

This Month's *Working Fire*...

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**Volume 98-6: June 1998
Approx. Program Length 59:24**

FIRELINE

Shake Shingle Residential Fires Springfield, MO

Approx. length: 10:37

Winds gusting up to 40 m.p.h. blew chimney embers on to cedar shake shingle roofs in this residential area outside Springfield, Missouri and began a chain-reaction fire which eventually involved eight homes, destroying two totally. Local residents attempted to protect their own houses with garden hoses and also assisted firefighters at the outset. Traffic control was a problem with 800-1,000 onlookers on-scene, blocking apparatus and giving incorrect directions. Communications between the four responding departments were also a problem, delaying the dispatch of the final department. For more information contact Chief Richard Stirts, Logan-Rogersville Fire Protection District, 2377 S. Blackman Road, Springfield, MO 65809 or call him at 417-882-5733.

Riverboat Casino/Barge Collision St. Louis, MO

Approx. length: 11:11

A towboat moving up a flood-swollen Mississippi River lost control of its barges, two of which struck the Admiral riverboat gambling casino moored at the St. Louis riverfront. The Admiral, carrying over 2,000 gamblers, was knocked loose from its mooring and swung completely around, being held in place by its remaining mooring line and the towboat which lost the barges. Broken utility lines posed problems. All passengers were off-loaded to other boats over the next four hours. A strong harbor plan helped direct the response from multiple agencies. For more information contact Duane Greer, Public Information Officer, St. Louis Fire Department, 1421 N. Jefferson Avenue, St. Louis, MO 63106 or call him at 314-289-1900.

HANDS-ON

Accountability Procedures Part II

Approx. length: 10:15

This month we feature the conclusion of a two-part series on Accountability and the Passport system as used by the Jacksonville Florida Fire and Rescue Department. The series was produced by the Jacksonville department and this month features high-rise and multi-story building accountability techniques. For more information contact Captain Rob Sorenson, Jacksonville Fire and Rescue Department, 107 N. Market St., Jacksonville, FL 32202 or call him at 904-630-2456.

This Month's "Working Fire"

HANDS-ON (cont.)

Farmedic Extrication Part II

Approx. length: 10:07

We also conclude another two-part training series on farm and construction vehicle extrication as presented by the Farmedic Training Center, connected with Alfred State University in Alfred, New York. The difference between this and normal vehicle extrication is that the operator very often is trapped inside the machinery itself rather than inside a driver's compartment. This month's segment features the problems encountered and techniques used for extricating someone caught in a hay/grain threshing machine as well as the EMS considerations involved. For more information contact David Oliver, Farmedic National Training Center, Alfred State College, Alfred, NY 14802 or call him at 607-587-4734.

FIRE MEDICS

Riverboat Casino/Barge Collision Medical Response

Approx. length: 9:45

We return again to the St. Louis riverfront and examine the Admiral riverboat/barge collision from an EMS perspective. Over 2,000 passengers were triaged in approximately four hours. This segment describes how the passengers were assessed, how triage was handled, and the deployment of EMS personnel. Amazingly, there were only about 50 casualties, mostly minor, with 18 being transported to area hospitals. Setting up communications with and handling the media during a mass-casualty incident such as this is also covered. For more information contact Kim Wood, Public Affairs Officer, St. Louis Fire Department Bureau of EMS, 1421 N. Jefferson Avenue, St. Louis, MO 63106 or call her at 314-289-1900.

EVOLUTIONS 2000

Kramer vs. Kramer: Cedar Shake Shingles: Are They a Hazard?

Approx. length: 3:02

Working Fire and Professor/Chief Bill Kramer present our Continuing Education segment that's worth one credit from the University of Cincinnati. Continuing the subject covered in this month's Fireline segment, Kramer debates whether or not cedar shake shingle roofs should be outlawed as a fire hazard. *Working Fire* subscribers can get one college credit each month from the University of Cincinnati by answering the questions found in the Training Materials. For more information, contact 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!

Shake Shingle Residential Fires/Springfield, MO

Chief Richard Stirts, Logan-Rogersville Fire Protection District, Springfield, MO

1. Does your department have a policy regarding civilian assistance in emergency situations?
2. Does your jurisdiction have residential areas with heavy concentrations of cedar shake shingle roofs? Do you ever consider their potential for combustion in high-wind conditions? Have you considered a "no-burn" ordinance in such areas during high-wind conditions?
3. Has your department and relevant police agencies developed a policy for crowd control around emergency incidents? Does this policy include disbursement by order of the police?

Riverboat Casino/Barge Collision/St. Louis, MO

P.I.O. Duane Greer, St. Louis Fire Department, St. Louis, MO

1. In an incident with the potential for numerous mass-casualties, does your department set up a separate EMS Incident Command post?
2. If you have a sizable river- or lakefront in your jurisdiction, do you have a harbor disaster plan in place? Are appropriate agencies, maritime companies, and mutual aid companies involved?
3. Do you have a procedure for dealing with the media in the event of mass-casualty incident that will be of immediate interest to local citizens? Have you prepared areas for briefings and media observation positions?

Enhanced Training

Accountability Procedures, Part II

Objectives

After watching this program the student shall:

1. understand why accountability is so important on the fireground.
2. understand the procedures used with the Passport accountability systems and useful operating procedures.

Standards and Regulations

This training is consistent with NFPA 1500 and typical accountability procedures.

Training Outline

A. MULTI-STORY/HIGH-RISE ACCOUNTABILITY

1. Only fire floors will be considered the hot zone.
2. The accountability location is the first apparatus to each geographic side or point of entry of the incident. All initial companies entering the building place their passports on the status board of the accountability location until the lobby sector is established.
3. Once established, the lobby sector officer, or his/her designee, will be responsible for collecting the passports from the initial companies (from the accountability apparatus).
4. As Command assigns additional companies, they report to the lobby and are logged on the Lobby Status Chart with their assigned sectors. See Chart at end of segment.

B. LOST/MISSING FIREFIGHTER

1. Anyone who suspects that a member is missing or trapped shall notify his/her officer-in-charge or the Incident Commander immediately. Missing personnel are assumed to be in the hot zone until determined that they are safe.
2. The Incident Commander will initiate a Personnel Accountability Report (PAR).
3. If the PAR results in identifying missing personnel, a radio search shall be conducted.
4. If the radio search fails to locate the missing member, then Command shall request an additional alarm and rescue units appropriate to the number of missing personnel.
5. The Incident Commander shall assign a chief officer to command the search effort who will divide the area to be searched and assign teams to those areas.
6. The Incident Commander shall assign a Safety Officer to the search/recovery effort ,

Accountability Procedures, Part II

in addition to the overall incident Safety Officer.

C. TACTICAL BENCHMARKS

A PAR will be required for the following incidents:

1. Any confirmed report of a missing or trapped person.
2. Any sudden hazardous event (flashover, backdraft, collapse, etc.)
3. Following a report of "Situation Under Control" (Signal 77).

D. ACCOUNTABILITY OFFICERS

1. Accountability officers may be engineers, sector officers or personnel specifically assigned to sectors to serve as accountability officers for the sector officer. They may handle more than one sector.
2. The first engineer to each geographic side or point of entry of the incident will serve as the initial accountability officer. If a need for accountability officers to assist sector officers occurs, a company may be split up and its members distributed to be accountability officers.
3. Command may assign a separate radio frequency for accountability.

E. COMMAND POST ACCOUNTABILITY SECTOR

Command should designate a command post accountability officer with the following responsibilities:

1. Maintain the Command Post Accountability Chart and verify each PAR. See Chart at end of segment.
2. Coordinate the sector/accountability officers and ensure sufficient coverage is provided.
3. Coordinate with Command to initiate PARs upon benchmarks or as needed.
4. The radio designation for this officer will be Command Post accountability.

F. TERMINATING A SECTOR

Command will determine when to terminate a sector, at which time a PAR for their crews must be obtained. Upon release from the incident, company officers and crew members will ensure that the passport is updated and returned to the dash of the apparatus.

Answers to the quiz on page 9:

1. false 2. true 3. false 4. d. 5. c.

Accountability Procedures, Part II

G. RAPID INTERVENTION TEAM

The Incident Commander shall have a Rapid Intervention Team (RIT) stand by at the Command Post uncommitted, with full bunker gear and SCBA. If the RIT becomes committed, then the Incident Commander shall assign another company as the RIT.

In the event a firefighter becomes lost or trapped, the RIT will be deployed immediately by the Incident Commander. He/she will assign a chief officer to command the search effort and will assure backup teams and assistance as needed. The RIT will become part of the search teams.

For more information on Rapid Intervention Teams, refer to Working Fire volumes 97-8 through 97-12 and the related training materials pertaining to those volumes.

Accountability Procedures, Part II

Command Post Accountability

Company				Now		
CO	ID	Time In	Time Out			
Section Designation						
Section Officer						
Location				Par #1 - Time	Par #2 - Time	Par #3 - Time
CO	ID	Time In	Time Out			
Section Designation						
Section Officer						
Location				Par #1 - Time	Par #2 - Time	Par #3 - Time
CO	ID	Time In	Time Out			
Section Designation						
Section Officer						
Location				Par #1 - Time	Par #2 - Time	Par #3 - Time
CO	ID	Time In	Time Out			
Section Designation						
Section Officer						
Location				Par #1 - Time	Par #2 - Time	Par #3 - Time
CO	ID	Time In	Time Out			
Section Designation						
Section Officer						
Location				Par #1 - Time	Par #2 - Time	Par #3 - Time

Accountability Procedures, Part II: Quiz

Date _____

Chief/T.O. _____

Firefighter (print) _____

Education Credits/
Hours/Units _____

Signature _____

Select the best answer:

1. True or False Firefighters may not place their passports on the status board as long as they stay in the lobby.
2. True or False If a firefighter suspects that a member is missing or trapped, he/she should immediately notify the officer-in-charge.
3. True or False If the engineer is the first accountability officer on-scene, he/she retains that duty for the duration of the incident.
4. RIT members should be:
 - a. in bunker gear
 - b. with SCBA
 - c. standing by
 - d. all of the above
5. If an RIT is deployed to search for a lost or trapped firefighter, then the Incident Commander shall:
 - a. join the RIT
 - b. stay with the RIT at the Command post
 - c. assign another company as the RIT
 - d. none of the above

(Correct answers can be found at the top of page 6.)

Enhanced Training

Farmedic Extrication Part II

Objectives

After watching this segment the student shall have a basic understanding of the elements that should comprise a haz-mat simulation.

Standards and Regulations

This training is consistent with NFPA 1500.

Training Outline

A. THE SCENARIO

The patient was working on a hay/grain threshing machine when the mechanism moved, pinning his arm and leg in the machine.

B. INITIAL EXTRICATION PRECAUTIONS

1. Secure the machine so that it can't move.
2. Be careful about cutting belts which may release spring-loaded components
3. Maintain patient care during extrication: reassure the patient, take vital signs, continue assessing. This may mean that an EMS responder may have to crawl into the mechanism to render care. The responder should be protected with padded salvage covers to keep from becoming entangled. The area should be lighted; lighting may generate additional heat in a confined space.

C. EXTRICATION PLAN OF ATTACK

1. Devise an extrication plan of attack and at least one additional backup plan. In this case, two plans were devised:

PLAN A: Remove the bolts holding the augur in place to remove the patient.

PLAN B: Release the mechanism. Turn the beater assembly with attached levers from the outside in order to spin it backwards.

Answers to quiz on following page:

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

Farmedic Extrication, Part II

Elapsed time of the incident and Golden Hour implications often force rescuers to choose one plan over another. Once a plan is chosen, give it time to evolve.

D. EMS NOTES

1. Because of the longer response times that often accompany rural or farm extrications, beginning and maintaining EMS treatment during the extrication itself is desirable whenever possible.
2. If time is running out, remove the patient's limb rather than lose the patient's life.
3. With a severed or amputated limb, the vessels, arteries, and veins have a tendency to constrict and collapse which will tend to stop the bleeding. This will happen more in this case than it would with a mangling accident which would open up a lot of tissue.
4. Technique: One way to minimize the bleeding is to inflate a blood pressure cuff just above the injured area to maintain direct pressure. This is not as traumatic as a tourniquet which would be a last-ditch effort.

E. POST-ANALYSIS

As it turned out, Plan A didn't work out as planned because only two of the bolts could be unscrewed and space didn't allow for a Saws-all to cut the remaining bolts. The extrication team went to Plan B which involved disassembly and reversing the mechanism to back the trapped limbs out of the machine. However, Golden Hour constraints demanded that the team amputate the limb to save the patient.

F SUMMARY

1. EMS should work with extrication teams so that the needs of the patient and the extrication mission are equally served.
2. Farm and construction equipment are built with durability in mind. The steel used is not easily manipulated by extrication tools normally intended for passenger vehicles. Disassembly may be necessary for successful extrication.
3. Understanding the construction and disassembly of this kind of equipment is essential knowledge for swift, efficient extrications.

Farmedic Extrication, Part II: Quiz

Date _____

Chief/T.O. _____

Firefighter (print) _____

Education Credits/
Hours/Units _____

Signature _____

Select the best answer:

1. True or False Having one backup plan is all you'll ever need.
2. True or False Amputations bleed more profusely than mangling injuries because there is nothing there to stop the blood.
3. True or False EMS responders should never put themselves in a situation where they might be caught in a machine.
4. Golden Hour implications primarily affect:
 - a. Incident Command
 - b. Extrication teams
 - c. EMS
 - d. all of the above
5. Heavy equipment steel is easily handled with:
 - a. spreaders
 - b. Saws-alls
 - c. cutters
 - d. rams
 - e. none of the above

(Correct answers can be found at the top of the previous page)

Evolutions 2000

Kramer vs. Kramer/ Continuing Education Program

Cedar Shake Shingle Roofs: Are they a good idea?

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 98-6

CEDAR SHAKE SHINGLE ROOFS: ARE THEY A GOOD IDEA?

Complete written responses to the following three essay questions:

1. List the key reasons why wooden shake roofs should be banned and the key reasons for their continued existence.
2. What changes do you envision for the future of wooden shake roofs?
3. What should the role of the Fire Service be in affecting the future of wooden shake roofs?

Submit 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. Associate and Bachelors programs are available. Call to have your transcripts evaluated.