



FIRE PROTECTION TRAINING

Procedures Handbook 4300

FIREFIGHTER SAFETY

TOPIC: Using A Structure As A Refuge

TIME FRAME: :30

LEVEL OF INSTRUCTION: Level I

BEHAVIORAL OBJECTIVE:

Condition: A written quiz

Behavior: Student will list and describe the emergency procedures to follow using a structure as a refuge if trapped by fire.

Standard: With a minimum of 80% accuracy

MATERIALS NEEDED:

- Whiteboard/chalk board and chalk/erasable markers
- Appropriate visual aids
- June, 2009 Jesusita Fire Burnover Green Sheet
- Appropriate audio visual equipment

REFERENCES:

- CAL FIRE Academy Basic Fire Control Course Curriculum

PREPARATION:

In many cases when firefighters find themselves trapped by fire, a structure of some sort is nearby. The structure may provide refuge protection. Even if the structure eventually burns, it can provide temporary shelter until the main fire front passes.



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PRESENTATION	APPLICATION
<p>I. CREW PREPARATION</p> <p>A. Stay together</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Keep close account of all crew members2. Avoid having to search for a "stray", thus exposing crew members to additional risks <p>B. Follow directions of crew leader/supervisor</p> <p>C. Contact "outside" personnel</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Fireline supervisor, I.C. or E.C.C.2. Explain the situation3. Give accurate description of your location and access to it<ol style="list-style-type: none">a. For ground/air support and/or rescue <p>D. Re-evaluate your situation</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Possible escape routes2. Safer structures or areas3. Weigh risks of staying against risks of attempting escape	<p>There are cases where persons have died trying to find a crew member they thought had strayed off</p> <p>Retardant/water drops</p> <p>Possible helicopter rescue or transport of injured</p>

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<p>4. Have you considered all options?</p> <p>II. SELF-PREPARATION</p> <p>A. Keep calm-think clearly-act decisively</p> <p>B. Secure personal protective equipment and other equipment</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Sleeves, cuffs, pant legs, shroud, collars-all buttons/zippers, bandanna (dry), fire shelter readily available2. Goggles, gloves, chin strap on3. Lights, radio, packs, canteens<ol style="list-style-type: none">a. Hose packs, etc., can be used as barrierb. Fusees, gas cans, etc., should be separated and kept away from crew area4. Consider utilizing structure fire turnout gear and SCBA if available <p>III. PREPARE THE STRUCTURE</p> <p>A. Close all windows and doors</p> <p>B. Remove flammables from windows</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Especially on side of house where fire will hit first/hardest2. Close heavy drapes3. Take down lighter (sheer) curtains <p>C. Turn on all lights - even during daytime</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. May assist in locating house at night or in heavy smoke conditions	

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<p>D. Utilize Class A Foam or gel on the structure's exterior</p> <p>E. Fire out around structure if appropriate</p> <p>NOTE: Communicate your firing plan to others when ever possible before lighting</p> <p>F. Deploy hoselines, garden hoses, etc., as available</p> <p> 1. Take hoses inside through opening on least involved side</p> <p>G. Remove highly concentrated manmade and natural fuels outside and adjacent to structure</p> <p>H. Cover structural openings</p> <p>I. Remove hazardous materials which may adversely affect crew safety</p> <p>IV. TAKE REFUGE</p> <p>A. In rooms opposite approaching fire</p> <p> 1. Preferably with two exits</p> <p> a. Must have a viable escape plan</p> <p> 2. Seal door and window cracks with sheets, towels, bedding, etc.</p> <p>B. Consider need to move from room to room as fire outside progresses</p> <p>C. Avoid upper floors-heat/gases/flame rise</p> <p>D. Use furniture/house objects as barriers</p> <p>E. Don structure turnouts and SCBA if appropriate</p> <p>F. Be prepared to evacuate structure quickly</p>	



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<p>1. Fuel loading in structure considerably higher than on exterior</p> <p>V. AFTER FIRE/DANGER HAS PASSED</p> <p>A. Exit structure when safe or necessary</p> <p>B. Check crew for injuries</p> <p>1. Treat as necessary/possible</p> <p>C. Inform appropriate line supervisor of status and needs</p> <p>D. As appropriate, consider extinguishment of structure and/or other exposures</p> <p>E. Evacuate or continue assignment as appropriate</p> <p>F. Consider critical incident stress debriefing</p> <p>VI. SUMMARY</p> <p>A. Using a structure as a refuge area is not a substitute for identifying and making known to crew members viable Escape Route(s) and Safety Zone(s)</p> <p>B. Using a structure as a refuge is an action taken when your Escape Route(s) to Safety Zone(s) have been compromised by unpredictable, extreme fire behavior conditions</p> <p>1. Maintain situational awareness</p> <p>C. Be prepared to immediately exit the structure if the environment becomes untenable to survive</p>	<p>Discuss the 06-2009 Jesusuita Burnover/Using a Structure as Refuge Green Sheet incident as a Lesson Learned</p>



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<p>D. Treat seeking refuge in a structure as a very serious event similar to deploying a fire shelter</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. A last resort	

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SUMMARY:

Structures continue to be built in wildland areas. Despite the inherent problems associated with structures in the wildland, they do provide a possible refuge in fire overrun situations.

EVALUATION:

A written quiz.

ASSIGNMENT:

To be determined by instructor(s).