



Teach
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RIC for REAL - Lessons learned; 400 firefighters in realistic rapid intervention training

PROGRAM LENGTH: 2 hours – ½ day (Modified to meet the needs of the hosting agency)

BRIEF DESCRIPTION

This class is about the detailed lessons learned from realistic, hands-on, rapid intervention training. 400 firefighters were put to the test in stressful training environments that challenged everything they have ever been taught. Firefighters were challenged in their basic skills, officers challenged in critical decision-making, and crews were challenged in their efficiency, choreography, and coordination all under realistic stress. This class provides the best practices on how to increase the possibility of a successful rescue by paying attention to the details in our training approach to RIC.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

The objectives for this class are to find the details that you, your crew, and your department need to pay attention to in how you train and prepare for a firefighter rescue. Seconds matter to the trapped firefighter. I'll show you how 400 firefighters from 16 departments learned how to shave valuable time by operating more efficiently. We will also discuss how to approach rapid intervention training properly and to dump old habits that are setting you up for failure.

This class is presented as best practices from lessons learned through training that does not occur enough in our fire service - realistic, elevated stress training. Attendees will learn how every detail of their preparation and training for a firefighter rescue makes a difference in the outcome. Details regarding, PPE, communication, decision-making, leadership, and many other topics are covered.

The purpose of this class is to pass on what was learned from large-scale training that went beyond the norm. Firefighters and company officers were put into realistic, stressful rapid intervention training situations. This forced many departments to make changes at all levels in order to be more properly prepared for firefighter rescues.



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THE TARGET AUDIENCE AND THE PRESENTATIONS RELEVANCE TO THE AUDIENCE

The target audience for this class is everyone from the rookie firefighter to the policy maker. The lessons learned here pertain to basic firefighter skills, effective policies, appropriate departmental training procedures, equipment, leadership, and much more. Firefighters have very little experience in rescuing other firefighters so it is imperative that we train properly. The realistic hands-on training exposed many small areas of needed improvement and a few big ones among very good fire departments. Your department is no different as rescuing firefighters is very relevant to all of us.

WHY I AM SUBMITTING THIS TOPIC AND MY RELATED EXPERIENCE

I spent several years designing, developing, and delivering RIC *for* REAL. This was realistic training that incorporated a component of elevated stress to the members to simulate an actual firefighter rescue. Hundreds of firefighters participated, worked hard, and did many things extremely well. Each of the participants also learned where the downfalls were in their individual skills, crew skills, and even their department policies and procedures. This was a big eye opener to a large number of fire departments and, as a result, changes were made in many areas. As a fire service instructor it is my privilege to pass on this valuable information.