom Simkins, Galesburg Fire Dept., 150 S. Broad Street, Galesburg, IL 61401 or call him at 309-345-3756

HANDS-ON

Hotel Response, Part II

Approx. length: 11:59

We continue our multi-part series covering different aspects of responding to a multi-story hotel fire with mutual aid departments. This evolution features the use of R.I.T. in a hotel response environment. For more information, contact Deputy Chief Steve Rhinehart, Maryland Heights Fire District, 2600 Schuetz Rd. Maryland Heights, MO 63043 or call him at 314-298-4400.

Fireline Incident Analysis

Ladder Skills Training

Approx. length: 12:16

This is a basic skills review of handling and erecting extension and ground ladders designed for new firefighters and a refresher for veterans. For more information, contact Deputy Chief Steve Rhinehart, Maryland Heights Fire District, 2600 Schuetz Rd. Maryland Heights, MO 63043 or call him at 314-298-4400.

FIRE MEDICS

Medical/Legal Issues, Pt. IV

Approx. length: 8:47

In the fourth part of a multi-part series, we hear from Dan Leslie, a lawyer and a paramedic, who explores areas of the law that impact paramedics and EMTs. Knowing what is expected of you legally will help you protect your rights and those of your patient. This time Dan covers the difference between civil and criminal actions and how they relate to EMS. For more information, contact Dan Leslie, Attorney-at-Law, 100 East Locust Street, Union, MO 63084-1830 or call him at (636) 583-3131.

EVOLUTIONS 2000

Kramer vs. Kramer: Firefighter Fatalities

Approx. length: 2:40

Working Fire Training and Professor/Chief Bill Kramer present our Continuing Education segment that's worth one credit from the University of Cincinnati. Picking up on the Fireline commercial building fatal fire segment, Bill discusses the issue of firefighter fatalities and what's involved in reducing their number. For more information, contact Bill at the Open Learning Fire Service Program, College of Applied Science, 2220 Victory Parkway, ML #103, Cincinnati, Ohio 45206 or call 513-556-6583.

Disclaimer

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Fireline Incident Analysis

From the Departments Involved...

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS FOR THIS MONTH'S INCIDENTS

The departments involved in this month's incidents pose some discussion questions and situations that you can use as discussion-starters in your own department's training sessions.

Monmouth Commercial Fire/Firefighter Fatality / Monmouth, IL Chief Jim Conard, Monmouth (IL) Fire Department

1. If you ever have a "false alarm" diversion, especially of the kind that is pretty atypical, like a bomb threat, immediately followed by a real fire or incident, consider linking the two and investigating for arson.
2. Coming back to a fire in the same building the following day changes things. The structure is now weakened and will affect probably how you attack the second fire as opposed to how you did it the day before. Be careful with deploying manpower into the structure.
3. The loss of our Assistant Chief was a terrible thing -- and it could happen to your department at any time. Plan in advance to have a resource for CISD should you ever need it. Part of your mutual aid agreements with other departments should include covering your jurisdiction and standing in station houses if need be, should such a tragedy strike.

Galesburg Crash/Violent Patient / Galesburg, IL Battalion Chief Tom Simkins, Galesburg Fire (IL) Department

1. We had never experienced a situation where a patient we were trying to assist fought us. Be prepared to meet force with force but don't overreact. However, if such a situation keeps you from rendering aid to patients in dire need, then deal with it swiftly and enlist the aid of police if necessary.
2. The other big issue here is rendering care to a child. Understand his/her mental state: the child is hurting, she may be worried about other family members, especially if they are removed from the scene, the extrication process with its noise and strange equipment is scary, etc. You **MUST** render full-time psychological support and reassurance. Assign a full-time member for that task who stays with the child.

Hands-On Training

Hotel Response, Pt. II

Objectives

After watching this segment, the student shall understand:

1. operations of R.I.T. in a hotel or multi-story structure
2. communication to possible downed firefighters in scenario
3. rescue alternatives of downed firefighters.

Standards and Regulations

This training is consistent with NFPA 1500, NFPA 1001, NFPA 1710 and appropriate OSHA regulations.

Training Outline

I. PRE-BRIEFING

A. Hotel Rapid Intervention Team (R.I.T.) Scenario from Command

1. There's a report of a firefighter down in the hotel.
2. A basic location is given.
3. The R.I.T. crew should look for dummies or live bodies.

B. Team Thoughts

1. A firefighter is down on 5th floor.
2. Usually the crew would take a thermal imaging camera with them.
3. In this scenario, no camera is available and the crew will be working with blacked-out faceplates.

II. SCENARIO

A. Events & Decisions

1. R.I.T. Crew arrives at the fifth floor stairwell.
2. They check the stairwell door for heat and find none.
3. The crew enters fifth floor; makes progress down the corridor, listening for PASS device.
4. They're using a rescue rope from a rope bag which gets hung up.
5. Crew leader radios in status and that he can hear PASS device in front of him.
6. He requests a replacement rope bag which arrives. The search continues.
7. Crew members rig tag lines using webbing off the search rope for an area search into the suspected room .

Hotel Response, Pt. II

9. They find the downed firefighter.
10. The crew radios in status and situation:
 - a. The victim is trapped under collapsed roof debris and says he's out of air.
 - b. They remove debris and evaluate his air supply situation.
11. The victim says he tried to open window but couldn't get his head out.
12. Buddy-breathing won't work because the devices don't match. There's not time to wait for a fresh air air pack.
13. It's time to just get him out. The victim says he could walk out if they could help him up.
14. The crew does that and begins to exit, following the rescue rope.

III. POST-BRIEFING

A. Trainer's Evaluation

1. As soon as you hear a PASS device, start yelling out to see if the downed firefighter will respond and give you any information that might be helpful.
 - a. Does the victim answer? Is he unconscious? Can he help pin down his location?
 - b. The PASS device might have been a portable one which fell off someone else, so by yelling out, you might learn if it's attached to a live person or not.
2. Crew members were in front and behind firefighter directing him, keeping him in contact with the rescue rope, and warning of any obstructions.
3. Also remember to relay to Command how many are coming out. If two went in, three should be coming out. If one rescuer is staying behind for some reason, communicate that information.

B. Suggestions

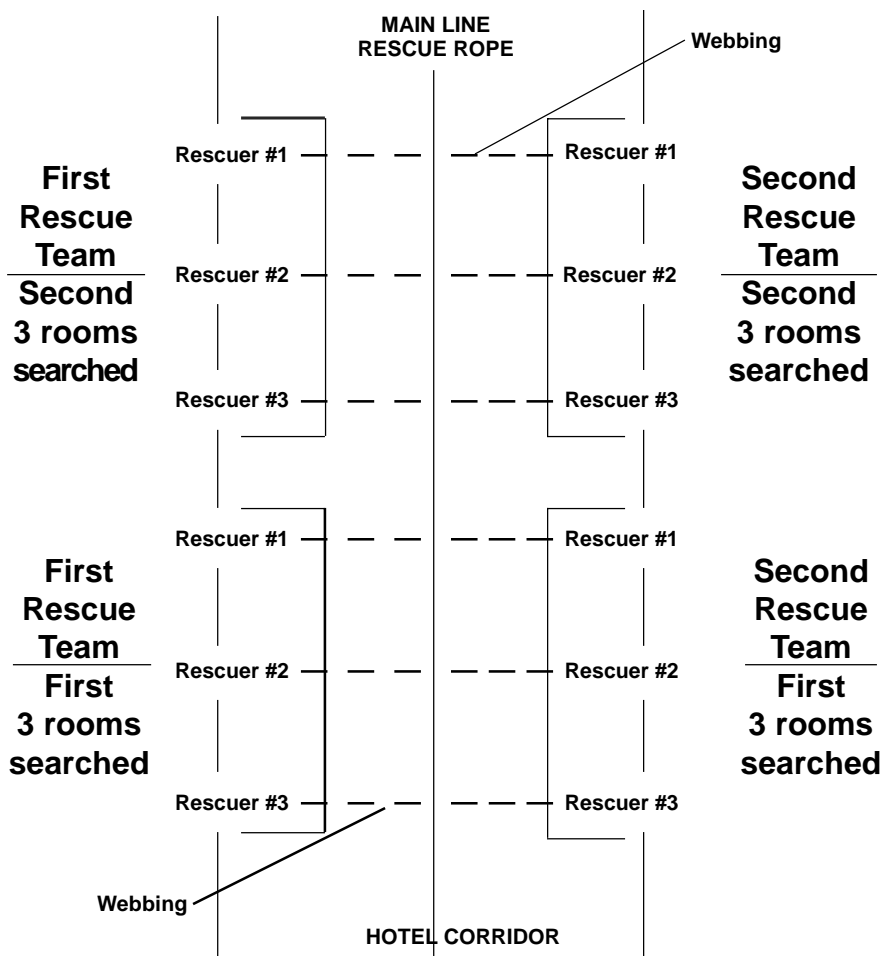
1. Stage extra rope in the stairwell that could be added to the rescue line at that location with a quick request by radio. Remember from Part I, your biggest obstacle is not having enough rope.
2. Bring an extra R.I.T. Pack or not? This is often debated and comes down to department SOG and individual situation.
 - a. If you bring the extra air bottle with you, some feel it slows down your initial search -- and you may come to find you don't need it; for example, the downed firefighter may only be entrapped by obstacles.
 - b. If you DON'T bring the air bottle, others feel you can find the victim faster and you'll know his exact location, so bringing up an extra R.I.T. pack afterward shouldn't take much time.
3. Buddy-Breathing didn't work in this case because the rescuer's device didn't match the victim's. They do make R.I.T. packs with multiple interfaces, so if you called for the R.I.T. pack after you found the victim, you could even specify which brand of device the victim has so you would know you'd have the right one when the new R.I.T. pack arrived.

Answers to the quiz on page 7:

1. True 2. False 3. False 4. c. 5. f.

Hotel Response, Pt. II

4. Take a page from wide-area search & rescue technique and use webbing as extenders off the main rescue rope to go into the rooms -- then slide up the main line and search the next room. The webbing always leads you back to the main line safely.
- a. Also, you might want to develop a system where one rescue team searches one side of the corridor and the next team searches the other side. The third team would then search the same side as Team #1 but beyond where they left off. You can do it anyway you want, but come up with a system that works and train on it. Make it a part of your SOG, if necessary.



Here's a typical example of a multiple search pattern. In this case, three rescuers hook webbing onto the main search rope and span out, searching three rooms at a time on the left side. They then move up as a unit and search the next three rooms. The team that follows them searches the right side in the same way.

Hotel Response, Pt. II Quiz

Date _____

Chief/T.O. _____

Firefighter (print) _____

Education Credits/
Hours/Units _____

Signature _____

Select the best answer:

1. True or False: R.I.T crews might have to be larger to search a hotel.
2. True or False: Staging additional search rope in the stairwells is a bad idea because it becomes a safety obstacle to firefighters using the stairwell.
3. True or False: Buddy-Breathing or bottle changeovers are a waste of time since you can't be sure you'll have the right devices that match up.
4. Which of the following tasks are **not** part of R.I.T. search & rescue?
 - a. Calling out audibly when PASS devices are heard.
 - b. Checking doors for heat
 - c. Repairing thermal imaging cameras
 - d. Bringing hand tools for disentanglement work
 - e. Perhaps carrying in a R.I.T. pack.
5. Which search method works best?
 - a. Searching different sides of the corridor with different teams
 - b. Searching the same sides of the corridor with different teams
 - c. Using webbing in an area search pattern method
 - d. Locating the victim and then calling for an R.I.T. pack.
 - e. Bringing the R.I.T. Pack on the initial search
 - f. Possibly any of the above depending upon your protocol
 - g. None of the above

(Answers can be found at the top of page 6)

Hands-On Training

Ladder Skills Training

Objectives

After watching this program, the student shall:

1. learn how to carry and erect an extension ladder
2. learn how to carry and erect a ground ladder
3. understand how ladders can be a great aid in rescues.

Standards and Regulations

This training is consistent with NFPA 1931 and appropriate OSHA regulations and practices.

Training Outline

I. TRAINING OBJECTIVES

A. Review Basic Firefighter Skills

1. This training is to review ladders.
2. Duration: 2 hours
3. Audience: Beginning firefighter or multi-year veteran

B. Techniques

1. Classroom:
Use "Jeopardy" game scenario to review facts, history, techniques, and related information about ladders.
2. Training Ground:
Firefighter skill applications using ground ladders.

C. Objectives of Extension Ladder Training:

1. Carrying an extension ladder
2. Raising an extension ladder
3. Ladder placement
4. Achieving the proper climbing angle
5. Ascending the ladder properly
6. Locking off for work
7. Descending the ladder
8. Taking the ladder down & repacking it

Ladder Skills Training

D. Objectives of 14 ft. Roof Ladder Training

1. Single-person raise
2. Position it with proper placement
3. Achieving the proper climbing angle
4. Ascending and descending

These are skills that can be used at any fire on any day. Ladder skills will:

1. allow rescues with ladders
2. allow access to and egress from structures
3. assist in proficiency in interior firefighting and R.I.T. work.

II. LADDER SAFETY

A. Stable Ground

1. Check the ground under the ladder feet to make sure it's stable enough to support the weight of the ladder and people on it.

B. Ladder Angles

1. To be safe, a rigid ladder should be leaned at an angle of about fifteen degrees from the vertical. In other words, the distance from the foot of the ladder to the wall should be about one quarter of the height to the top of the ladder.
 - a. At steeper angles, the ladder is at risk of toppling backwards when the climber leans away from it.
 - b. At shallower angles, the ladder may lose its grip on the ground.
2. How can you tell if a ladder is too steep? If the climber has to turn his/her knees outside the beams of the ladder, it's too steep and he'll be too close to it. If a rescuer were carrying an occupant or the occupant were dropped on the rescuer, that out-turned knee might get blown out.

III. AVOIDING INJURIES

A. The following factors must be handled correctly to avoid injury:

1. Weight of the ladder
2. Proper maintenance of the ladder
3. Proper control of ladder by ladder crew
4. Proper climbing/ascending angle
5. Proper rescue techniques

Ladder Skills Training

- a. Bringing occupants down ladders
- b. Escorting occupants down ladders
- c. Working safely on ladders

B. Ladder Team

1. Before a ladder is climbed, a ladder crew member should help stabilize the ladder foot from slipping or creeping by "chocking" his own foot against the beam on the ground.
2. Another crew member should position himself under the ladder, facing it, and pulling the ladder toward the structure to keep it from bouncing as a climber ascends.

IV. EXTENSION LADDER -- TWO-PERSON CARRY

A. Pickup & Carry

1. Hoist the ladder over the closest shoulder between rungs
2. Extend the hand of the opposite arm across the chest and place the palm over the end of the top beam of the ladder.

B. Beam Raise

1. Lift:
 - a. With the ladder resting perpendicular on the ground with the beam up and perpendicular to the structure, raise one end of the ladder by the beam while the other end is held stationary by your partner.
 - b. Lifting the ladder up, walk under the ladder toward the stationary end, pushing it up with your hands as you go, until the ladder is standing on end.
 - c. Ladder stabilizers are available that increase the ladder's grip on the ground.

B. Rotate

1. The ladder is rotated from perpendicular to the structure to parallel. At this point, more than two people are helpful in controlling the ladder, especially if it's going to be extended to a great height.

C. Extend

1. To extend the ladder, carefully haul on the halyard until the ladder has achieved its desired height. Then make sure the ladder rung locks are secured so the extension won't slip.

D. Placement

1. "Walk" the ladder on its feet either toward or away from the structure to attain the proper ascending angle.

Ladder Skills Training

2. This "walking" of the ladder may have to be done a couple of times, along with changing the extension height, until it can be leaned against the structure at the desired height.
3. The ladder is then leaned into place against the structure.
4. A ladder standoff, or stay, is a device fitted to the top of a ladder to hold it away from the wall. This enables the ladder to clear overhanging obstacles such as the eaves of a roof, and increases the safe working height for a given length of ladder.

E. Ascend

1. A climber should always be able to climb the ladder with his knees straight in front of him.
2. As he climbs, he places his hands on the rungs - not on the rails -- and pulls himself up.
3. Climbing a ladder wearing boots is a little more awkward than practicing with station wear, so you should occasionally practice with boots.

F. Leg Lock

1. Although it's not good to work on a ladder for long periods of time, if a climber must stop for a while, he should lock his leg to the ladder.
 - a. Insert the right leg through and over a rung and place the foot on the rung just below.
 - b. The climber then steps down a rung with his left leg, forcing the rung above his right foot into the bend of his knee and allowing him to pull his right foot toward him off the top of that rung, curling the top of his ankle against the rung - or outside the beam at that level.
 - c. Either way is acceptable; do what feels comfortable for you. There are other locking methods, many of which were developed to accommodate different legs lengths.

G. Descend

1. The same as ascending but in reverse.

H. Lowering the ladder and repacking

1. Pull the ladder away from the structure until it's vertical. Lower the extension using the halyard in the reverse method of raising it. Secure the halyard.
2. Lower the ladder in the reverse way it was lifted up. First, rotate the ladder from the parallel to a position perpendicular to the structure.
3. Then by walking backwards, "walk" the ladder down to the ground by the rungs, doing a reverse rung-raise (a rung-lower?).
4. Lift and carry the ladder as before and repack it on the truck.

Answers to the quiz on page 13:

1. True 2. True 3. False 4. b. 5. b.

Ladder Skills Training

V. SINGLE SECTION LADDER -- SINGLE-PERSON CARRY

A. Picking ladder up and carrying

1. Kneel down and pull the ladder up from lying flat to laying on its beam. Then stand up, holding the ladder by its vertical rungs at the mid-point. Carry it in this position.
2. When you get to the structure, do the reverse and set the ladder down on the ground flat, perpendicular to the structure, with the ladder feet flush against the structure. This keeps the ladder from sliding during the rung-raise.

B. Rung-Raise

1. Walk to the end of the ladder away from the structure and pick it up. Then lift it up and continue to "walk" it upward, performing a rung-raise as you walk toward the structure. The ladder will now be flush against the structure in a vertical position.

C. Placement

1. Grasp the beams of the ladders with your hands about waist-high.
2. Lift and carry the feet of the ladder outward away from the building until the correct climbing/ascending angle is achieved.

D. Ascending/Descending

1. The ladder is ascended and descended as before, with a crew member stabilizing it from underneath as before.

E. Lowering the ladder

1. With a single person, this can be done doing the rung-lower as before and laying the ladder on the ground.
2. With two people, the crew member who was stabilizing the ladder from underneath helps pull the ladder from the structure to a vertical person, in the same way as the extension ladder.
3. From this position, the stabilizer chocks the feet of the ladder with his feet and, bending at the waist, allows the ladder to be lowered to the other crew member who does the rung-lower while walking backward away from the structure, until the ladder is laid flat on the ground.
4. Lift and carry the ladder as before and repack it on the truck.

Ladder Skills Training: Quiz

Date _____

Chief/T.O. _____

Firefighter (print) _____

Education Credits/
Hours/Units _____

Signature _____

Select the best answer:

1. True or False: "Walking" a ladder is perfectly permissible on a fire scene.
2. True or False: Checking the ground underneath a ladder for stability is must for safety.
3. True or False: A leg lock is great for wrestling but should never be done on a ladder.
4. Which instruction listed below for raising a ladder is **incorrect**?
 - a. To extend the ladder, carefully haul on the halyard until the ladder has achieved its desired height. Then make sure the ladder rung locks are secured so the extension won't slip.
 - b. Ladders can be moved with a climber on the ladder by "hopping" the ladder along the building.
 - c. Lifting the ladder up, walk under the ladder toward the stationary end, pushing it up with your hands as you go, until the ladder is standing on end. Ladder stabilizers are available that increase the ladder's grip on the ground.
 - d. The climber then steps down a rung with his left leg, forcing the rung above his right foot into the bend of his knee and allowing him to pull his right foot toward him off the top of that rung, curling the top of his ankle against that rung - or outside the beam at that level.
 - e. None of the above.
5. Which of the following safety issues is **incorrect**?
 - a. A climber should not climb a ladder with his knees outside the beams.
 - b. To be safe, a rigid ladder should be leaned at an angle of about thirty degrees to the vertical.
 - c. At least two additional crew members should help stabilize a ladder usage and keep it safe.
 - d. Maintenance of ladders is important to their safe usage.
 - e. None of the above.

(Answers can be found at the top of page 12)

Fire Medics

Medical/Legal Issues, Pt. IV

Objectives

After watching this segment, the student shall understand:

1. what's involved in a civil action
2. what's involved in a criminal action.

Standards and Regulations

The application of this training will vary by local legal and penal codes. Check to see how the law applies in your jurisdiction.

Training Outline

I. CIVIL VS. CRIMINAL LAW

A. Civil: Money Damage & Civil Actions

1. Civil Actions:
 - a. Wrongful death - someone dies at your hands or in your care
 - b. False imprisonment - placing someone in a confined area with no safe, lawful means of escape.
 - c. Assault & Battery - In Missouri and other states, it's just called Assault now.
 - i. Assault is placing someone in apprehension of a harmful or offensive touch. Check the laws and designations in your state.
 - ii. Just threatening someone with touching them without actually doing so, but making the person fearful that you might, is assault. Or a better example, trying to persuade someone who hates needles by coaxing them while bringing the needle close to the skin.
 - iii. Assault doesn't have to be harmful; touching someone inappropriately can be assault.
 - iv. Battery is actually hitting the person or making contact with them.
 - d. Negligence (Duty to act) - failure to act would be one form of negligence.

B. Criminal: Money damage & Criminal actions

1. Criminal Actions:
 - a. Assault & Battery - same as civil but with much higher penalties; i.e. felony assault.
 - b. False imprisonment - same as civil proceedings

Answers to the quiz on page 16:

1. Incorrect 2. False 3. True 4. a. 5. f.

Medical/Legal Issues, Pt. IV

- c. Abduction/Kidnapping - taking a child without the parent's consent and the parent not knowing where the child is; or taking a person without his/her consent and the person or their spouse not knowing where the person is.
 - i. Transporting an injured child without the parent being present would not be kidnapping since the parent can find out fairly easily to which hospital the child was taken.

II. NEGLIGENCE - SIMPLE & GROSS

A. Simple

1. All four must be present
 - a. Duty -- that there is a duty of care owed to the patient
 - b. Breach of Duty -- that there was a breach or interruption of that care
 - c. Causation -- that there was a reasonably close casual connection that the breach caused injury
 - d. Damage -- that the injury caused actual damage or loss
2. You have to have them all present to be negligent.
 - a. However, your ability or duty to act may be limited by the lack of tools or equipment that are available, as in the case of the Good Samaritan who happens to be a paramedic who stops to help.
 - b. Without the tools, there is no "breach," hence, no negligence.
3. Contributory Negligence is involved when something you did or didn't do may have contributed to or led to a casualty or death.
 - a. Indicates partial responsibility on your part to some degree.

B. Gross

1. Any idiotic, willful act which results in casualty or death. It could be just a stupid behavior or procedure.

Medical/Legal Issues, Pt. IV: Quiz

Date _____

Chief/T.O. _____

Firefighter (print) _____

Education Credits/
Hours/Units _____

Signature _____

Select the best answer:

1. Correct or Incorrect: The Energizer Bunny gently assaulted Wiley Coyote and was charged with battery.
2. True or False: False imprisonment means incarcerating someone in an unauthorized prison.
3. True or False: If parents give you permission to pick up their child and then you take the child for ice cream and the parents don't know that, technically you're guilty of kidnapping.
4. Which of the four below must be present for Simple Negligence?
 - a. Damage -- Breach -- Causation -- Duty
 - b. Breach -- Exposition -- Duty -- Damage
 - c. Causation -- Duty -- Carnage -- Breach
 - d. Legality -- Damage -- Breach -- Causation
 - e. None of the above
5. Which of the following could constitute Contributory Negligence?
 - a. Paramedic on scene overdoses patient with medication.
 - b. Paramedic treatment later caused another injury to the patient.
 - c. Paramedic didn't apply tourniquet and patient bled to death.
 - d. Paramedic didn't apply tourniquet tightly enough and patient bled to death.
 - e. None of the above
 - f. All of the above

(Answers can be found at the top of page 15)

Evolutions 2000

University of Cincinnati Continuing Education Program

Firefighter Fatalities

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 Training.

VOLUME 06-5

Firefighter Fatalities

Complete written responses to the following three essay questions:

1. Should fatalities among firefighters be considered inevitable in light of the dangerous nature of the profession? Why or why not?
2. What steps can be taken nationally and regionally to reduce firefighter fatalities toward the ultimate goal of zero?
3. Describe a firefighter fatality with which you are familiar. What lessons were learned or what lessons should have been learned to help prevent a similar future fatality?

Submit your responses to:

**Mr. Bill Kramer, Ph. D.
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 Training at 800-516-3473, go www.workingfire.com/c_e_credits.html or to register directly, call the University of Cincinnati at 513-556-6583. Associate and Bachelors programs are available. Call to have your transcripts evaluated.