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Your Online Resource for Free Fire Training, Drills, and Tips

Probationary Firefighter Training Book

A message from FireOpsOnline.com

The founders of FireOpsOnline encourage you to utilize training book such as this one every time Probationary Firefighters join your department. This document was prepared to assist you in developing a structured and organized format that your department can follow to ensure continual education and proper training of new firefighters. This book will also ensure consistency within your department. As with all of the information we post on our website, we give you permission to print this document and use it freely. Below are some tips to help you gain the most out of this training book.

- Set a goal for the date of completion of this training. This should not exceed the duration of the firefighters probationary period (typically, 1 year).
- The senior officer or supervisor that the probationary firefighter is assigned under should be given the responsibility to ensure that all training drills are scheduled and completed.
- At least one drill should be completed each duty day. Training should be as "hands on" as possible.
- Probationary Firefighters should keep their training book with them at all times so that when they work with a different supervisor, that person will know what subjects have not been covered yet.
- All members of your department who are present during training should participate in these drills to ensure that they also remain proficient with the basics of firefighting.

It is essential to understand that this book does not replace the training a firefighter receives at a credited fire academy or training institution. This book is best utilized as a tool to help guide departments who are dedicated to providing continuous education that is designed to develop their probationary firefighters into competent and educated professionals.

The foundations established in the first year of a firefighter's career will stay with that Firefighter throughout his or her career. The rapidly changing field of Firefighting and emergency services requires that Firefighters continue to develop new skills. It is each department's responsibility to ensure that their members are trained to the best of their abilities. This responsibility should not be taken lightly.

Train Often and Stay Safe,
Frank Viscuso, Michael Terpak and Christopher Stopero
www.FireOpsOnline.com



FireOpsOnline.com

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Probationary Firefighter Training Book

Firefighter

Name

Immediate Supervisor

Name

Date of Hire: _____

Packet to be Completed By: _____

TRAINING ~ table of contents

Training Guide: The assigned supervisor is responsible to provide continuous training for probationary firefighters on the subjects listed below. Utilize department SOP's, credible fire publications and videos for assistance with these topics/drills. *This training guideline is not an all-inclusive list and is not meant to replace fire academy training. This template provides a minimum list of topics that should be trained on, within a reasonable time frame, to benefit the post-academy probationary firefighter. Supervisors should prepare drills and expand on the topics listed below. Be sure to emphasize safety in all aspects of training.

Contact us at www.FireOpsOnline.com if you need additional assistance.

Station/Maintenance Duties – Ensure that probationary firefighters review and understand daily duties that need to be performed around the fire house.

Hose, nozzles, and fittings - Review and discuss the advantages and disadvantages of each size hose line and type of nozzle carried by your department. Also discuss your interoperability considerations with regards to local departments hose and coupling size(s).



Hydrants - Discuss the different types of fire hydrants in your jurisdiction and train on the proper way to secure a water supply. Review hydrant maps and discuss water main sizes.



Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA) - Review donning and doffing procedures. Discuss the features of the SCBA and provide training on maintenance, refilling cylinders, and emergency maneuvers such as the reduced profile and quick release techniques.



Hose loading and repacking - Discuss and conduct drills on the proper way to load and carry hose on your apparatus.

Advancing lines – Discuss line choice and placement and have probationary firefighters deploy and advance lines in various different simulated scenarios until they are comfortable and proficient at doing so.



Fire Behavior – Review credible publications to assist in providing insight into fire behavior. Be sure to discuss fire behavior from the incipient stage to the flashover stage.

Portable Extinguishers - Discuss the different classes of fire extinguishers you carry on the apparatus and what each is used for. Also discuss the various types of extinguishers firefighters may see at local businesses and how to utilize them.



Equipment Location - Review apparatus inventory sheets and equipment until the firefighter is proficient at identifying and locating the tools you carry.

Engine Company Operations - In addition to discussing overall Engine Company operations, teach probationary firefighters the process of securing a water supply and preparing to flow water.



Ladder Company Operations - In addition to discussing overall ladder Company operations, familiarize probationary firefighters with your aerial devices and let them practice climbing and carrying tools.



Standard Operating Procedures - Provide time daily for probationary firefighters to read your department SOP's. Review and discuss various procedures with them.

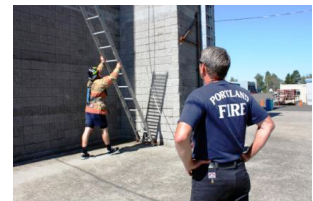
Department Rules and Regulations - Provide time daily for probationary firefighters to review all department policies, rules and regulations.

Districts/Streets - Provide the probationary firefighter with a map of your community. Discuss and identify various districts. Drill on your department running schedule and street locations.

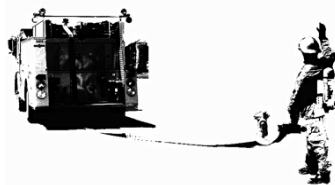


Pre-planning and Company Inspections - Discuss the reason for preplanning and in-service inspections. Introduce probationary firefighters to your method of acquiring and organizing information, and how to access that information for future incidents.

Ground Ladders - Discuss the parts, types of, and placement of various ground ladders. Carry, position, and climb each of your ladders. Discuss maintenance, and explain the reasons why you would remove a ladder from service.

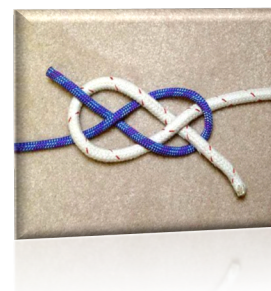


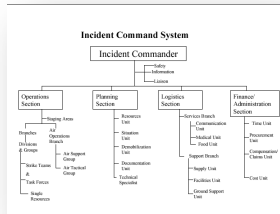
Hose Lays - Organize and train on securing a water supply via forward and reverse hose lays. Discuss the specifics and importance of every individual's role. Once the probationary firefighter understands the basics, move into more advanced water relay and shuttle operations.



rescue operations.

Ropes and Knots - Teach and have probationary firefighters demonstrate the proper way to tie the knots your department uses for firefighting, tool hoisting, and



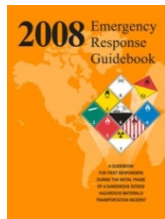


Incident Command System – Discuss NIMS and the ICS structure and chart(s). Explain ICS staff positions and their responsibilities. Review any SOP's or other credible documentation your department has on Incident Command.

Forcible Entry - Train on the construction features and potential hazards of doors, windows, roofs access points, and vertical barriers. Drill on the selection of proper tools for various forcible entry situations.





Hazardous Materials - Train on the contents of, and the proper way to use, the DOT Emergency Response Guidebook (ERG). Ensure that the probationary firefighter is able to identify hazardous materials marking systems (such as placards, shipping papers, material safety data sheets, etc.) Also ensure that they know how to find the proper guides in the ERG and can locate pertinent information.

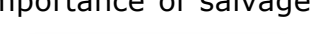


Auxiliary Appliances / Fire Protection Systems - Discuss the

different types of Sprinklers Systems and the characteristics of wet, dry, and deluge systems. Identify the buildings in your area that have these systems. Train on the proper way to supply these systems. Discuss the major components of a sprinkler system (FD connection, main control valve, alarm device, main drain valve). Also discuss the pros of a working Standpipe Systems. Train on the proper way to supply these systems. Discuss the major components of the system (Post Indicator Valve, and OS&Y).



Property Conservation – Explain the importance of salvage operations with regards to property conservation. Conduct training on, and have the probationary firefighter demonstrate, various salvage techniques. These techniques should include dewatering, creating a water catch-all, constructing a water chute, and the proper way to fold, store and maintain salvage tarps.



Overhaul – Display and demonstrate the proper way to utilize all the tools your department carries for overhaul operations. Have the probationary firefighter do the same. The firefighter should also be able to locate each tool on the apparatus.



Training Tip: The best way to conduct drills on many of the skills outlined in this document (such as overhaul, forcible entry, ventilation, Breaching walls, etc.) is by legally acquiring vacant or abandoned structures in your area that are scheduled for demolition. For tips on doing so, refer to the article titled *Training in acquired buildings, the departments role*, by Deputy Chief Frank Viscuso. (Fire Engineering, May 2010) a link to the article can be found on www.FireOpsOnline.com

Ventilation – Thoroughly discuss and conduct drills on horizontal, vertical, hydraulic, and positive pressure ventilation tools and techniques. The probationary firefighter should be able to name and locate all ventilation tools, and should display personal proficiency in the ability to use each tool. If you are unable to acquire a structure for vertical ventilation training, be creative (as shown in the photo above, right).



Communications – Probationary firefighters should be familiar with the features and channels on all department assigned radios. Discuss communication procedures and review all department SOP's that relate to communications.

Search and Rescue – Discuss your department SOP's and train on Search and Rescue techniques. Ensure that probationary firefighters are proficient in team search procedures both with and without a guideline (search rope), and that they know when (and when not) to use a guideline. Also discuss the tools that are utilized during primary and secondary search procedures and the rescue methods and techniques used to remove victims from buildings.



Extrication – If your fire department has extrication equipment, acquire vehicles that can be used to practice vehicle extrication techniques. (Contact a local towing company or scrap yard to inquire about the best way to secure wrecked or obsolete vehicles for training purposes). Probationary firefighters should operate every tool as soon as possible. Don't wait until life and death situations before teaching new firefighters proper extrication techniques.

Vehicle Lifting and Stabilization – When securing vehicles for training, take that opportunity to also conduct hands on training with any lifting or stabilization equipment your department carries. Probationary firefighters should be proficient with all vehicle lifting and stabilization equipment.



Preserving Evidence - Discuss firefighter responsibilities during and after the fire in terms of preserving evidence and securing a fire scene so the fire officials can conduct investigations to determine the cause of the fire.



Fitness – Discuss the importance of maintaining a personal physical fitness regimen. Stress the difficulties of the job, both physically and mentally and help probationary firefighters set up a routine that is suitable to their needs as well as the overall demands of the job.

Self-Rescue – Firefighters should be well prepared and practiced on various self-rescue techniques such as breaching walls, following a hose line to safety, and emergency bailout. The more elaborate these drills are; the more confident firefighters will be.



Foam Operations – Provide probationary firefighters with some basic knowledge of foam and foam operations. Consult manufacturer literature for specific information on the foam solution and foam equipment used within your department. Conduct a practical demonstration of your departments foam equipment and application techniques. The probationary firefighter should understand things such as expansion ratio, characteristics of foam, and foam equipment.

Master streams – Discuss the pros and cons of master streams. Display your equipment and conduct drills on the devices that your department carries. Probationary firefighters should be able to set up and deluge systems, elevated streams and any other master stream devices your department uses.



Emergency Mass decontamination – all fire departments are equipped to perform mass decontamination at chemical and biological incidents. Conduct drills using Engines, Nozzles and tarps to set up a makeshift decontamination chamber with everyday fire equipment.

Safety – Stress the importance of safety standards and practices in the fire, rescue and emergency services community.



Operations – Use the book *Fireground Operational Guides* as a reference, review the guides, and conduct tabletop or practical drills on a variety of incidents that probationary firefighters are likely to experience in their first year.

Operational Guides that are featured in the book include: **Structure Fires:** Churches, Brownstones, Attached Row Frames, Private Dwellings, Multiple Dwellings, Garden Apartments and Townhouses, Light Weight Constructed Buildings, Hospitals, Day Care and Nursing Homes, Factory and Warehouses, Taxpayers and Strip Malls, Vacant Buildings, High-Rises, Schools, Buildings Under Construction, and Basements/Cellars. **Electrical Emergencies:** Downed Power Lines, Downed Lines on Occupied Vehicles, Electrical Facility Fires, Underground Manhole Fires, Flooding Underground Manholes or Vaults and Additional Electrical Emergencies such as incidents involving Overheated Ballast, Electrical Appliances, Recessed Lighting, Pole Mounted Transformers, and Meter Boxes. **Natural Gas Emergencies:** Outdoor Natural Gas and Indoor Natural Gas Leaks. **Carbon Monoxide Investigations:** A thorough step-by-step process to follow when responding to CO emergencies and investigations. **Water Emergencies:** Water Main Breaks, Flooded Roofs, Flooded Basements, and Broken Water Pipes. **Confined Fire:** Chimney Fires, Mattress and Couch Fires, and Kitchen Fires. **Outdoor Fires:** Dumpster and Trash Fires, Wildlife Urban Interface Fires, and Junkyard Fires. **Vehicle Fires and Incidents:** Vehicle Fires, Highway Operations, Vehicles Fires in Remote Areas, Vehicle Fires in attached Garages, School and Public Transportation Bus Accidents, and Trucking Incidents Involving Commercial Explosives. **Non-Fire Emergencies:** Hazardous Materials Operations, Structure Collapse Operations, Chlorine Emergencies, Propane Emergencies, and Bomb Threats. **Oil Burner Emergencies:** Delayed Ignitions, White Ghost Emergencies, and Oil Burner Fires. **General Operations:** Fire ground Size-Up, Engine Company Operations, Ladder Company Operations, Switching from Offensive to Defensive Strategy, Emergency Incident Rehabilitation, Rapid Intervention Crew, Elevator Car Operations, Stalled Elevator Rescues, May-Day Radio Guidelines, Urgent Radio Guidelines, Large Area Rope Search, Trench Cutting Operations, and Roof Radio Reports.



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| Subject | Date(s) of Training | Officer(s) in Charge | Comments |
|------------------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------|
| Station maintenance and duties | | | |
| Hose, nozzles, and fittings | | | |
| Hydrants | | | |
| Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus | | | |
| Hose loading and repacking | | | |
| Advancing Hose Lines | | | |
| Fire Behavior | | | |
| Portable Extinguishers | | | |
| Equipment Location | | | |
| Engine Company Operations | | | |
| Ladder Company Operations | | | |
| Standard Operating Procedures | | | |
| Department Rules and Regulations | | | |
| Districts/Streets | | | |

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| Pre-planning and Co. Inspections | | | |
| Ground Ladders | | | |
| Hose lays | | | |
| Ropes and Knots | | | |
| Incident Command System | | | |
| Forcible Entry | | | |
| Hazardous Materials | | | |
| Aux. Appliances Fire Protection Sys. | | | |
| Property Conservation | | | |
| Overhaul | | | |
| Ventilation | | | |
| Communications | | | |
| Search and Rescue | | | |
| Extrications | | | |
| Vehicle lifting and Stabilization | | | |
| Preserving Evidence | | | |
| Fitness | | | |
| Self-Rescue | | | |
| Foam Operations | | | |

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| Subject | Date(s) of Training | Officer(s) in Charge | Comments |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------|----------------------|----------|
| Master Streams | | | |
| Emergency Mass Decontamination | | | |
| Safety | | | |
| <i>Use the spaces below to list additional subjects you want to conduct training on</i> | | | |
| Subject | Date(s) of Training | Officer(s) in Charge | Comments |
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