

Company Level Drills

***Adapted for
Africa Fire Mission***

OBJECTIVES:

- Identify many different drills to use in a variety of situations.
- **Define the role a company officer has in training, educating and mentoring their crew.**
- Create a training plan to best meet the needs of their personnel.

**What are the challenges
a Company Officer has
when attempting to train
their personnel?**



company officer in regards to training?



**What are the
characteristics of an
effective Training
Officer?**

Top 10 Contributing LODD Factors:

- **Command and Control
(includes size-up)**
- **Fire Behavior**
- **Building Construction**
- **Human / Cultural Items**
- **Communications**

Top 10 Contributing LODD Factors:

- **Safety / Staffing**
- **Water Supply**
- **Fire Prevention**
- **Ventilation**
- **Training & SOP/SOGs**

**What is the role of the
company officer in
regards to training?**

CREATING A TRAINING PLAN

- Daily, weekly, monthly, annual, long-term
- **Don't just rely on your Training Officer**
- Understand the mandates
- **Know strengths/weaknesses of crew**
- Know the career development needs of crew

WHERE TO DRILL

- Fire station / apparatus bay / kitchen table
- **First-due area**
- Other locations within your jurisdiction
- **Outside of your jurisdiction**
- Department training center / classroom

WHO WILL INSTRUCT?

- The company officer
- **The paramedic or EMT**
- The engineer
- **The firefighter**
- The probationary firefighter
- **The resident expert**
- Outside instructors

**DRILLS
FOR THE
COMPANY
OFFICER**

APPARATUS FAMILIARIZATION

What is in each compartment? Can they name what is inside, location / quantity / use of each item, etc., with the door closed?

Pick a seldom used tool, one per shift, and tell everything you know about it.

Visit other types of rigs within your department -
“show and tell”

APPARATUS OPERATION

Perform the daily pre-trip inspection

Review basic hydraulics / pump pressure calculations.

Review pump operations – basic and troubleshooting.

APPARATUS OPERATION

Practice basic & defensive driving techniques.

Spot apparatus for a variety of situations (fires, freeway calls, etc.)

BASIC FIREFIGHTING

Review search and rescue techniques, terminology, challenges, and then practice in different types of structures

Review forcible entry tools, techniques, and challenges

Review operations for unique situations such as basements, parking garages, subways, railroads, trench rescue, confined space, water rescue, etc.

BUILDING CONSTRUCTION

Review the basic types (I, II, III, IV, V) of construction, especially common buildings within your jurisdiction.

Walk through buildings under construction, identifying type of construction, also discuss strategy & tactics.

BUILDING CONSTRUCTION

Identify unique hazards relating to buildings within your jurisdiction (window bars, driveway gates, etc.).

Locate videos on YouTube showing differences in time of building collapse for lightweight vs legacy construction.

COMMUNICATIONS

Portable & mobile radio usage / capabilities.

Department paperwork (ICS form 201, form 214, t-cards, tactical worksheets, commonly used maintenance forms, etc.).

Radio etiquette / terminology

DEPARTMENT MANUALS

Review a Policy / Rule / S.O.P. a day

Review the Labor / Management agreement (if applicable)

Scavenger hunt to locate different, commonly used Policies (sick leave, shift trades, etc.)

EMS

Practice a different EMS Skill
CPR / Stop the Bleed / First Aid

**Review Mass Casualty Incident
procedures**

FIRE BEHAVIOR

Review fire behavior terms and strategy / tactics to mitigate each.

Watch Reading Smoke Videos

Review YouTube videos showing flashover time – then vs. now.

HAZ MAT

Review basic Haz Mat awareness & operations level actions (Safety, Isolate & Deny Entry, Notifications)

Review the latest Emergency Response Guide (orange DOT book)

Practice setting up an emergency decontamination station

Show and tell with your local Haz Mat unit

HIGH-RISE FIREFIGHTING

Review key ICS positions for High-rise incidents

**Review High rise operations
(including ALS Base)**

Practice standpipe operations, including troubleshooting, pumping, etc.

HOSE

Hose terminology / maintenance,
including hose streams, nozzles and
foam

Deploy small hand lines (45mm)

Deploy large hand lines (60mm)

HOSE

Deploying a portable deck gun / master stream

Determining length of hose needed

In a building, make the hose into spaghetti and order personnel out to see if they can find the couplings

ICS / NIMS

Review common components of ICS / NIMS, including:

- **Terminology**
- Command staff
- **General staff**
- Position titles
- **Position duties, etc.**

LADDERS

Ladder terminology / maintenance

Determining appropriate length for job

Attic / Folding ladder usage

Throw each size of ladder carried

Aerial device operation / placement

MAP READING / AREA FAMILIARIZATION

How to read different map books

Place street names in a coffee can to pass around to see if your crew knows where the street is.

MAP READING / AREA FAMILIARIZATION

Reviewing log book, previous calls

**Target hazard review (FDCs, challenges,
etc.)**

**Key address points within the
jurisdiction (N/W/S/E, digits, etc.)**

MISCELLANEOUS

Do a fire inspection with a fire inspector

Have a fire investigator review cause/origin & evidence preservation techniques

You Tube / videos / DVDs

MISCELLANEOUS

Fire trade magazine articles / pictures

Computer usage (reports, email, etc.)

History of the fire service, and more importantly, history of your department

ROPES & KNOTS

How to inspect and maintain your ropes

How to tie each type of knot you may have to know

Use a rope to tie a tool or hose line for hoisting to an upper floor

ROPES & KNOTS

Review mechanical advantage principles

Set up a basic lowering system

Change the lowering system to a raising system (z-rig)

SAFETY & SURVIVAL

Review vehicle fire safety operations

Don your PPE for time

How to inspect and maintain your
PPE

**Review electrical emergency
operations**

SAFETY & SURVIVAL

Review and discuss Firefighter Fatality reports, and websites such as

- www.firehouse.com
- www.firefighternearmiss.com
- www.firefighterclosecalls.com
- www.respondersafety.com
- www.modernfirebehavior.com

SALVAGE OPERATIONS

How to maintain and use various salvage tools (salvage covers, hall runners, visqueen, squeegees, water vacuums, sprinkler shut-offs, etc.)

BA

BA terminology & maintenance

Don your BA for time

Pass through a narrow opening while
wearing an BA

BA

Determine how long it takes to breathe down one BA bottle

Emergency procedures while using an BA

How to refill / change BA cylinders

SIZE-UP

Review basic components of size-up.

Practice doing radio reports on different types of buildings and in different situations.

STRATEGY & TACTICS

Review the different strategic modes of firefighting (offensive, defensive, etc.)

Review the 3 primary Incident Priorities:

- Life Safety / Customer service (us and them)
- Incident Stabilization / Hazard Mitigation
- Property conservation

STRATEGY & TACTICS

Review RECEO-VS, SLICERS, etc.

R = Rescue

V = Ventilation

E = Exposures

S = Salvage

C = Confinement

E = Extinguishment

O = Overhaul

STRATEGY & TACTICS

Review RECEO-VS, SLICERS, etc.

Sequential Actions:

S = Size-up

L = Locate fire

I = Identify/control flow path

C = Cool heated space from safe location

E = Extinguish

Actions of Opportunity:

R = Rescue

S = Salvage

TOOLS & EQUIPMENT

How to inspect and maintain a specific tool or grouping of tools (hand tools, power tools, etc).

How to inspect, maintain and operate each fire extinguisher.

VEHICLE EXTRICATION

Review how to use, inspect, and maintain power tools & hand tools relating to vehicle extrication

Review information on “new” vehicles and what challenges you may be faced with

Get a used vehicle from your local tow yard to cut up

VENTILATION OPERATIONS

Review ventilation principles and procedures

Using actual buildings, discuss where and how to ventilate

Demonstrate inspecting, maintaining, and using each ventilation tool

WATER SUPPLY

Review commonly used water supply systems in your jurisdiction (hydrants, tanks, sprinkler components, etc.)

Spot the apparatus for a hydrant connection

Practice forward / reverse / split hose lays

WATER SUPPLY

Practice drafting water from a static water source

Practice water shuttle operations

Practice relay pumping

LAST BUT NOT LEAST

Participate in the UL / NIST online training that relate to modern fire behavior, basement fires, and vertical ventilation and suppression tactics in single family homes.

Attend an off-duty class as a crew.

It's not all about you - designate each member of your crew to create and deliver a drill each month.

**10 Commandments
of an Ideal Company
Officer as the Training
Officer of their crew**

#1:

**Know The Strengths &
Weaknesses Of Your
Personnel**

#2:

**Identify the training
needs of your
personnel – create a
training plan**

#3:

**Learn what is killing &
injuring firefighters
(don't forget the basics!)**

#4:

Know your topic

#5:

**Select instructors
carefully**

#6:

Practice like you play

#7:

**Don't let days that end in
y" stop your training (or
weather, time of day,
etc.)**

#8:

Mix Up Your Training

#9:

**Hold yourself and your
personnel accountable – don't
accept mediocrity,
incompetence or complacency!**

#10:

**Document, document,
document!**

**LESSONS LEARNED
FROM THE FRONT
OF THE CLASS**

STUDENT INTERACTION

- Rule #1: The student in front of you is the most important person
- Rule #2: **Don't forget rule #1**
- Don't forget breaks
- Don't spoon feed

STUDENT INTERACTION

- Try to engage all students if possible
- **Each student learns and retains info differently**

PROFESSIONALISM

- Respect the allotted time frame
- **Know your stuff**
- Don't let politics enter the classroom unless you can justify using politics
- **Dress the part of the instructor**
- Always practice safety, walk the walk, talk the talk

EXPECATIONS

- Establish expectations at the beginning of every session
- **Hold students accountable**
- Don't settle for mediocrity

LESSON PLAN DEVELOPMENT

- **Don't rely on old lesson plans**
- Use various sources to create
- **Ensure information is consistent, accurate, and up-to-date**
- Prepare your lesson with the thought that you may drop dead tomorrow

AUDIO-VISUAL RELATED

- Learn the audio-visual equipment in advance of class
- **Don't rely on one format**
- Always have a back-up AV method

HANDS-ON PRACTICE:

- **Set up your work area well in advance**
- **If someone else set it up, double-check**
- **Verify condition of equipment before, during and after training session**
- **Take any damaged equipment out of service**
- **Ensure appropriate safety gear is worn**

HANDS-ON PRACTICE:

- Stop unsafe acts or behavior ASAP
- **Always demonstrate how to do a skill at least once before having a student do it**
- Leave plenty of time for extra practice if needed
- **Always have multiple things for people to do, especially if some folks need practice in one area**

TRAINING:

- A minimum of two hours per day
- Make every opportunity to train, educate, mentor
- **Be creative, know what you're teaching**
- Empower your personnel, don't be the only instructor
- **Don't rely on the Department Training Officer to provide you with all the tools to train you're personnel - you are a TO!**

TRAINING RESOURCES:

- ✓✓ Firehouse Magazine: www.firehouse.com
- ✓✓ Fire Engineering Magazine : www.fireengineering.com
- ✓✓ Fire Rescue Magazine: www.firefighternation.com
- ✓✓ Fire Rescue 1 – www.firerescue1.com
- ✓✓ Daily Dispatch – www.dailydispatch.com
- ✓✓ Firefighter Close Calls – www.firefighterclosecalls.com
- ✓✓ Firefighter Near Miss – www.firefighternearmiss.com
- ✓✓ U.S.F.A. - www.usfa.fema.gov

RESOURCES – Publications:

- IAFC On Scene – www.iafc.org
- Firehouse Magazine – www.firehouse.com
- Fire Engineering Magazine –
www.fireengineering.com
- Fire Nuggets Magazine –
www.firenuggets.com

RESOURCES – Publications:

- Fire Rescue Magazine – www.firefighternation.com
- Firefighters Bookstore – www.firebooks.com
- FSP Books & Videos – www.fire--police--ems.com
- National Fire Academy
- State Fire Training/State Fire Marshal's Office

RESOURCES – Free Email Lists:

- www.fireengineering.com
- www.firehouse.com
- www.dailydispatch.com
- www.firefighterclosecalls.com
- www.firerescue1.com
- www.firefighternation.com

RESOURCES – Associations:

- www.iafc.org (Int'l Association of Fire Chiefs)
- www.nfpa.org (Nat'l Fire Protection Association)
- www.fdsoa.org (FD Safety Officers Association)
- www.publicsafetyexcellence.org (Center for Public Safety Excellence)

RESOURCES – Associations:

- www.isfsi.org (Int'l Society of Fire Service Instructors)
- Your State / Other State Firefighter's Association

***If you truly care about your
personnel – don't let things
like this happen on your
watch.....***



Mark "Mac" F. McCormack

Captain Santa Clara County
Fire Department

August 22, 1968 - February 13, 2005

Beloved Husband, Son, Brother,
Grandson and Friend

BOTTOM LINE:

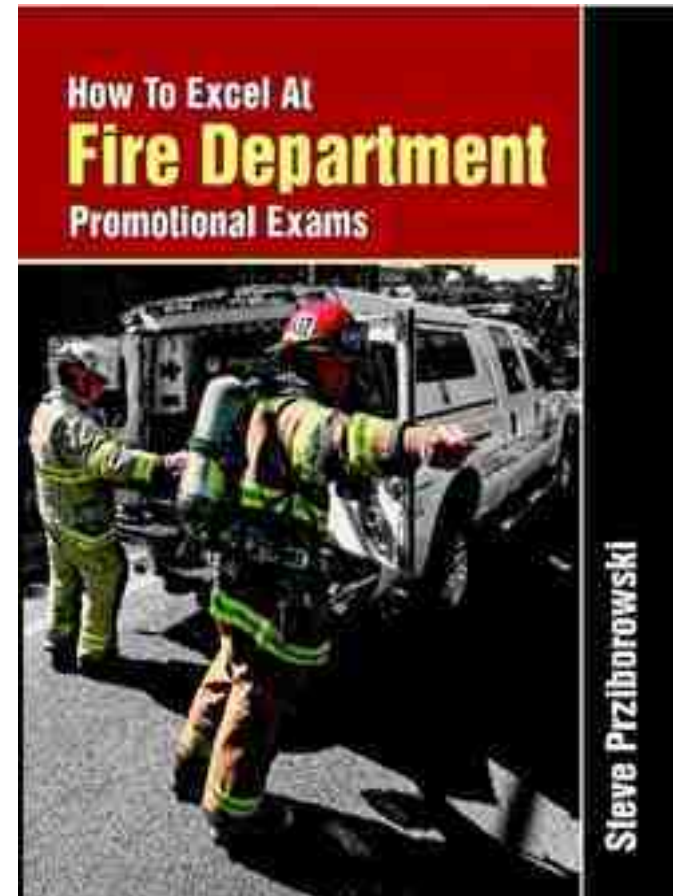
- You are the TO of your company, get used to it
- **Do the best you can to ensure your personnel are as prepared as they can be!**

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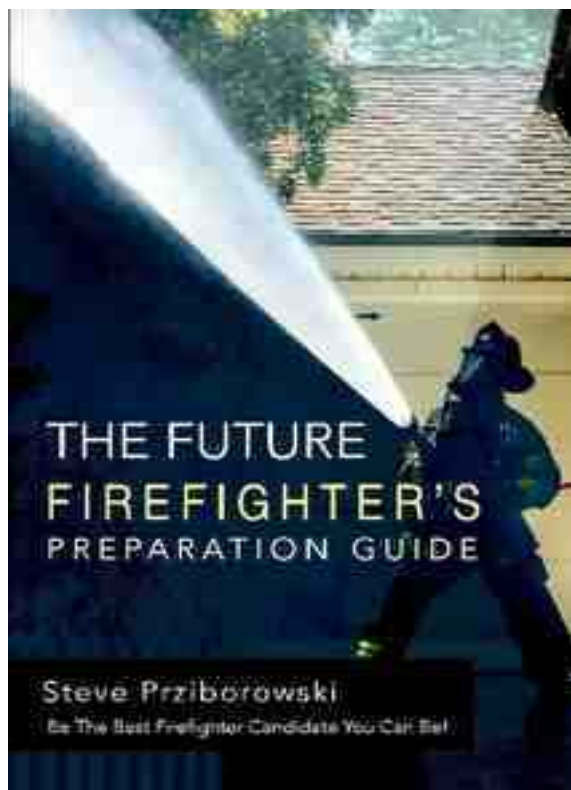
- **Train like your life & their lives depend on it!**
- Nobody ever said being a company officer was going to be easy or fun – if you truly care about your personnel, train them until the cows come home!

Resources:

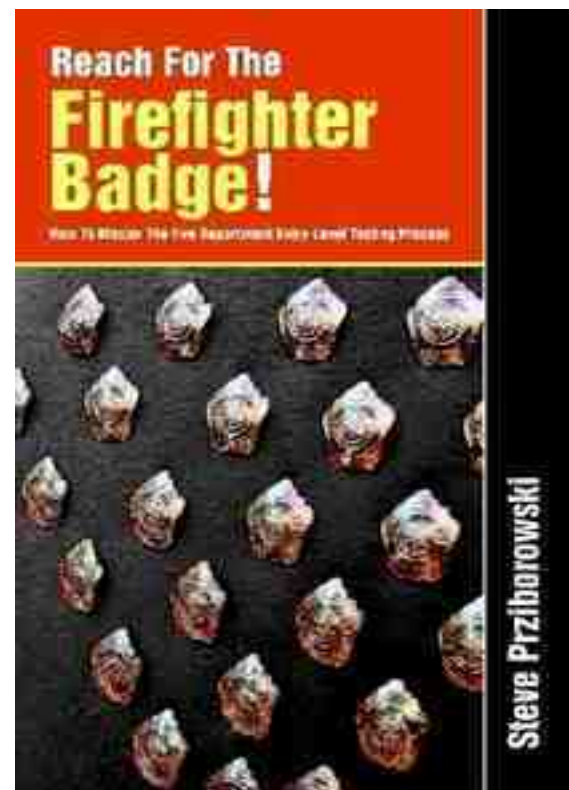
- Soft cover copy; or
- **EBook version**
- Available at:
 - **iTunes**
 - **Amazon**
 - **www.code3firetraining.com**



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