

Truck Company Operations Instructor Guide

Session Reference: 1-2

Topic: Search and Rescue

Level of Instruction:

Time Required: 1 Hour

Materials:

References:

- Truck Company Fireground Operations, Second Edition, Chapter 3
- Essentials of Fire Fighting, Third Edition, Pages 142-144 and 149-152

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PREPARATION:

Motivation:

Objective (SPO): 1-2-1

The student will demonstrate a basic understanding of search and rescue operations, considerations, search techniques, and victim removal.

Overview:

Search and Rescue

- Chronology of rescue operations
- Rescue considerations
- Search

SESSION 1-2

SEARCH AND RESCUE

- SPO 1-2-1 The student will demonstrate a basic understanding of search and rescue operations, considerations, search techniques, and victim removal.
- 1-2-1 Explain the sequence of events related to conducting a search and rescue operation.
- 1-2-2 Explain the considerations related to conducting a search in various occupancies.
- 1-2-3 Describe the various duties associated with conducting a search.

I. Chronology of Rescue Operations (1-2-1)

Rescue of people in danger is the primary objective of any fire department and is normally assigned to the truck company

- A. Before the alarm considerations
 - 1. Occupancies
 - 2. People involved
 - 3. Hazards
 - 4. Objective to know in advance approximate type and extent of rescue operations
- B. Alarm considerations
 - 1. First indication that problem may exist
 - 2. Initial information includes exact address or more general location
 - 3. Company should know type of occupancy involved or type of area
 - 4. Occupancy and time of day important clues to possible presence of victims
 - 5. Dispatch information is important
 - 6. First reports should be relayed to company officer
- C. Fireground considerations
 - 1. Size up - begun before apparatus is stopped
 - a. Is fire building a closed-up dwelling with heavy smoke showing
 - b. Are cars parked in driveway, front, or rear
 - c. Are people at windows of apartment house, office building, or similar occupancy calling for help
 - d. Is fire showing and, if so, where

- e. Given interior construction of building, in which directions will fire travel most rapidly
 - f. Extent of fire, size and age of building, and apparent population important
 - g. Information can be obtained from neighbors and tenants who have escaped
 - h. Special urgency is people still inside
 - i. Reports of "everyone is out" might be erroneous
2. Immediate rescue
- a. Must be attempted in extreme cases - jumpers or people with clothing on fire
 - b. All other operations must be delayed (may be performed before a rapid intervention team is in place)
 - c. Get attention of victims and calm them
 - d. Presence of victims at windows may indicate other occupants
 - e. Call for help when rescue operations keeps personnel from other duties
 - f. Take immediate action to control other excited occupants
 - g. Give positive orders and directions
3. Obtaining water and placing streams
- a. Separate fire from people closest to it
 - b. Control interior stairways and corridors for evacuating occupants and advancing fire fighters
 - c. Protect crews searching for victims around and above the fire

- d. Streams should be placed as soon as possible upon arrival to coordinate with search
- 4. Search
 - a. Begin search immediately if indications of trapped or overcome victims (rapid intervention team must be in place prior to initiating search unless there is an obvious rescue)
 - b. Demands coordination with fire attack
 - c. Fire spread must be blocked when searching around or above fire
 - d. Ventilation, laddering, and forcible entry may be required before search can begin
 - e. All personnel on scene must be aware that search is in progress
 - f. All activities should be directed toward helping crew engaged in search

II. Rescue Considerations (1-2-2)

Rescue means removing victims and potential victims from danger

- A. Extent of rescue problem directly effected by
 - 1. Number of people in fire building
 - 2. Paths by which fire and smoke can reach them
 - 3. Routes available to crews for reaching people and removing them from building
- B. Factors depend on construction, size, and interior layout of building
- C. Crew must be prepared for most complex structure
- D. Rescue problem can tax capacity of first units - call for additional companies without delay

III. Search (1-2-3)

A thorough, planned search for victims should be conducted at every fire.

- A. Search duties - operations to be carried out simultaneously
 - 1. Locate and remove trapped occupants
 - 2. Ventilate where needed
 - 3. Temporarily prevent extension of fire by closing doors and windows
 - 4. Check for interior and exterior fire extension
 - 5. When necessary, help locate the seat of fire
- B. Standard search procedure
 - 1. Search begins immediately
 - a. Size up fire situation
 - b. Use attack lines to cut off fire
 - c. Stay low and check for victims near fire
 - d. Attempt to get to upper floors
 - e. If area is untenable, ventilation must begin from outside
 - 2. Search pattern
 - a. Search area over fire first
 - b. Keep turning in the same direction
 - c. At least two fire fighters should be assigned to search an area
 - d. Team members should keep track of each other by touch, sight, verbally, and listening for sound
 - e. Each should call for help from other
 - 3. Areas to be searched

- a. Corridors, halls, and open areas in each room should be checked thoroughly
 - b. Bathrooms, closets, and space behind large chairs and under beds should be checked
 - c. Check near windows for victims overcome
 - d. Rescuers should carry axe, forcible entry tool, and handlight
 - e. Search fire room if possible then close door to isolate fire
 - f. Line should be placed over fire
 - g. Vent non-fire rooms to relieve heat and smoke
4. Indicating that a room has been searched
- a. Establish a standard method to indicate that room has been searched
 - b. If door is left open, place piece of light furniture in doorway, lying on side with legs pointed outward
 - c. If door is closed, place piece of cloth against door jamb near doorknob
 - d. Tags can be used in place of piece of cloth
5. Other structures
- a. In apartment buildings, residential search pattern should be used within units
 - b. Important that searchers leave using same doorway as entered
 - c. If fire conditions require use of different doorway, it should be reported immediately
 - d. Hoselines may be required to search fire area

- e. Larger structures may require more personnel

C. Search Techniques.

1. Doors

- a. Before opening, check to see if knob is hot
- b. Some heat from knob or door may indicate smoke and gases beyond door
- c. If door opens outward, stay low and place full body weight against door
- d. Release lock slowly and open door slightly
- e. If there is strong push or fire, close door and wait for attack line
- f. If door opens inward, release lock slowly and ease door in
- g. If strong push or fire, close door and wait for attack line

2. Victims

- a. Occupants will try to escape through doors, windows, fire escapes, halls, and stairways
- b. Look for overcome victims near and in such places
- c. Make sure victims not lying against doors pushing inward
- d. Under smoke and gas conditions, attempt to remove victim and then shut door
- e. If needed, call for attack line or help
- f. Victims may be found near doors
- g. Great physical effort may be required to move victims from door
- h. If enough help available, remove victims from structure while search continues

- i. In large structures, move to hallway and vent
 - j. Victims found deep in apartments or large areas may require making opening in wall and moving victim to less-charged area
3. Visibility
- a. Stay low and move quickly when visibility reduced
 - b. Use legs and hands to feel for victims and obstructions
 - c. Hallways and corridors can serve as directional guides
 - d. Open or remove windows when encountered
- D. Victim Drags and Carries
- 1. Victim drags
 - a. Clothing drag
 - b. Strap or rope drag
 - c. Blanket drag
 - 2. Carries
 - a. Extremities carry
 - b. Cradle carry
 - c. Chair carry
 - d. Seat carry

SUMMARY:

Review:

Search and Rescue

- Chronology of rescue operations
- Rescue considerations
- Search

Remotivation:

Assignment:

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EVALUATION: