



Fire Protection Training

Procedures Handbook 4300

SALVAGE & OVERHAUL

TOPIC: Searching For Hidden Fires

TIME FRAME: 30 Minutes

LEVEL OF INSTRUCTION:

BEHAVIORAL OBJECTIVE:

Condition: A written quiz

Behavior: The student will list and describe situations where hidden fires might be present.

Standard: With a minimum of 70% accuracy

MATERIALS NEEDED:

- Appropriate visual aids
- Audio visual equipment

REFERENCES:

- IFSTA, Essentials of Fire Fighting, 2nd Edition, Chapter 12
- IFSTA, Salvage and Overhaul, 7th Edition, Chapter 7

PREPARATION: Overhaul procedures may not necessarily follow a specific pattern due to varying conditions at each fire scene. However, one of the first routine operations should be a search for hidden fire. In order to prevent a rekindle and avoid unnecessary loss of property, we should know how and where to look for hidden fires.



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SEARCHING FOR HIDDEN FIRES

PRESENTATION	APPLICATION
<p>I. SEARCHING FOR HIDDEN FIRES</p> <p>A. The Firefighter Can Often Detect Hidden Fires by Utilizing the Senses or Electronic Instruments</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Sight2. Hearing3. Touch4. Electronic instrument <p>B. Sight - Look For:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Discoloration of materials2. Peeling paint3. Smoke emission from cracks4. Cracked plaster5. Rippled wallpaper <p>C. Hearing - Listen For:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Popping or cracking of burning material2. Hissing of steam	<p>What are the three senses?</p> <p>How do we use sight to find hidden fires?</p> <p>How do we use hearing to find hidden fires?</p>



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<p>D. Touch - Feel with the Back of the Hand:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Walls2. Ceilings3. Floors4. Doors <p>E. Electronic Instruments</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Infrared scanners2. Heat detectors <p>F. Breathing Apparatus Should Be Worn During Overhaul Activities</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Presence of toxic gases2. Odorless products of combustion3. Oxygen deficient atmosphere	<p>How do we use touch to find hidden fires?</p> <p>What else can we use to find hidden fires?</p> <p>Instructor Note: The sense of smell is no longer listed as a reliable means to detect hidden fires.</p>

II. COMMON CONCEALED SPACES

What are the more common concealed spaces?



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PRESENTATION	APPLICATION
<ul style="list-style-type: none">A. WallsB. PartitionsC. AtticsD. CockloftsE. BasementsF. False CeilingsG. Below FloorsH. Air ShaftsI. Elevator ShaftsJ. Pipe ChasesK. DuctsL. Under Debris	
<p>III. IF HIDDEN FIRE IS SUSPECTED</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">A. It is Imperative That You Gain Access to the Concealed Space<ul style="list-style-type: none">1. Pulling ceilings and walls is an accepted firefighting technique.	<p>Where else would you find hidden fires?</p>



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<ul style="list-style-type: none">2. Damage associated therewith is minor compared to results of a rekindle.3. Exercise care not to contact concealed electrical lines4. Do no cut bearing structural members5. Where a burned member extends into an adjacent occupancy, check adjacent occupancy for extension6. Remove coverings over burned support members until unburned area is reachedB. If Hidden Fire is Suspected But Is Not Found During the Search, Assign Personnel to Watch the PremisesC. Room Furnishings and Valuables Should be Removed to Areas Where They Will Not be Damaged During this Search for Hidden Fire	



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SUMMARY:

It is essential for firefighters to wear proper protective clothing, including positive pressure self-contained breathing apparatus, while searching for hidden fires. During this time lowered temperatures lead to incomplete combustion and increases the amount of toxic products in the air.

EVALUATION:

A written quiz.

ASSIGNMENT:

To be determined by instructor(s).