

TRAINING BULLETIN #74 (12/91)

SEARCH AND RESCUE PROCEDURES UTILIZING A ONE-INCH HOSE LINE

INTRODUCTION

This search and rescue procedure is being provided to improve the efficiency and personal safety of all Firefighters, whether they are the rescuer or the Firefighter in need of rescue. This procedure addresses Firefighter rescues with scenarios typical of the fires where Firefighters have lost their lives. During these types of rescues, time is critical. With this described method, a rescue can be performed in a timely manner and increase the odds for a safe and successful operation. The key elements to this operation are the utilization of a one-inch hose line and effective radio communications.

PROCEDURE

The following procedure may be used by any combination of two or more companies (Task Force, Light Forces, or Single Engine Companies, etc.). For illustration purposes, if a Task Force is assigned to rescue a lost Firefighter the following procedures are recommended:

1. Immediately place the Rescue Group on a separate radio channel and make a quick radio channel check before proceeding with the rescue operation.
2. Set up three member rescue teams with a minimum of two teams (Primary Team #1 and a Back Up Team #2).

NOTE: If multiple entry points need to be searched, it is recommended that Rescue Teams be numbered according to entry point (Team 1, 2, 3, etc.), any back up teams would be given a letter designation (1a, 1b, 2a, 2b, etc.).

3. Each team leader shall monitor the rescue channel; other members of the team should keep the volume control on their radios turned down to avoid "squelch" and unnecessary noise. Keep radio messages to a minimum.

4. Team leaders and the Rescue Group Leader should obtain as much information about the rescue situation as possible in a timely manner. During this time, other members should pull enough one-inch hose to the doorway to reach any area that will be searched.
5. Load the one-inch line and instruct the Engineer to pump 200 to 250 p.s.i.

NOTE: One hundred fifty feet of one-inch line, with 200 p.s.i. engine pressure and the spray tip removed from a 5/8 inch shut off butt will deliver 65 g.p.m.

6. The Rescue Group Leader shall be positioned near the doorway where Team #1 will enter the building with the one-inch hose line. The time they enter the building shall be logged, and they shall be informed of their time during the rescue. If possible, equip the back up rescue team with 60 minute air bottles. Additionally, all rescuers shall have a drop bag with them.
7. Team #1 shall quickly follow the existing hose line and listen for the downed Firefighter's PAL device or calls for help.

NOTE: Leading in with the security of the one-inch hose line will allow rescuers to move quickly along the existing hose line, eliminating the need to follow that line hand over hand.

If necessary, all power equipment should be shut down (blowers, chain saws, etc.) to enable rescue teams to hear audible warning devices or calls for help from the downed Firefighter.

8. The Rescue Group Leader shall keep Team #1 informed of the distance they have traveled into the building.

NOTE: This can easily be done by counting the couplings on the one-inch hose line as it is being advanced.

9. If the one-inch hose line becomes too difficult to advance, Rescue Team #2 should be assigned to follow up on the one-inch line to a location where they can assist in its advancement. It is important that Team #2 does not move all the way to Team #1's location.

NOTE: If Rescue Team #2 commits to going inside of the building, another backup team will assemble at the entrance and standby

10. Consideration should be given to having Team #2 enter with a light cord positioning it to illuminate the area and assist with egress. A light cord advanced into the building could serve as a reference point when exiting the building. Additionally, any other available Firefighters should be assigned the task of setting up a quartz light to illuminate the building entrance.
11. Team #2 should maintain their position, unless otherwise directed by the Rescue Group Leader based on information from the team one leader.
12. When the downed member is located his/her PAL device should be turned off and reset to the automatic mode. This is necessary to eliminate the extreme noise factor, facilitating required radio communications and to insure that another PAL device is not sounding in the area.
13. As the downed member is being removed from the building, the one-inch line should be left in place. Rescuers can easily follow the one-inch line out of the building, even when several other firefighting lines are in the same area (due to its distinguishable size).

NOTE: While removing the victim, the rescue team should be led out by the Team Leader following the one-inch hose line. The other two members should pull the victim by his SCBA straps, using his bottle as a skid.

The following is a list of advantages to using a one-inch hand line for this type of operation.

- a. Not normally used for structure firefighting.
- b. Easily distinguishable in the dark.
- c. Because of items a. and b., a lost member coming upon an inch line in a major structure fire would know a rescue operation is in progress.
- d. Easy to advance.
- e. Will provide some protection under fire conditions. With the one-inch spray tip removed and 200 psi engine pressure, it can be an effective line in an emergency situation.

- f. Opening and closing the nozzle rapidly could be used as a signaling device at the entrance to the building.

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- g. Provides a means to determine how far into the building the rescue team has advanced, by counting the couplings going in.

CONCLUSION

This method is not meant to be used in all cases, it is another procedure that may be used if the conditions are suitable. If this or any other search and rescue method is going to be effective, all members must maintain their efficiency through regular drills. Remember, this operation may be needed to save your life some day.