

Drill Night Drive-Thru

Daily Training Packets

Drill Night Drive-Thru (DNDT) are short, daily or weekly training packets that may be used for company training or meeting night training sessions. DNDT may contain short lesson plans and AV support or just a pdf fact sheet. They will be included within the specific topics offered on SCFireTraining.com.

Our goal is to post a Drill Night Drive –Thru weekly. Some will be from the US Fire Administration, other state training sources or submitted from our membership. Below are examples of a Drill Night Drive-thru packet:

Getting back to these basic best practices can help you safely operate your emergency response vehicles.

- 1. Driver Selection:** *With age comes wisdom.*
 - Successfully operating an emergency vehicle requires experience and the improved decision-making ability that comes with age.
 - Drivers should be at least 21 years old and have least five years experience.
- 2. Driver Qualification:** *Better safe than sorry.*

Making sure that drivers are properly qualified before operating emergency vehicles can reduce the risk of vehicle accidents later.

 - Driver medical evaluations should be obtained to check for health problems that could affect driving ability.
 - Motor vehicle records (MVR) should be obtained for every new driver and reviewed annually for existing drivers.
 - Station leadership should establish and clearly document criteria for satisfactory MVRs.
 - As part of training orientation, drivers should complete a certified Emergency Vehicle Operators Course that meets state and/or National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) standards.
- 3. Driver Training:** *We are what we repeatedly do.*

A formal driver training program is critical for reducing the risk of emergency vehicle losses.

 - At a minimum, the training program should be administered by authorized trainers and include:
 - Supervision by an officer or driver training committee.
 - Ten hours or more of documented, behind-the-wheel training on each type/style of vehicle.
 - A documented final road test—with two or more instructors—that includes operating the emergency vehicle on a variety of roads and highways, with road conditions typical for the area.
 - Provisions for trainers to regularly observe and evaluate—for an extended time period—the trainee's ability to successfully maneuver the vehicle during emergency response calls before becoming the primary driver.
 - Annual refresher classroom and on-road training to ensure drivers remain familiar with the operation of their vehicles.
- 4. Response Procedures:** *Response is everything!*

To help reduce the risk of a vehicle accident during an emergency, response procedures should be developed and included as part of the department's vehicle safety program, including:

 - Securing all equipment and compartments before moving the vehicle.
 - Controlling vehicle speed so the emergency vehicle is not exceeding 10 mph over the posted speed limit.
 - Adjusting vehicle speed for weather, road, and traffic conditions.
 - Documentation for wrong way driving, using opposing lanes of traffic, driving through unguarded railroad crossings, and other potentially hazardous driving maneuvers.
- 5. Intersections:** *Slow and steady wins the race.*

Intersections are common scenes of accidents, so extra caution must be taken by emergency vehicles.

 - Laws may vary from state to state, but NFPA Standard 1500 and the International Association of Fire Chiefs recommend drivers adhere to the following tips:
 - Slow down before reaching the intersection; do not rely on the emergency warning devices to clear traffic.
 - Do not assume or force the right-of-way, and scan the intersection for possible driver and pedestrian hazards, as well as passing options.
 - Bring the vehicle to a full stop before entering a negative right-of-way intersection (red light, flashing red light, or stop sign), blind intersection, or any intersection where hazards are present or the driver cannot account for oncoming traffic.

Coffee Break Training - Leadership and Executive Development Series

Developing Yourself as a Leader
Nov 10, 2015 - December 10, 2015

Learning Objective: The student will be able to consider ways to build and improve himself or herself to develop his or her leadership skills.

The National Fire Academy course "New Fire Chief III: Contemporary Issues" (NFC III: CI) reviews many of the contemporary issues that face any agency today. One of the challenges to you as the contemporary fire services leader is how to remain current and in tune with today's issues in your agency.

Some recommendations that you can consider are:

- **Find and develop a strong relationship with a mentor:** Find an experienced person you can talk and share ideas with who will give you the advantage of his or her perspective and experience.
- **Seek out leadership opportunities:** Look for chances to be a leader in activities outside the fire department. Look at social community organizations, volunteer organizations, clubs, or any organized efforts in your community.
- **Observe other leaders:** Watch and learn from the triumphs and failures of leaders, both locally and nationally. Research them online, and learn more about their thought process. Read books or articles about their successes, or study their beliefs. You can learn from both good and bad leaders.
- **Be willing to fail:** We all make mistakes. The important question is do we learn from our mistakes and remember how we failed?
- **Be a great communicator:** Your success or failure often revolves around your ability to communicate with others and the honesty of that communication. In today's connected world of the Internet, videos, smartphones and other technology, you must use a variety of communication tools to reach different groups.
- **Be social media smart:** Are you up on the current technology? It may be Twitter and Facebook today, but it will change quickly. Are you on Snapchat, Instagram or whatever is now popular?
- **Have a vision and a plan:** Do you have one? Is it written down? If not, spend some time putting down your thoughts. It is good to refer to them on a regular basis to see how you are progressing.
- **Get up on the balcony:** Always remember to climb up the "balcony" of life on a regular basis. Make sure you see the world and your life from a different perspective. This effort allows you to see the bigger picture of your life.
- **Think and act politically:** Politics is not about specific parties. It is about people. Your strengths are your abilities and skills that influence people and relationships that help your agency. This is not about personal gain, but it is about improving your agency.
- **Get as much training and education as you can:** This effort will allow you to better react with and understand the fast-paced world we now live in. It will give you better skills to work with other people.

Developing yourself is a never-ending effort. Keep at it!

For more information on the NFC III: CI course, visit <https://apps.usfa.fema.gov/nfcaourses/catalog/details/10599>.

For archived downloads, go to:
http://www.usfa.fema.gov/training/coffee_break/

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