



Officers Section

POSITION

STATEMENT

Training

It is hard to argue the importance of basic training as a firefighter. Training is necessary for the personal safety of the firefighter, While enhancing the firefighter's ability to assist a fellow firefighter who may be in danger. Training enables the recruit to gain confidence in his or her ability, which in turn gives the recruit a feeling of safety and security that is necessary for the retention of that recruit. Department members are in need of more basic training, however departments must be aware of the multitude of requirements they place on volunteers.

Foremost, Training should emphasize the basics, as these are what each member of a department must master. Minimum training standards must be established in every state and adhered to by every fire department in that state.

With the development of technology, web-based training has become a viable option for many departments. However, this option should be developed with the intent of making training convenient to the member not to the department. These training sessions should be well planned, organized, informational, rewarding and fun as those in a classroom session. Though all types of training should be designed so that attendance enhances a firefighter's skill rather than measure a firefighter skill rather than measure a firefighter's ability to sit in a classroom.

Training and Drilling must go hand in hand. Fire Chiefs and instructors must realize that training is learning a new skill, and drilling is developing proficiency in that firefighter's new skill. Again, all sessions should be well planned with a built in success factor

Specialized training in areas such as High Angle Rescue, Advanced Haz Mat, Trench Rescue and other special operations should be available to department members. However, in an age of specialization, not every firefighter in every department need be required to train in each and every aspect of the fire service. These type of specialized training should be regionalized creating special teams composed of members from departments in a particular region who are interested in special operations. If specialized regional teams exist, individuals will assure the departments in that region the best quality of service.



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Training continued

To reduce costs and ensure purchase of the best, state of the art equipment, budgets for these specialized teams can be combined since regionalization removes the need to purchase equipment for every department.

The concept of regionalization will enable the majority of department members to concentrate on the basics, which in turn will save lives and make operations more efficient as well as increasing customer service.

We need to accept the fact that each and every department cannot do everything. All departments should work with neighboring departments to develop regional specialists. Swallow your pride and work with others at achieving the common goal of customer service while not overtaxing your individual members with extra requirements. This will enable the majority of department members to concentrate on the basics, therefore prevent injuries and tragic outcomes.

Category: Training

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