

DELAWARE STATE FIRE SCHOOL
For Your Instruction: In-Service Drill

SEARCH & RESCUE

PURPOSE

The purpose of this drill is to conduct refresher training in search and rescue skills. A brief review of search techniques will be given to allow each participant to perform adequately during the following evolutions.

OBJECTIVE

At the conclusion of the drill, each participant will have participated in search and rescue evolutions.

EQUIPMENT

1. A watch
2. A 1/4" or 3/8" rope or hose line approximately 100' to 150' in length
3. Six pieces of 1/4" or 3/8" rope approximately 100' in length
4. Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus
5. Various forcible entry tools
6. Personal protective equipment
7. Waxed paper
8. Masking tape

SAFETY PRECAUTIONS

1. Participants should wear personal protective equipment and Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus.
2. The drill area should be adequately lighted.
3. Each search team should be monitored by the Drill Leader during the evolution.
4. The Drill Leader will be responsible for being familiar with and following the drill guidelines.

REFERENCES

NOTE: Reference materials contain illustrations or pictures of the steps listed for the evolutions.

IFSTA "Essentials of Firefighting", Seventh Edition

SKILLS

1. SCBA facepiece lens should be covered with waxed paper secured with masking tape to obscure vision, but allow the area to be lighted to allow the Drill Leader and observing members to monitor the searchers.
2. Participant "victims" should be placed in the search area for teams to locate. These participants should wear protective clothing.
3. Review techniques for removing victims with members before the drill:

Drags and carries

A. One-man drag

1. Place victim on their back
2. Participant will roll the victim's collar inward for a good hand hold
3. Participant grasps collar in tight grip
4. Participant lifts victim by collar
 - a. Victim's head will be protected when fire-fighter lifts upper torso
 - b. Drags victim to desired location

B. One-man drag using rope

1. If the participant has access to a rope hose tool, a belt, or any object in which a loop may be made, make a loop and place around the victim's chest and under victim's shoulders
2. The participant lifts up on the rope instead of using the collar and drags the victim to safety or desired location

C. Extremities carry

1. Place victim on his back with his feet apart
2. One participant kneels behind victim's head
3. The remaining participant kneels between the victim's knees
4. Both participants face the victim's feet
5. Raise the victim's head and shoulders to a sitting position
 - a. Participant kneeling behind head grasps victim around the body and under the armpits
 - b. Participant kneeling between victim's knees passes his hands from the outside under the victim's knees
 - c. Both firefighters, on command, rise together

6. Remove victim to desired location
- D. Impress upon the participants the availability of resources within the emergency area
1. May be used to assist the participants in effecting the necessary rescues
 - a. Blankets
 - b. Rugs
 - c. Coats
 - d. Carts
 - e. Chairs
4. When "victim's" are located, the participant should explain to the Drill Leader which method they would use to remove the victim from the area, **but does not have to physically perform the task.**
5. Review safety with participant
- A. Always wear SCBA
 - B. Always work in at least pairs
 - C. If one of the searching pairs has to leave the area, both exit together
 - D. Always search in a pattern
 - E. Always keep in contact with a reference point such as a rope, hose line, or wall
 - F. Always keep aware of surroundings and potential deteriorating conditions that may force you to exit
 - G. Stay on hands and knees if visibility is poor
 - H. Listen periodically for victims' moans or cries
 - I. Wear a PAL or PASS device if available
 - J. If available, have radio communication to outside
 - K. Indicate searched areas to avoid two primary searches of the same area
 - L. Always have someone outside the area monitor your actions and location

NOTE:

This drill can be done in two sessions. Evolution one can be done in the first session, and evolution two can be done at another.

NOTE:

Breathing tube may be placed inside coat instead of hooked to SCBA regulator if need to conserve air. Explain to the participant this is for this exercise only.

SKILL EVOLUTION #1: Large area search

1. Participants enter large area such as social hall or apparatus room wearing protective gear and SCBA with waxed paper taped over facepiece.
 - a. May use six (6) to eight (8) participants on a team as long as they work in pairs and one participant is the leader of the team.
2. Participants will search area for victims and when one is located they will explain to the Drill Leader what drag or carry they would use to remove the victim.
3. Participants not on the search team or acting as victim should quietly observe from an out-of-the-way part of the room to see how the search progresses.
4. The first participant to enter the room takes a reference point such as a hose line or a rope along a wall or down a center aisle.
 - a. One end is held by a control person at the entry door and is played out only as it is needed to move into the area.
5. The control person logs entry time and keeps track of time so searchers do not exceed fifteen (15) minutes in searching so have enough air to get back out.
6. As the first person comes to a cross aisle, they have the second person tie a line to the main reference point and this person play out their rope as they go down the cross aisle, searching the aisle and under any obstructions such as furniture.
 - a. Use the forcible entry tool taken with them to sweep under furniture.
7. The first person continues along the wall or aisle, leaving the third person at the junction of the reference point and the cross aisle rope to communicate with the second person who is proceeding down the cross aisle searching. (Persons 2 and 3 are Team A)
8. At the next cross aisle, the fourth and fifth person to enter the room search that cross aisle using the same method as the second and third person team used. (Persons 4 and 5 are Team B)
9. When the first cross aisle is searched, the searcher moves back up the rope to the junction with the reference point. An item such as a chair is laid across the cross aisle indicating it has been searched.
10. These two persons (Team A) then go down the reference point past the second

cross aisle (where the fourth and fifth persons, Team B, are searching) to the third cross aisle and search it using the same method.

11. The control person at the door periodically verbally has the teams check in and lets them know how long before they should come out.
 - a. Two participants on team communicate with each other so communication with control person at the door from team leaders would be: "Team A-ok", "Team B-ok", "Reference point man-ok." Control person at door would log it and say, "ten (10) minutes left."
12. When time is up and the entire crew comes out, the first person to enter the room is the last person out. They should leave the reference point to mark the forward progress.
13. The first crew checks out with the control person at the door and a second crew enters, moves down the reference point to the mark of forward progress and continues to search cross aisles using the same procedures as the first crew.
14. This system continues until the entire area is searched.

SKILL EVOLUTION #2: Small area search

1. Participants search area made up of smaller rooms such as an office area.
2. Participants work in teams of two to search rooms, explaining to the Drill Leader how they would remove victims when they locate one.
3. Reference points such as rope, hose line, or walls should be used.
4. An organized pattern such as a left hand or right hand search method should be used.
5. Use furniture to indicate that a room has been searched to avoid duplication of primary searches.
6. A control person should be left at the entry point to the area of rooms to keep track of time and progress of search pairs.
 - a. Stress communication of search pairs with each other and with the control person at the entry point.

CONCLUSION

At the conclusion of the skills, the Drill Leader will do the following:

1. Secure the drill area to return it to normal condition.
2. Inspect, clean, and return SCBA to proper condition and location for use at alarm.

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