



Aspiring Fire Officers

"Fire Officer Training"

Fire Assessment Centers

What to Expect From This Class

- Strategies and tactics that can serve as a foundation for real-life situations
- Guidelines for actions during a fire simulator exam to improve scores



What This Class IS NOT

- Cheating – You must know your stuff to pass
- The only method to use
- You must prepare for the position, NOT the test



Why Us?

- Taken promotional exams
- Have been successful in the process
- Have functioned in the position
- Developed exams
- Have evaluated exams
- Participated as role players in exams
- Helped others be successful



The Exam Process

- Exam development is based on:
 - Input from chief officers
 - Recent incidents (good and bad)
 - Recent training
 - Local jurisdiction incidents
 - Current fire service events



The Process

Interactive

- Role players
- Companies
- Dispatchers
 - Radio feedback

Non-interactive

- Photo or video of incident without feedback
- May or may not get better or worse with actions
- Discussion format
- May include a series of “mini” scenarios



Understanding the Grading Process

- Seeks to reduce or eliminate subjectivity
- Raters will likely be from the outside
- Mixed raters (inside / outside department)
- Raters will need some tool to utilize
 - Grading sheets (“check box” concept)
 - Fail points
 - Identified qualities to be tested
 - Point or value system to be used



No “Secrets” to Success

Must know:

- Tactics and strategies
- P & P's
- SOP's
- SOG's
- Terminology

Must understand:

- Fire behavior
- Building construction
- Firefighting
 - Equipment
 - Apparatus
 - Personnel
 - Tasks



Can I Maximize My Score and Be Effective on the Fire Ground

- YES
- You must protect against failures first
- Build on that



Be the Position

- You must see yourself as already filling the role
- Speak, look, and perform as the position you aspire to



Command Presence

- Difficult to put into words
- Those that possess it are easily identified
- Usually established early (first impressions)



Don't Second Guess the Test

- Take actions on what you see, hear and know
- Don't try to do what you think “they want”
- Most importantly take actions you can defend
- No “cowboy” tactics



Preparation Prior to the Simulator

- Check exam materials
- Check references provided
- READ THE INSTRUCTIONS
- Look for the clues
 - Time of day
 - Alarm assignment make up



Once It Begins

- Look at the picture
- Know what you are seeing before you begin
 - Building construction & occupancy type
 - Smoke and fire conditions
- Think before you act, but act quickly



It Has Begun

- First to arrive:
 - Can evaluate and place companies
 - Easiest way (therefore not usually done)
- Companies arrive first:
 - Usually the case
 - Someone MAY be doing something wrong
 - Pay attention to initial actions and reports



Upon Arrival, Take COMMAND

- Remember it is a test of command ability
- Do it early as part of size-up/initial report
- Name it and give the location- “name and claim”
- Usually cannot pass command
 - Exception: mini-scenarios
 - Exception: when the situation clearly requires immediate action
 - Victim rescue



Transfer of Command

- Face-to-face or radio transfer
 - What's been done
 - What needs to be done
 - What you'll need
- Announce the transfer
 - Provide an updated size-up
 - Name
 - Location
 - Resource request



Requesting Resources

- Call them early
 - Engines, trucks, ambulances
- Call for enough
 - Single resources vs additional alarms (trigger points)
 - Don't piece meal resources



Resources (continued)

- Provide a staging location
- Identify and request specialized resources
- Wait until emergency actions are taken to request non-essential resources



Water Supply

- You must ensure there is adequate water:
 - On arrival of 1st due engine (easy method)
 - Assign to second engine
 - Supply standpipes and sprinklers
 - Provide back-up supply (don't come to the party without bringing water)
 - Only when needed or required
 - Multiple lines
 - Multiple floors



Hose Lines – Part 1

- Initial line placement
 - What's the strategy
 - Where to enter
 - Goes toward the fire
 - Between victims and fire
 - From the unburned to the burned
 - Protects stairwells and egress
 - Protects most valuable area
 - Confine, then extinguish
 - What about exposures?



Hose Lines – Part 2

- Second and/or third line
 - Driven by department policy and culture
 - Floor above
 - Exposure of back-up the initial line



Hose Line – Part 3

- Which line to use?
 - What do you carry?
 - Dependent on:
 - Volume of fire
 - Available personnel



Making Assignments

- Develop a template
- Do it the same way each time



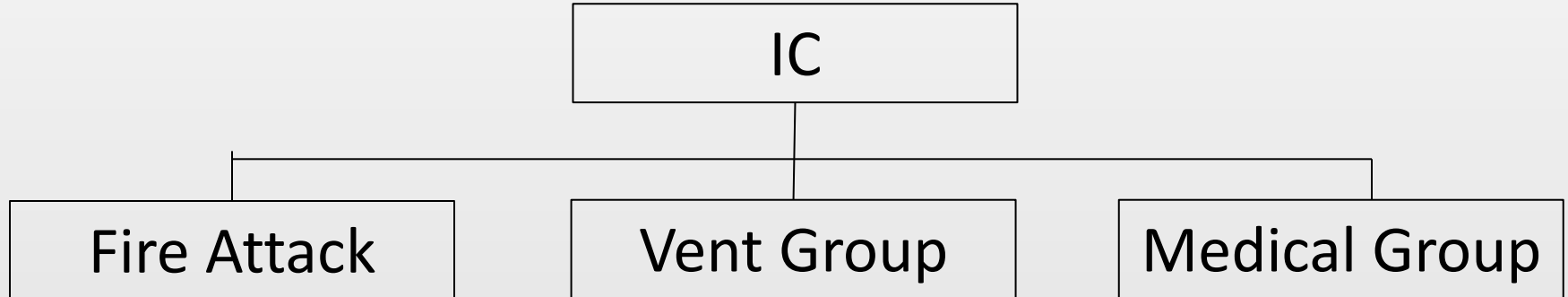
Assignment “Templates”

- “Engine 13, lay a supply line, go to the second floor. You are Division 2, perform a primary search, confine and extinguish the fire”
- “Engine 7, report to Division 2, Engine 13’s officer”
- “Truck 11, secure utilities, perform vertical ventilation, you are the Ventilation Group”
- “Rescue 9, prepare to receive multiple patients, you are the Medical Group”



Assigning and Naming Divisions and Groups

- When should I create divisions and groups?
- What should I call them?



Assign Your Crew

- Driven by department policy, your actions and capability of personnel
 - Fire suppression (unsupervised)
 - Preparation for fire attack
 - Primary search
 - Forcible entry
 - Rescue
 - Ventilation
 - Support functions



First Due Engine

- Establish water supply
- Investigate / determine extent of the incident
- Place initial line
- Start primary search



Second Due Engine

- Follow department policy and culture
- Depends on actions of 1st due engine
- Based on your incident needs
 - Consider building construction
 - Consider occupancy type
- Same for 3rd engine



First Due Truck

- Know your department policy and culture
- Horizontal vs vertical ventilation
 - Rescue
 - Limit fire spread
 - Allow hose line advancement
 - Multi-story buildings



Rapid Intervention

- Must follow the “rules”
- Assignment must be realistic
- What if.....



Now I Got Problems

- No progress on the fire
 - Add more GPM
 - Ventilate
 - Abandon interior attack



An Even Bigger Problem: Firefighter Down

- Follow department policy
- Maintain scene control
- Determine location of the victim
- Assign RIC and support
- Overhead broadcast of firefighter down?
- Assign EMS
- Request additional resources



Rapid Intervention: Part II

- What if a civilian requires rescue.....



Always Know WHY You Are Taking An Action

- Every action must support your strategy or address identified problems
- Be proactive rather than reactive
- Be prepared to discuss why
 - “I expect that.....”
 - “based on



Specific Buildings

- Apartments
- Strip Malls
 - Garden style vs center hallway
- Light weight industrial
- Large commercial
- High-rise



Questions?



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