

February 2015

FLASH POINTS

Issue 8



SLICE-RS CONTINUED

By A/C Roman Brandau

This month, we will be continuing our SLICE RS series with Extinguish the fire. We will also be looking into scene response procedures and upcoming training classes. This month's featured video is an excellent critique of a catastrophic incident that should make us think about our scene operations. As always, please take the time to read these articles and let us know what you think!

FEATURED VIDEO OF THE MONTH

This month's featured video comes to us from NIST out of a double LODD fire in San Francisco. While we have very few structures such as this in our area (we do have several walk-out basement structures), the fire dynamics apply to every fire. Please take a few minutes to watch this video and learn a little more about modern fire dynamics.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pgDbsv62cu8&feature=em-share_video_user

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EXTINGUISH THE FIRE

By A/C Roman Brandau

This month, I will be discussing the E in SLICE RS – Extinguish the Fire. This is the bread and butter of fire department operations, so one would assume that all departments can do this effectively. As with most assumptions, that is wrong. This article will examine some of the components necessary to effectively Extinguish the Fire.

There are several ways that a fire can be extinguished. One way is not always the best. We may use an aggressive, direct, interior attack. At other times, we may use a completely defensive attack. In certain situations, we may employ a transitional attack – either offensive-to-defensive or defensive-to-offensive. The attack method should always be dictated by the situation at hand, not by routine habit. That is not to say that routines are never valuable, but they cannot be blindly relied upon.

So what routines are valuable for extinguishing a fire? Proper response procedures, appropriate apparatus

placement, good scene size-up, appropriate selection and implementation of strategies and tactics, and effective line placement and movement are all valuable routines. We just need to ensure that we do these things based upon the situation. As you know, complacency kills. Don't become complacent.

Once an incident action plan has been determined, it is critical that we have well-trained, highly motivated individuals to carry out that plan. There are a few simple tips that make extinguishing a fire much easier. First, if you see fire, put water on it. Recent research has proven that water does not push fire. Quick application of water improves the environment and tenability for occupants and fire fighters. Second, knocking down the fire is not the same as extinguishing it. Even if the fire is knocked down through a window, we must take additional steps to ensure that the fire is completely extinguished. This will very likely require an interior attack coupled with



aggressive salvage and overhaul operations. Third, be certain that you select a large enough line to extinguish the fire. If we take an inch-and-a-half line to a two-and-a-half fire, we will lose. We may lose if we take two 1 ½ -inch lines. Don't be afraid to pull the big line, or use the deck gun, when conditions dictate.

These pointers, when coupled with proper nozzle application, will allow us to extinguish the fire. We just need to ensure that we arrive quickly and safely, select the proper tactics, and have the manpower, training, and motivation to accomplish those tactics. After all, every fire department can do this, right?



FROM THE CHIEFS DESK

By Chief Ryan Pelletier

As winter draws close to an end and thoughts of spring are racing through our minds, the sound of rushing water comes to the forefront for me. It won't be long before our Water Rescue team becomes part of our daily plans. Swift Water classes are coming up soon. These classes are free to our members and encouraged.

Our New SUV will arrive soon and will be sent to have equipment and striping added. All of our Apparatus have been serviced and inspected. All needed repairs have been made. New Unication pagers have been ordered and will be distributed to all members as soon as they arrive and are programmed.

Stop by the fire house this week to check your gear and visit. I truly hope everyone takes the time to read these articles and is as proud to be a part of this department as I am. "Let no man's ghost ever come back and say his training failed him".

As always be safe out there.

SAFETY CORNER

By Safety B/C Gilbert Hartley

This month's safety corner is a follow up on A/C Brandau's Reading Smoke class. While the interior attack is and will remain the mainstay of firefighting, the ever changing chemical composition of modern furnishings, and the radical changes employed in modern lightweight construction, make "Reading Smoke" more critical than ever.

The days of pulling up to a fire and immediately cutting a vent, or busting out windows, are long gone. It is very important to do a quick size-up and walk around of the structure. During the size-up, pay particular attention to the smoke conditions that are visible. Remember that smoke is unburned fuel. The hotter the fuel, the closer it is to its ignition point. Take a few extra seconds to assess smoke before plunging blindly into the building. The more you know going in, the more control you have over the situation. Pay particular attention to velocity, density, color and volume. That being said, remember "Reading Smoke" is an art and not a science. The better we all become at this art the safer we will be when the time to enter the structure arrives.

Please take the time to look at www.nationalnearmiss.org. Many of the fire related near miss reports cite the lack of adequate smoke reading as a contributing factor. For those reading the article that have not had a "Reading Smoke" course, I recommend you attend a reputable course as it will be very informative, and change the way you think and operate on fire scenes. As always, stay safe on the Fire Ground.

PROCEDURE REVIEW

By A/C Ben Matthews

This month I will be reviewing Section 5 of our policies. I will be focusing on where members are to report when we are alerted. To simply break it down members of Captain or higher rank are the only ones permitted to respond to the scene. Lieutenants and below are to report to the station. With that said I will go into detail as to why we operate this way.

The first reason is communications. Not all of our members have a radio. The only members that have issued radios are our officers. They have the ability to communicate with dispatch and incoming apparatus. This allows them to establish command and assign responding apparatus to tasks.

Next it is to ensure that the scene does not get congested with personal vehicles. If everyone were permitted to go direct we could end up with a problem. Think about it. We have roughly 30 members. If all 30 went to the scene we would have cars everywhere which in turn would affect the outcome of the incident. It would be nearly impossible to get every vehicle out of the way for responding apparatus. That is assuming anyone were at the

station to bring more apparatus. This brings us to our next point. If all members were permitted to go to the scene we run the risk of not having enough people to bring the apparatus needed to handle the task at hand. This is bad for everyone. It is bad for us because then we can't effectively do our job. It is bad for the public because it is putting them at risk.

When a Captain or higher decides that they will be responding direct to an incident, then they have several things to keep in mind. First, they should be letting everyone know by way of the radio that they will be responding direct. This is so two or more don't go direct. It doesn't do us much good when two or more people go direct, because essentially they do not have the tools needed to accomplish the tasks needing completed for the call. One Captain or Chief Officer is all that is needed. One person can get on scene and give a size up, conduct a walk around, assign incoming units, and request mutual aid if needed. This helps because it ensures adequate help has been requested quickly, helps the first incoming apparatus know what to expect and best

placement for the apparatus, and it paints everyone a picture as to the incident they are responding to.

Now I mentioned before that officers have department issued radios. There are a couple reasons for this. First, Captains and Chief Officers may go to the scene and they may need a radio for reasons already explained. Second, Lieutenants are responsible for the crew of the apparatus they are responding on. By them being issued a radio it helps guarantee they will have a radio so they and their crew are able to communicate with the Incident commander.

I understand some firefighters have their own personal radio. This however does not give them the authority to go direct to a scene. If you pass an incident on your way to the station, by all means give a quick description of what you see if necessary. This will help. Do not stop though. Firefighters are to report to the station. This helps ensure we have members at the station to bring the appropriate apparatus. Without the trucks and tools on them, we have a more difficult time getting the job done.

[WFD POLICY MANUAL](#)

[WFD PROCEDURES](#)

Links to PDF Versions

WORRY ABOUT YOURSELF.....

By Lt. Aaron Dupree

Worry about yourself.... We hear it said so often and, to be honest, I couldn't agree more. Where some may disagree with me is that I think to "worry about yourself" you should and need to worry about those around you. We as a fire department and as a fire service need to be a cohesive team that works seamlessly together on incidents as well as in day to day life. We should strive to better ourselves, and one of the most effective ways to better ourselves is to help better those around us.

We all have something to give, some special knowledge or life experiences that can help make others better. We need to share those and push everyone to always better themselves. We as an individual may feel a plateau and that's not uncommon. We just have to remember that our training is never done and there is always something to learn. Coming together with others to make the team better can help with this and will push everyone to become better. The old saying "a chain is only as good as its weakest link" has some truth to it. So we should all strive to be the strongest link and part of that is helping others around us to be the same. Perfection may not be truly attainable, but that doesn't mean we should ever stop striving for it.



THE TRAINING GROUNDS

This month's training is on CPR and First Aid. We will have refresher training during our regular monthly training on Tuesday, February 17th at 1830 hours. Anyone needing initial certification will need to attend on Saturday, February 21st at 0800 hours. If you need initial certification, please contact A/C Brandau before February 16th to make arrangements.

We would also like to congratulate the nine members that successfully completed the Incident Safety Officer class on 2/7. They were among 37 fire fighters from five counties that attended our recent class. We also want to wish good luck to the five members that are enrolled in the Fire Instructor course we are teaching over the next few weeks. They will be among 15 students trying to become new instructors.

Flash Points Articles

by Wellston FD Training Staff

Flash Points is a monthly newsletter compiled by the Wellston Fire Department Training Staff. If you have an article that you would like to see in Flash Points, let us know! Email A/C Roman Brandau at roman.brandau@gmail.com with any article or training topic that you would like to see in Flash Points. Your article could be featured in next month's edition!!!

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