



# HOSE COMPANY 2 - WESTBURY FIRE DEPT.

## TRAINING EXERCISE

By: Instructor R. Roberts

### *Basic Interior Search for Private Dwellings*

**Drills Objective:** Ensure novice members have an understanding of interior searches and the different methods of achieving an effective search.

#### I. Purpose of Interior Search

- a. Search for Life
- b. Search for Fire/Hazards

#### II. Primary vs. Secondary Searches

##### 1. **Primary Searches:**

- a. searches for Life and location Fire
- b. this search is rapid, thorough and systematic
- c. influenced by the fire, heat and smoke conditions in a room or area
- d. typically done prior to application of water

*Primary searches are done quickly with due regard to your personal Safety*

##### 2. **Secondary Searches**

- a. done by a different crew than the crew performing the primary search
- b. this search is a thorough and painstakingly complete search for life of all areas: inside structure, ( rooms, basement/cellars, shafts, elevators, etc. ) and includes the outside perimeter of the building
- c. purpose is to ensure no possible victims are overlooked
- d. time is not as important, accuracy is!

#### III. Communication

1. Between Search Team members
2. Between Search Team Leader and Command
3. Communication with Primary Engine

#### IV. Risk vs. Benefit

- a. risk little to save little
- b. risk a lot to save a lot

## V. Methods of Searches

- a. Right Hand/Left hand Search
- b. Use of tool to extend search area
- c. branching off partner to extend search area
- d. splitting the room

## VI. Search Considerations

- a. Baby Cribs, bunk beds, more than a 1 person beds, under the bed
- b. bath rooms, Bath Tubs
- c. in the closet, in the toy box
- d. Don't throw furniture or objects around, could become obstruction to other firefighters
- e. Flipping over mattress or couch cushions could be sign room has been searched.

## VII. Us of a Thermal Imaging Camera (TIC)

- a. Changing the Battery ( Battery Level before use ) Taking Spare Battery
- b. Turning TIC On
- c. Stand By Mode
- d. Screen Icons
- e. How to read Temperature and Screen Colors
- f. Turning off
- g. Stowing/putting back in service

## VIII. Use of a TIC to Search Room/Area(s)

- a. used as a tool and NEVER a sole means of search
- b. 6 point of views



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### Large Area Search

**Drills Objective:** Ensure novice members understand the: added danger of searching large areas, the added responsibility of the Search Team, and the techniques that can be utilized to preform effective search of large areas.

#### I. What is considered a Large Area?

- a. Where in the district would we find them?
  1. Restaurant Depot, Home Depot, Lowes, BJ Wholesale Club, Costco, WalMat ...
  2. Schools - Westbury HS, Clarke HS, BOSES...
  3. Hotels - Red Roof, Hilton Garden Inn, Pines Motor Lodge, Hampton Inn, Hyatt ...
  4. Self Storage - Storage Quarters
  5. Commercial Office Building - all along Old Country Rd
  6. Industrial - Covanta ...
  7. Malls - Source, Roosevelt Field ...
  8. Building(s) Under Construction

#### II. Conventional Search vs Large Area

- a. do we have a wall to follow and still cover entire area?
- b. is that tool going to extend our reach enough to cover the entire area?
- c. is branching off our partner going to allow us to cover entire area safely?
- d. can we split the crew and cover the area safely?

If the Answer is **NO** - Large area search techniques need to be deployed.

#### III. Risk vs Benefit

- a. Constriction, Roof Construction, Layout, Occupancy, Hazards, Sprinklers, Etc...
- b. Is there a life hazard, Is the life hazard only us?
- c. Air Management

#### IV. Riding Positions

- a. Officer - Search Rope, Radio, Hand Light, TIC, Officers Tool
- b. Forcible Entry - Irons, Radio, Hand Light, Hydra-Ram
- c. Can/Hook - Hook, Water can, Radio, Hand Light

#### V. Search Rope

- a. It's Use
  - 1. Where is it?
  - 2. Who Carries it?
  - 3. Should the Officer Carry it?
  - 4. 1 in 2 out ( "bumps to the pumps" )
  - 5. How to use it?
  - 6. When to tie off?
  - 7. F.A.S.T. operations
- b. Complications with Search Rope
- c. Use of Tag Lines

#### VI. Large Area Search Techniques

- a. Aisle Searches
- b. Leap Frog
- c. Butterfly

#### VII. Victim Removal

- a. is the primary team always the team making the victim removal?



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### Large Area Scenario Exercises

#### **Scenario #1**

**Goal:** to test member's knowledge of searching large areas

#### **Incident:**

Structure Fire - The Sports Authority  
1230 Old Country Road CS: Zeckondorf Blvd  
TOA: 00:17 - 2-21-13

#### **Additional Information - Upon signal 21:**

From Fire Comm, Walmart employee Stated the Front Door was on Fire

#### **Units on Arrival Find:**

Smoke Condition coming from front door, Crew views No Visible Fire,  
Smoke banked to just below the floor  
Front Door is Locked, door sign saying store hours until 1000- 2200 Hrs  
When door is forced, store is charged with smoke, temperatures relatively low and  
still no visible fire.

#### **Stimulated is a Line is Charged at front door**

#### **Scenario is deemed over when:**

- \* when entire area is searched
- \* fire is found
- \* if victims, they are found and removed
- \* if an emergency or safety concerns arises

#### **Critique Considerations:**

Was Search Effective?  
Was there good Communications between team? Team to IC ?  
Effective Air Management  
Request for additional resource/ effective use of resources



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## TRAINING EXERCISE

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### Large Area Scenario Exercises

#### Scenario #2

**Goal:** to test members knowledge after the critique of 1st Scenario and a review of Large Area Search objectives

#### Incident:

AFA - The Source Mall

1504 Old Country Road CS: Merchants Concourse - Zeckendorf Blvd

TOA: 09:13 - 2-21-13

#### Additional Information - Upon signal 21:

Call from central station reporting a water flow alarm. Security reporting alarm coming from (Vacant) Nordstrom Rack.

#### Units on Arrival Find:

Smoke Condition showing at locked front door, Crew sees No Visible Fire, Crew can hear water running and views water on floor.

While on Scene - Dispatch advises: call received from person in mall, stating room is filling up with smoke and can't find way out, unknown location in the mall.

**Stimulated is Line is Charged at front door, sprinklers being fed by Engine and System is Contorted by FD.**

#### Scenario is deemed over when:

- \* when entire area is searched
- \* fire is found
- \* if victims, they are found and removed
- \* if an emergency or safety concerns arises

#### Critique Considerations:

Was Search Effective?

Was there good Communications between team? Team to IC ?

Effective Air Management

Request for additional resource/ effective use of resources