

WESTBURY FIRE DEPARTMENT



SEARCH & RESCUE DRILL

SEARCH & RESCUE



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SEARCH— A (**planned**) method to which a team(s) enter a premise to look for: Fire and Victim(s)

Note: *these victims may be one of our own*

RESCUE — Once is Victim Found — Removing to safety.

Search & Rescue is a primary objective of all fire departments, at all structure fires and is **normally** assigned to the Truck Co. —

(does that mean, since you showed on the Engine you'll never do)?



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Search & Rescue - as with all Fire operations, it begins with:

Size up

- Did you arrive with heavy smoke and fire showing?
- Are there reports of people trapped or are people yelling for help?
- Is there information from neighbors and/or tenants who have escaped?
- Reports of "everyone is out" might be false.

• DON'T GET TUNNEL VISION TO THE GRAB!

- There's much more going on
Things that can:
- 1. Make your job easier
and
- 2. Save your life!



A few steps to your right
Or left can give you totally
different perspective of things

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Size up - The Structure:

Count the floor (levels above grade)

Note which way the wind is blowing (side 1,2,3 4)?

How much smoke is visible & what color is it?

Window, doors, fire escapes, porches ... Note them!

Note where Fire & Smoke is Heavies & Visible

Is the fire already vented

All Very Important and will effect your search/rescue!



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Size up - The Structure:

Here we can see:

- Fire is already vented
- Fire has not flashed yet
- When you enter at the front door your already above the fire floor
- Wind coming from 2/3 corner
- What is being considered 1st floor?
- Plenty of double hung windows
- Possible Occupant outside on lawn

you can get more info from:

Is everyone out ?

Where & what room did fire start in, if know?

" I was soldering pipes in basement, I left the 10lb acetylene tank, got everyone and ran out of house"



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Immediate Rescues:



When you arrive on locations and there are victim(s) "out the window".

This becomes an immediate concern, the clock may already be ticking on these people.

Manpower & OIC will dictate how they will be addressed.

Verbal Contact with people can also help do assessment.

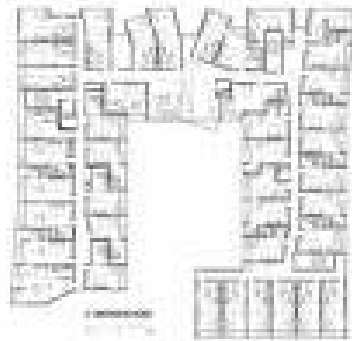
Typically they will be address and rescued immediately.



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Search

*A thorough, **planned** search for victims must be conducted at every fire – Even if “everyone’s out”*

- After your size up – **Have a “plan** of attack” with partner.
 - Begin your search immediately - time is not on your side.
 - Search for life is coordinated with the fire attack. (off 1st line?)
 - Search duties & operations can be carried out simultaneously
 - Locate and report to command
 - Ventilate where needed and when conditions allow.
 - Temporarily prevent extension of fire by closing doors.
- *** (Locate, Confine, Communicate) ***

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Standard search procedure

- Search's begin immediately. Stay low checking for victims.
If you can't see your feet – you shouldn't be standing
Most victims will be found on the floor, unconscious
- As you search it is good practice to "vent-as-you-go."
This is done only when a line is established
This is done by opening or clearing windows as you pass them
(not spending a lot of time doing so)
This allows the smoke and heat will lift, providing better visibility.
- Use a tool to extended your reach when probing for victims.
Handles better the tool side, - "doesn't' hurt as much".



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Standard search procedure

Thermal Imaging Cameras:

- Great Tool – makes you search much quicker
BUT -Like with all mechanical devices, can fail
- Don't get locked on the image
Take mental picture of the area being scanned
Type of room: Hospital bed, stuffed animals...
- Always recognize last escape point seen on camera
- The Camera will give confidence, confidence that could lead to trouble, camera may fail to continue working.



Note battery level - before uses and good practice to take the spare battery. (good to train on changing battery with eyes closed and with gloves on, not easy)!

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Standard search procedure

- Team members should keep track of each other either by: touch, sight, or verbally
- Try to visualize (mental picture) of room your searching – (note type): kitchen, living or bedroom
- Bathrooms, closets, space behind large chairs and under beds should be checked.
- Radiators usually means Window above it.
- Check directly under windows for victims overcome.
- Search the fire room, if possible, and then close the door to isolate the fire.



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Standard search procedure

- Indicate that a room has been searched by dislocating a mattress, cushions, furniture, etc.
- Release locks slowly and open door slightly. If there is a strong push of heat or fire, close the door and wait for a hoseline.
- Make sure victims are not laying against doors that open inward; victims may be found near doors. The first member through the door must check behind it for victims.



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Rescue Considerations

Rescue means removing victims from danger, this could mean to a safer part of the building.



Occupants will naturally try to escape through doors, windows, halls, and stairways.

When a victim is found: (communicate it to command)
Then removed by the fastest, safest means available.

If a victim is found below a window on the 3rd floor – how would you as rescuer remove them?

Use your thorough size up to determine removal plan



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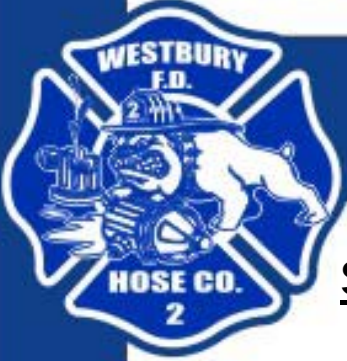


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**What if the Victim your searching for
is now a downed Firefighter?**



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Search & Rescue Considerations – Downed Fireman

A downed fireman is unquestionable the most stressful and self-taxing incident encountered by firemen today.

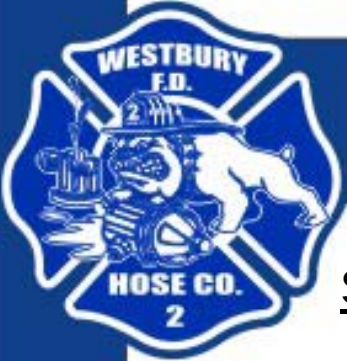
A mayday event is typically one that is chaotic with frantic actions.

Reverting back to basics & repetitive training, will allow you as a firefighter to react properly, eliminating the thought process.

What does this mean: If you practice, drill, constantly repeat actions, when it comes time to put use, in a stressful event, this is how you'll naturally react, these actions will be automatic and without thinking about them – a reaction **right or wrong!**



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Search & Rescue Considerations – Down Fireman

Tactics used in searching/rescuing a downed fireman varies very little from a regular victim **except**:

1. You should have a better idea where the down firefighter is from their duties, partner, last radio transmission...
2. Warning/Alerting devices such as pass alarms
3. Use of a search rope.
4. How we deal with their removal – **S.A.F.E .**



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When we approach a downed/trapped Firefighter

We will always approach a downed firefighter using **S.A.F.E.** Practices - (a mental checklist to ensure tasks are performed in an orderly fashion)

S – Situational size up, Stabilization, Secure the Search Rope

Assess immediate area for structural issues (like collapse...)
Tables or doors can be used temporarily to distribute weight

Assess immediate area for impinging fire.
Request line for protection, between fire and the victim



Secure your Search line to non-moveable object – allows others like a hoseline or additional firefighter to find your position, quickly and without delay .

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When we approach a downed/trapped Firefighter

A – Assess Down/Trapped firefighter(s)

If pass alarm activated – reset it !

Pass alarms limits communication and by doing so it brings everyone's stress level down

Do Your A.B.C.'s –

Check **Air exchange** – listen for air exchange by pulling face piece slightly off members face.

*If no Exchange - Check **Bypass** or Purge Valve – ¼ turn*

*If still no air flow – **Check Cylinder Gauge/Valve***

If air supply is out, get secondary bottle or pack -
(Part of required RIT Equipment)



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When we approach a downed/trapped Firefighter

A – Assess Down/Trapped firefighter(s)

Check Level of Consciousness

Can victim assist in their own removal

Check extent of injuries

Assess for entrapment hazards

If possible or required move to a safer location:
Window, Stairs, Stairwell



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When we approach a downed/trapped Firefighter

F – Firefighter needs to report – aka C.A.N. report

Upon completion of ABC's, a progress report **MUST** be transmitted to Command, to ensure necessary preparations. (needed recourses)

This report should include:

C – Conditions

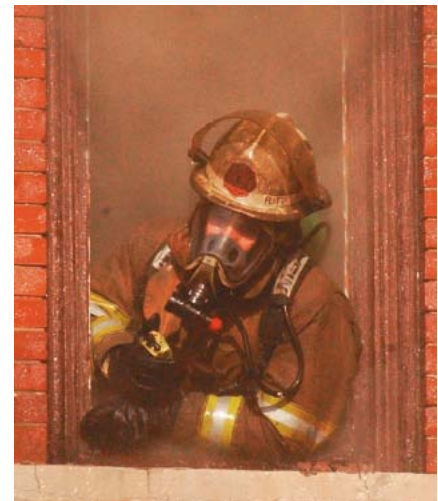
"Command – We've located the downed member
2nd floor, 1/4 corner, unconscious"

A - Actions

We're attempting to establish secondary air supply

N - Needs

Requesting 2 additional firefighters to help extricate,
from fallen debris.



(Failure to notify command could delay any needed recourses)

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When we approach a downed/trapped Firefighter

E – Extrication Process



Once the necessary equipment and personnel are in place, a Rescue Action plan should be initiated in an effort to extricate the downed Firefighter.

Once successfully removed, the victim should be transferred to the awaiting Medical Crew

The mayday will then be completed and transmitted.



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Review:

How does a search for a victim differ from a firefighter?

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Review:

How does a search for a victims differ from a firefighter?

1. Much more stressful and emotional
2. We're always going to use a search rope!
3. More direct – to specific area or location
4. More time tactically removing S.A.F.E.

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Review:

What are some important thing to do before doing a Search/Rescue?

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Review:

What are some important thing to do before doing a Search/Rescue?

1. Size up the building you're about to enter
2. Note number of floors
3. Note alternate means of egress, other then the one entering:
Windows, Doors, Fire Escapes, Porches ...
4. Location of heaviest visible smoke and fire
5. Note if fire already vented and flashed
6. Who's on that 1st line coming in?

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Review:

When Calling a Mayday – What do we need to remember?

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SEARCH & RESCUE DRILL

Review:

When Calling a Mayday – What do we need to remember?

L-U-N-A-R

L - Location,

U - Unit #,

N - Name,

A - Assignment, and

R - Resources needed.

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Review:

How a MAYDAY should be transmitted:

Example 1: *MAYDAY, MAYDAY, MAYDAY (3 times)*
963 ROOF with a MAYDAY

IC responds: *Command to 963 ROOF, go ahead with your MAYDAY*

963 Roof responds: - *963 Roof MAYDAY – COLLAPSE IMMINENT*

IC responds: *MAYDAY, MAYDAY, MAYDAY –*
ALL UNITS GET OUT OF BUILDING – repeat

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Review:

How a MAYDAY should be transmitted:

Example 2: *MAYDAY, MAYDAY, MAYDAY (3 times)*
968 SEARCH with a MAYDAY

IC responds: *Command to 968 SEARCH, go ahead with your MAYDAY*

968 SEARCH responds - *968 SEARCH MAYDAY – My Partner is unconscious*

IC responds: *Getting as much information as possible to location...*
Deploys the FAS Team

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Questions?

Comments?

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The End of Lecture

Practical Applications Night # 2

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Practical Applications

Evolution # 1

(2) Two member Search Team enters Training Center doing a primary search, at completion of room search 1 member of the team runs out of air and goes unconscious, 2nd member calls a Mayday

Objective to be met:

Review Search Techniques

Calling a Mayday

Good Communications with IC

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Practical Applications

Evolution # 2

Upon hearing the Mayday - (2) two member search team will enter training center to rescue the downed firefighter and Safely remove them.

Objectives to be Met:

Use of a Search Rope

S.A.F.E. - Approaching a downed Firefighter

C.A.N. Report -

Good Communication with IC