This Month's "Working Fire"...

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Approx. Program Length 58:30

FIRELINE

Floods & Fuel Fires **Approx. length: 3:30**
Houston, TX

Floods hit the small towns around Houston with little warning, sending the mostly volunteer departments in the area scrambling to find resources to evacuate residents. Nineteen people died and just as the recovery was beginning to take shape, debris floating down the San Jacinto River struck fuel pipelines sending walls of flames into the sky. Four pipelines ruptured and burned until the companies were able to plug the leaks and the fires burned themselves out. Fire departments in the area are now evaluating their ability to respond should another flood of this magnitude hit.

Firefighter Fatality **Approx. length: 13:00**
Metro-Dade, FL

By all accounts, this was a textbook initial attack. First-in crews entered the Dolphin Carpet Warehouse to find the seat of the fire. But, just as they passed through a door, part of the twin-T concrete roof collapsed onto a storage rack of carpet rolls and onto the crew. Lt. Dewey Henry remained trapped and as the effort shifted from suppression to rescue, it became evident that he would not survive. This segment discusses the construction and collapse, the fire attack and the effects of this fatality on Metro-Dade firefighters. For more information on this incident, contact: Rhonda Hasday, P.I.O., Metro-Dade Fire Rescue Dept., 6000 S.W. 87 Ave., Miami, FL 33173. Or call: (305) 596-8640.

Apartment Blaze **Approx. length: 8:00**
Newark, DE

Heat stress plagued firefighters at this apartment complex fire. The blaze began in a second- floor apartment kitchen and spread quickly between walls before the volunteer departments could arrive and make their attack. With the heat and humidity and the intensity of the fire, rehab and rehydration was essential to the well-being of responders. This segment discusses the elements and the best placement for a rehab sector as well as an overview of the fire itself. For more information on this incident, contact: Chief Jeff Smith, Aetna Hose, Hook & Ladder Fire Co., P.O. Box 148, Newark, DE 19715-0148. Or call: (302) 454-3309.

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HANDS-ON

Basic Fire Attack Elements: Part III **Approx. length: 6:45**
Combination Fire Attack

In this final part of our series, Assistant Chief Ken Hines combines the past segments of direct and indirect fire attack into our focus: combination fire attack. He stresses the importance of maintaining good communication, incident command and accountability. For more information on combination fire attack contact: Assistant Chief Ken Hines, 3700 Bray Court, Columbia, MO 65203.

Vehicle Extrication: Part I **Approx. length: 6:30**
Scene & Vehicle Stabilization

The Hialeah Fire Department training officers begin our three-part series on vehicle extrication by showing you the proper way to approach the scene of an accident: what to look for, what to avoid and what to do. Then, once the scene is stabilized, the trainers go through the basics of stabilizing the vehicle with cribbing and battery disconnection along with other important initial practices. For more information on vehicle extrication training, contact: Lt. Terry Duffy, Training Officer, Hialeah Fire Dept., 86 E. 6th St., Hialeah, FL 33010. Or call: (305) 824-5714.

FIRE MEDICS

Ski Resort Chairlift Evacuation **Approx. length: 8:05**
Rescue & Paramedic Considerations

With the ski season upon us, it is important for firefighters and paramedics alike to have a basic understanding of ski patrol operations. This segment focuses on the need for you to be prepared when called out to a ski resort should a chairlift fail and people are in need of evacuation. The basic medical considerations are discussed and the technical rescue is demonstrated. This segment is also appropriate for any situation such as scenic look-outs or theme parks where a chairlift or elevated people-mover is utilized. For more information on ski patrol operations, contact: Deputy Chief Bill Brandes, Patrol Administration, Hidden Valley Ski Resort, 17409 Hidden Valley Dr., Eureka, MO 63025. Or call: (314) 938-5373.

UP TO CODE

D.O.T. Placard Changes **Approx. length: 4:30**

This segment addresses the changes the D.O.T. has made to hazardous materials placards as well as the importance of getting a new edition of the Emergency Response Guidebook. Make sure you also get the supplemental page to fix the typographical errors in the Guidebook. To get a copy of the most recent edition of The 1993 Emergency Response Guidebook, contact: The Department of Transportation, Research & Special Programs Administration, 400 7th St., SW, Washington, D.C. 20590.

Enhanced Training:

Combination Fire Attack Training

Objectives

After watching this program the student shall:

1. Understand the basic elements of combination fire attack.
2. Explain the safety and survival steps in fire attack.
3. Explain the elements of stream selection

Standards and Regulations

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

Training Outline

A. Definitions:

1. A combination fire attack is defined as an attack method which uses the steam generating ability of an indirect fire attack and the extinguishment of fire with direct fire attack.

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

3. Indirect fire attack is defined as an attack on the fire with a solid to straight to narrow fog pattern directed at the ceiling to create steam.

B. Elements of combination 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. Basic 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

   f. All offensive personnel out of fire structure before defensive fire attack begun

   g. It is not desirable to move to defensive fire operations if fire has not yet been contained.

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).

Answers to Enhanced Training Quiz on following page:
1. False 2. True 3. True 4. d. 5. d.

Combination Fire Attack Training

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. Combination fire attack method:

1. Uses elements of direct and indirect fire attack.

2. Uses straight or relatively solid stream and fog pattern.

3. Applies water indirectly to the fire or area of fire by bouncing solid, narrow fog or straight streams at the ceiling and to burning items near floor with direcdt stream.

4. Normally performed during aggressive interior fire attack.

5. Nozzle moved in a number of different patterns to penetrate the fire. The “T”, “Z” , “O” patterns starting at the ceiling and working the nozzle to the floor.

6. Thermal balance usually deteriorates when water applied to smoke.

E. Stream selection, factors involved

1. Volume of water needed for extinguishment.

2. Reach of the stream to the fire needed.

3. Number of persons to fight the fire.

4. Structure on fire.

5. Amount of fire involvment.

Combination Fire Attack Training: Quiz

Select the best answer:

1. True or False Building collapse is not a concern when performing offensive attack.

2. True or False Firefighters should try and limit applying water onto smoke.

3. True or False A strong incident command system is one of the most important elements at any fire.

4. Fire stream selection depends upon;
   a. Size of fire
   b. Type of fire
   c. Number of firefighters available
   d. All of the above

5. Combination fire attack uses what method as the primary means of extinguishment?
   a. solid stream to seat of fire
   b. fog pattern to seat of fire
   c. straight stream bounced off ceiling to seat of fire
   d. fog pattern used to generate steam
   e. none of the above

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; 3-12.12, 3-14