

Firehouse.com WEEKLY DRILL

DRILL #24: TRUCK OPERATIONS - PART 2

Introduction

In Part 1, we looked at three of the seven operations performed by the truck company using the acronym LOVERS U. These key points are considered the base for a successful fireground operation by truck companies.

Entry

Forcible entry can be a lesson in and of itself. Let's look at the basics for now. First, take a moment and perform a size-up to choose the best method for gaining entry. Follow these rules that have proven successful for years:

1. Try before you pry.
2. Look for the easiest way to get in the structure
 - a. Doors
 - b. Windows
3. Use the same door used by occupants
 - a. Usually not as fortified
 - b. Generally will be used for escape
4. Keep the door intact, as close to normal as possible
 - a. Use for fire control
 - b. Use for protection

Rescue

All rescue operations should be conducted following a set of priorities that never change:

1. Search areas immediately around the fire
2. Search areas directly above the fire
3. Search from the highest floor and work down
4. Finally, search areas below the fire or having a low priority

Remember, there are two distinctive searches that have to be performed during a rescue operation.

1. The primary search
 - a. Firefighters conduct a rapid search for victims
2. The secondary search
 - a. Conducted after the fire is under control
 - b. Locate victims missed during the primary search

Salvage

Salvage should begin at the moment of arrival and should be a conscious part of each firefighter's attitude.



The concept behind salvage operations is to reduce damage to the property and its contents during fire control operations and after from:

1. Fire
2. Smoke
3. Water
4. Overhaul
5. Weather

Utilities

Controlling the utilities is something that should be addressed early into the operations. Two firefighters should be sent to perform this task to isolate the following:

1. Electricity
2. Water
3. Gas
 - a. Natural
 - b. Propane

Sprinkler system shut offs are another type of utility. Should you need to send firefighters to the control valves be sure they are equipped with a radio for communicating. The crew should remain at the valve during control operations until the incident commander considers all options and reassigns them.

-- Prepared by Russell Merrick