

Firefighter Survival Training

Drill #1 - PASS device familiarization Have a firefighter "victim" fully bunked up and with SCBA, lay in the middle of the apparatus floor and set off his/her PASS device. Designate a RIT team, turn around their Nomex hoods to decrease visibility and send them in to find the downed firefighter. For departments that use automatic or mutual aid - do you know how to activate or shut off the type of PASS device that they use? Try and borrow one of their PASS devices for the drill or better yet, invite them to participate.

Drill #2 - SCBA familiarization Using the same concept as the first drill, now send in your RIT team with the assignment to bring a new SCBA to a trapped firefighter. Have them practice changing over to a new cylinder, new harness, and new face piece. Again, the question - what does your neighboring communities use and if you were their RIT team would you know how to work one of their SCBA?

Drill #3 - Left or Right Hand Safety Checks Have your members practice and demonstrate how they would rapidly check their SCBA for problems starting at the cylinder valve and tracing back to the face piece.

Drill #4 - Locating and following hose lines Lay out 100' of hoseline on the apparatus floor and have a firefighter with his/her hood turned around find the line, locate a coupling, identify by feeling the coupling which direction to go, and exit the apparatus floor. This drill can be made more challenging by working the hoseline over/under obstacles, using gated wyes, etc. These can be done as individual drill sessions or together as a series of "skill stations" at a single training session.