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## ***Fire Department Item 13 – Training***

### **Current Grading Schedule**

Department training shall be commensurate with the fire potential in the municipality in order to permit the effective and efficient handling of fires.

Facilities shall be provided, sufficient in size and number and suitably equipped, for the proper instruction of all members. There shall be a complete, uniform training program under the close supervision of a competent officer; the program shall include the study and development of modern practices, including standard operational procedures. There shall be a comprehensive schedule of regular classes and drills at the training facility and at fire stations. Special classes for new recruits, officers, operators, and drivers shall be held.

Systematic and frequent inspections of buildings for pre-fire planning purposes shall be made by the fire force. Records of such inspections, including suitable notes and sketches, shall be kept and used in company training.

### **Commentary to the Grading Schedule**

Training is a very important factor in developing an effective fire fighting force. This is not meant to imply that a well trained but poorly staffed company is able to handle all of the tasks expected of it; however, performance in completing each individual task may be more efficient.

Considerable training can be given without complete facilities, but a training ground is a necessity before a full program can be developed. Personnel assigned to training instruction should be competent and sufficient in number so as to provide adequate supervision over the program.

Pre-fire planning is a very essential part of a good training program.

### **2005 Commentary Revision**

#### ***13.1 Allocation of Grading Charges***

Suggested weights for the various parts of this item, and minimum time periods where applicable, are given below. The quality of instruction and training should be carefully evaluated.

- 5%      **a. *Supervision.*** Number of personnel, experience, interest in training, technical knowledge, teaching ability and coordination of all parts of program. The training officer should have 10 years of direct IC experience at a rank of captain or better. The size of the fire department may require that the training officer be a full-time paid position. *NFPA 1041:Standard for Fire Service Instructor Professional Qualifications* is to be considered when evaluating.

- 30%**     **b. *Company training at fire stations by company officer.*** Minimum of 20 hours per member per month. This amount can be reduced by 25% if firefighters are FF1 certified and by 50% if firefighters are FF2 certified. Reductions are based on the recognition of competency based certifications as the baseline for firefighter skills. Company based training would normally be conducted by the company based officers for the firefighters assigned to that company or fire station and should be related to structural firefighting and related topics. Off-site specialized training may be credited as company training if relevant and not credited under any other item. Emergency Medical Services (EMS) training is not credited. Percentages of participation by company members will be used in the proration of this item.
- 40%**     **c. *Training by training officer (or equivalent) at training center.*** Minimum of eight half-day sessions per year at training facilities, including 2 drills at night for all company members. These should include single and multiple company evolutions and reflect the anticipated fire suppression and rescue activities needed by the community. Individual and company evaluations should be completed **and** documented.

Training Center should provide the following facilities:

- Drill Tower [30%] : The height of the drill tower should be at least three stories or 35 feet in height. If the community is required a ladder truck, the drill tower should be four stories or 40 feet in height minimum.
- Fire Building [30%]: Fire resistive structure to support live fire simulation including interior fire attack, SCBA manipulative drills involving smoke, rescue and ventilation.
- Combustible Liquid Pit [10%]: Area should be approximately 20 feet in radius and accessible from all directions to simulate combustible liquid spill fires.
- Training Aids [10%]: A dedicated library with training manuals and multimedia materials covering various fire training subjects.
- Training Areas [20%]: A paved area of at least 2 acres suitable for multi-company operations should be provided. The training ground should facilitate fire hydrant and hose evolution drills including corresponding driver training.

Calculation of sub-item **c.** shall involve the multiplication of the percent of actual training hours by the percentage calculated for training facilities. NFPA 1402: *Guide to Building Fire Service Training Centers* is to be when evaluating this sub-item.

- 5% **d. Officer classes.** Minimum of 2 days per year (16 hours) for all officers. These classes should focus on incident command and leadership skills. Any company or chief officer responsible for fireground command duties should participate in officer classes. NFPA 1021: Standard for Fire Officer Professional Qualifications should be considered in the evaluation of this item. Percentage of participation by department officers will be used in the proration of this item.
- 5% **e. Classes for drivers and operators.** Minimum of 1 day (8 hours) per year for current personnel. Current EVAP certification can serve in lieu of annual training. NFPA 1002: Standard for Fire Apparatus Driver/Operator Professional Qualifications should be considered in the evaluation of this item. Percentage of participation by company members will be used in the proration of this item.
- 5% **f. Recruits.** New members should receive a minimum of 240 hours or equivalent of recruit training during their first year of membership leading to the FF1 designation. Recruits need to complete entire program before responding on fire apparatus to emergency calls. Recruit training should be implemented independently of regular company and training center training. A formal evaluation program should be used to critique recruits. NFPA 1001: Standard for Fire Fighter Professional Qualifications should be used in the evaluation of this item.
- 10% **g. Pre-Fire Planning.** An annual inspection and diagram of each commercial building for maximum credit. Records should include complete and up-to-date notes and sketches. Use of inspection data and records should be integrated into company training. Pre-fire information should be readily available on each responding apparatus and/or available digitally via the communication center. NFPA 1620: Recommended Practice for Pre-Incident Planning should be considered when evaluating.

### 13.2 Special Schools and Courses

Attendance at State and other fire schools, or participation in courses pertaining to fire protection and related activities will be considered.

### 13.3 Overall Effectiveness of Training

The final charge may be adjusted to reflect the overall effectiveness of training, with emphasis on quality, whether the best use is made of the facilities provided, and whether training has been developed to be commensurate with the fire potential in the municipality. Factors to be considered in arriving at this final charge are the quality of drill evolutions witnessed during the survey and the quality of any fire ground operations that may be observed.