



Fire Protection Training

Procedures Handbook 4300

FIREFIGHTER SAFETY

TOPIC: Using A Structure As A Refuge

TIME FRAME: 30 Minutes

LEVEL OF INSTRUCTION:

BEHAVIORAL OBJECTIVE:

Condition: A written quiz

Behavior: Student will list and describe the emergency procedures to follow using a structure as a refuge if trapped by fire.

Standard: With a minimum of 70% accuracy

MATERIALS NEEDED:

- Chalkboard and chalk
- Appropriate visual aids
- Audio visual equipment

REFERENCES:

- CDF Academy Basic Fire Control Course Curriculum

PREPARATION: In many cases when a crew finds itself trapped by fire a structure of some sort is nearby. The structure can provide excellent protection. Even if the structure eventually burns, it can provide temporary shelter until the main fire front passes.

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USING A STRUCTURE AS A
REFUGE

PRESENTATION	APPLICATION
<p>I. CREW PREPARATION</p> <p>A. Stay Together</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Keep close account of all crew members2. Avoid having to search for a "stray" thus exposing crew members to additional risks <p>B. Follow Directions of Crew Leader/Supervisor</p> <p>C. Contact "Outside" Personnel</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Fireline supervisor, I.C. or E.C.C.2. Explain situation3. Give accurate description of your location and access to it.<ol style="list-style-type: none">a. For ground/air support and/or rescue <p>D. Re-evaluate Your Situation</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Possible escape routes2. Safer structures or areas3. Weigh risks of staying against risks of escape attempt	<p>There are cases where persons have died trying to find a crew member they thought had strayed off</p> <p>Retardant/water drops</p> <p>Possible helicopter rescue or transport of injured</p>

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<p>4. Have you considered all options?</p> <p>II. SELF-PREPARATION</p> <p>A. Keep Calm-Think Clearly</p> <p>B. Secure Safety Uniform and Equipment</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Sleeves, cuffs, pant legs, shroud, collars-all buttons/zippers, bandanna (dry) 2. Goggles, gloves, chin strap 3. Lights, radio, packs, canteens <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Hose packs, etc., can be used as barrier b. Fusees, gas cans, etc., should be separated and kept away from crew area <p>III. PREPARE STRUCTURE</p> <p>A. Close All Windows and Doors</p> <p>B. Remove Flammables from Windows</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Especially on side of house where fire will hit first/hardest 2. Close heavy drapes 3. Take down lighter curtains <p>C. Turn On All Lights - Even During Daytime</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. May assist in locating house at night or in heavy smoke conditions <p>D. Fire Out Around Structure if Appropriate</p> <p>E. Deploy Hoselines, Garden Hoses, etc., as Available</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Take hoses inside through opening on least involved side 	



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<ul style="list-style-type: none">F. Remove Highly Concentrated Fuels Outside and Adjacent to StructureG. Cover Structural OpeningsH. Remove Hazardous Materials Which May Adversely Affect Crew Safety	
<p>IV. TAKE REFUGE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">A. In Rooms Opposite Approaching Fire<ul style="list-style-type: none">1. Preferably with exits2. Seal door and window cracks with sheets, towels, bedding, etc.B. Consider Need to Move from Room to Room as Fire Outside ProgressesC. Avoid Upper FloorsD. Use Furniture/House Objects as BarriersE. Don S.C.B.A.'s if AppropriateF. Be Prepared to Evacuate Structure Quickly<ul style="list-style-type: none">1. Fuel loading in structure considerably higher than on exterior	
<p>V. AFTER FIRE/DANGER HAS PASSED</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">A. Exit Structure When Safe or NecessaryB. Check Crew for Injuries<ul style="list-style-type: none">1. Treat as necessary/possibleC. Inform Appropriate Line Supervisor of Status and NeedsD. As Appropriate, Consider Extinguishment of Structure and/or Other Exposures	

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<p>E. Evacuate or Continue Assignment as Appropriate</p> <p>F. Consider Critical Incident Stress Debriefing</p>	

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SUMMARY:

Structures continue to be built in wildland areas. Despite the inherent problems associated with structures in the wildland, they do provide a possible refuge in fire overrun situations.

EVALUATION:

A written quiz.

ASSIGNMENT:

To be determined by instructor(s).