

# This Month's "Working Fire"...

**Volume 94-3: October, 1994**  
**Approx. Program Length 57:43**

## **FIRELINE**

### **1st Report: Firefighter Fatality** **Metro-Dade, FL**

**Approx. length: 2:10**

Aerial and engine crews made initial attacks from both the exterior and interior of the Dolphin Carpet Warehouse. The roof collapsed on a three-man crew. The effort quickly went from suppression to rescue. Two firefighters were rescued while one remained trapped under thousands of pounds of carpet rolls. After rescue, he died shortly thereafter. Next month, we'll offer a full incident report on this tragedy.

### **USAir Flight 1016 Crash** **Charlotte, NC**

**Approx. length: 10:00**

The DC-9 went down in a thunderstorm with 55 passengers aboard. Thirty-seven died but many were left to be rescued. This segment focuses on accountability, communications and the Incident Command System at a major incident. Discussion topic: Describe what your department does to provide for accountability on the fireground for small, everyday incidents and major, mass casualty disasters. For more information, contact: Batt. Chief H. Wesley Weaver, Charlotte Fire Department, 9400 Nations Ford Rd., Charlotte, NC 28217. Or call: (704) 522-8115.

### **Train Derailment** **Fremont, CA**

**Approx. length: 9:30**

A railroad car carrying two or more cargo containers derailed and smashed into a signal house. It then fell into a concrete spillway that carries drinking water for over 250,000 people in the Bay Area. Difficulties were identifying hazardous materials and how they would pump out the contaminated water. Discussion topic: List the resources available in your area to help you handle haz-mat operations. For more information on this incident, contact: Chief Dan Lydon, Fremont Fire Department, P.O. Box 5006, Fremont, CA 94537. Or call: (510) 494-4291.

## **HANDS-ON**

### **Basic Fire Attack Elements: Part I** **Direct Fire Attack**

**Approx. length: 5:00**

Assistant Chief Ken Hines goes back to the basics on direct, offensive fire attack. He reminds you of the company officer's job on arrival as well as the pointers on staying low, using the ICS, and hitting the fire at its base. Next month, Assistant Chief Hines will give you the basics on Indirect Fire Attack. And, look for a combination attack and review in December.

*Look in this month's print material for Enhanced Training on Direct Fire Attack. You'll find it just after this program synopsis.*

## This Month's "Working Fire"

### HANDS-ON (con't.)

#### **Trench Collapse Rescue: Part II Basic Shoring Techniques**

**Approx. length: 14:03**

In the second of our three part series on trench collapse rescue, we look at basic shoring and digging techniques. We identify safety issues, define the equipment and go through the importance of working with the people and equipment you have. There is paramount importance in having a specialized team involved at any trench rescue. Next month, we conclude this series with the medical side of trench collapse rescue and how the medical and rescue sectors must work together. For more information on trench collapse rescue, contact: Lt. Bob Murray, ATR Team/Baltimore County Fire Department, 802 York Road, Towson, MD 21204. Or call: 410-887-4890.

### FIRE MEDICS

#### **Football Injury Packaging Removing vs. Not Removing Pads & Helmets**

**Approx. length: 10:00**

There are two schools of thought regarding removing football gear when a player is injured on the field. Many athletic directors want helmets and pads to remain on the player to prevent further jarring of the neck or spine while many EMS responders want to remove the equipment prior to transport. This segment explores the two schools of thought on the issue and demonstrates proper packaging in both cases. Discussion topic: How do you prevent an argument on the field regarding the removal of football gear?

### UP TO CODE

#### **Basic Nutrition Tips**

**Approx. length: 3:00**

In this segment related to NFPA Standard 1500 and proposed NFPA Standard 1582, we talk to a nutritionist who provides information on how to eat healthier in your fire house. Next month, we'll take you to the grocery store to show you how to read the new nutrition labels and buy the right foods. Remember, consult your personal physician before going on any diet. Also, contact your local hospital about having a nutritionist make a presentation at your fire house on healthy eating.

*Remember, we want to know what's happening in your jurisdiction and how you're training. Also, let us know how you're using Working Fire. Any input and suggestions you have to make our program more user friendly are welcome, because, after all, this is your program! Give us a call at 1-800-516-3473 or write us at Working Fire, 9120 Watson Road, St. Louis, MO 63126. Or you can fax us at 314-842-9336.*

# Enhanced Training:

## Direct Fire Attack

### Objectives

After watching this program the student should:

1. Understand the basic elements of offensive fire attack.
2. Explain the safety and survival steps in offensive fire attack.
3. Explain a direct fire attack.

### Standards and Regulations

This training is compatible with NFPA 1001 Standard for Firefighter Professional Qualifications (1992 Edition).

### Direct Fire Attack Training

#### A. Definition

Direct fire attack is defined as an attack on the base of the fire with a solid or relatively straight stream.

#### B. Elements of offensive fire attack

1. Fire attack is normally divided into two, easily understandable modes: offensive and defensive.
  - a. Defensive fire attack is typically thought of as “surround and drown” a fire. Large master stream type devices are used with massive quantities of water.
  - b. Offensive fire attack is the aggressive interior fire attack that makes up an engine company’s initial fire suppression efforts. Smaller, easily handled hose lines are normally employed.
2. Offensive fire attack elements:
  - a. Strong, always used incident command system
  - b. Strong communications system
  - c. Knowledge by incident commander and line officers of area building construction
  - d. Knowledge by incident commander and line officers of strategy & tactics
  - e. Ability to translate strategy & tactics into correct and proper fire attack for building type, occupancy classification and fire conditions.

## Direct Fire Attack Training

### C. Initial engine company tasks at working structure fires (room & contents or larger)

1. Arrive safely at the scene
2. Place apparatus at location near the fire to best aid sizeup, water supply and line advancement as examples
3. Establish command and radio sizeup of event
4. Crew fully geared up with full protective clothing including SCBA and using breathing air.
5. Begin emergency scene tasks such as line advancement, ventilation and rescue by following strategic objectives:
  - a. Life safety (rescue and removal of trapped and injured occupants)
  - b. Fire control (protect exposures, contain fire, extinguish fire)
  - c. Property conservation (overhaul & salvage).
6. Maintain crew integrity and accountability. Work within the “game plan” determined by the incident commander
7. Carry and use necessary forcible entry and ventilation tools
8. Attack and extinguish fire using appropriate method of materials involved
9. If conditions deteriorate, crews should advise command and then follow department procedures for exiting the building and accounting for all personnel
10. The company officer must constantly be evaluating fire conditions and be aware of hazards associated with building construction type and occupancy class.

### D. Direct fire attack method:

1. Most efficient method of fire attack.
2. Uses straight or relatively solid stream.
3. Applies water directly to the base of the fire in short bursts, thus the name direct attack
4. Tends to limit disturbance of the thermal balance.

{ Answers to Enhanced Training Quiz on following page: }

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

## Direct Fire Attack Training

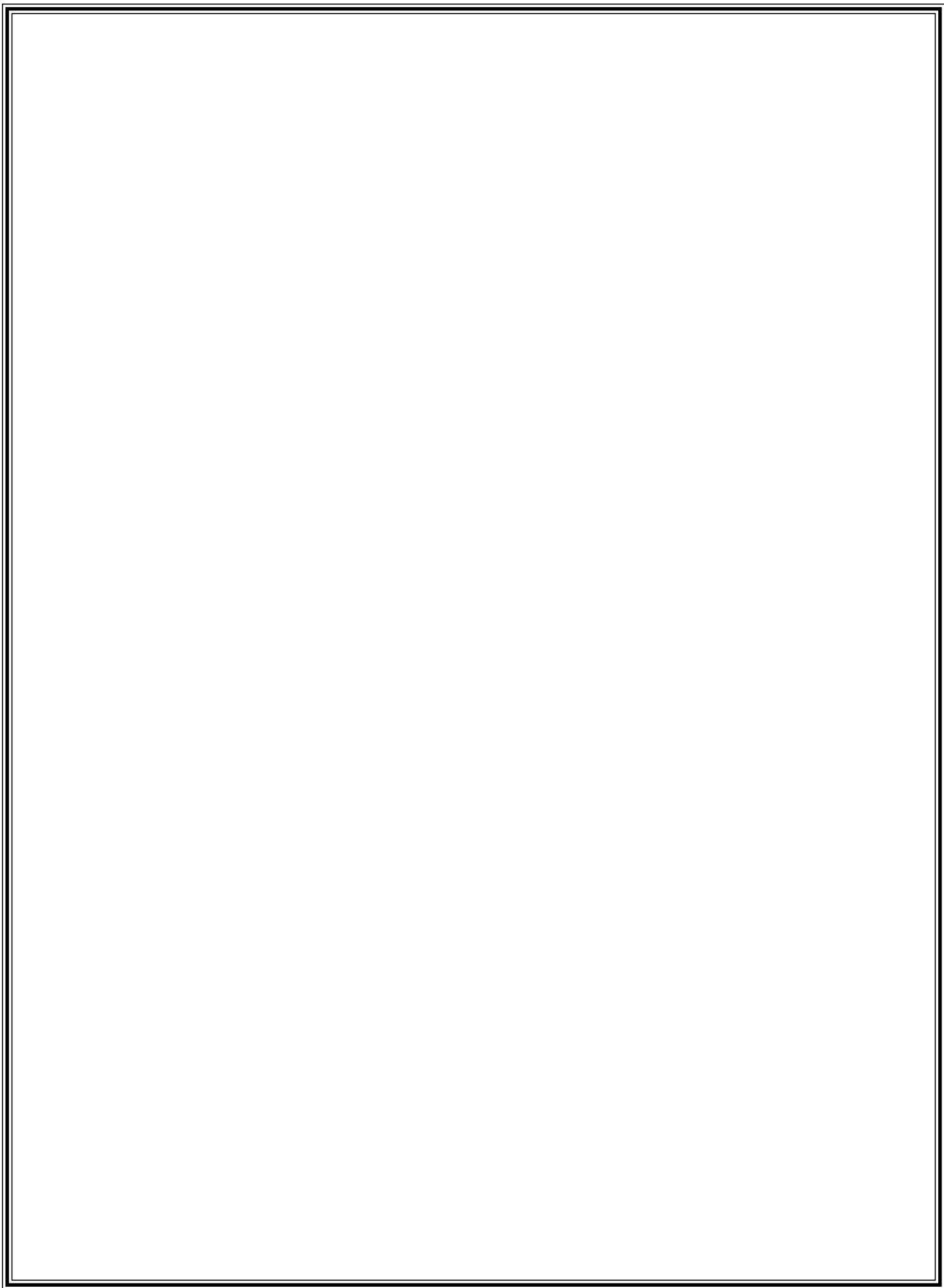
5. Should be used in conjunction with adequate and appropriate ventilation methods
6. In the technical sense, it can be argued that direct fire attack may be either offensive or defensive as solid- or straight-style streams are used in both types of attack.

### Bibliography

*Essentials of Firefighting*; International Fire Service Training Association; Stillwater, OK; Third Edition; 1992.

*Standard for Firefighter Professional Qualifications 1001*; National Fire Protection Association; 1992 edition.

*This hands-on training program is not a substitute for practical training exercises. It is compatible with NFPA 1001 sections; 3-12., 3-14*



## Direct Fire Attack Training: Quiz

**Select the best answer:**

1. True or False            Direct fire attack involves using a wide fog-style pattern.
2. True or False            Direct fire attack is a defensive method only.
3. True or False            SCBA is not needed in offensive fire attack activities.
4. The first strategic priority for any fire operation is: (select best answer)
  - a. Arrive safely
  - b. Life safety
  - c. Property Conservation
  - d. Fire control
5. What activity should be closely coordinated with an offensive fire attack using the direct stream attack method? (Select best answer)
  - a. Salvage
  - b. Rehab
  - c. Ventilation
  - d. None of the above

*See answers at the top of the previous page.*