



**Rogers Fire Department**  
**Minimum Company Standards**  
SOP 142, FORM 90  
Fourth Quarter

**PITTSBURGH DRILL**

**Reference:** NFPA 1001, 5.3.1 2008 Edition

**JPR Identification:**

**Purpose:** The purpose of this standard is to enhance the firefighter's ability to rescue a firefighter from a collapse situation. The skills learned through this exercise will teach the proper procedures and techniques for conducting firefighter rescue as a member of a crew from a situation in which the firefighter has been involved in a collapse situation. This will provide the firefighter the confidence and experience in advanced firefighter rescues. All members of the crew should be proficient in their responsibilities as well as understand the duties of the other crew members. This understanding will allow them to function better as a team and enable members to function in different capacities within the crew.

**Performance Outcome:** Individuals will be able to identify the situation and establish the easiest and safest method to perform a rescue through the established course. These evolutions shall be completed while wearing full PPE including breathing air. The individual will also operate with no visibility. There are no established timeframes, however, the overall time of the crew will be kept. This evolution must be completed while all personnel are wearing the proper PPE. *Note: All crew members must successfully negotiate the course and exit the course successfully while still breathing air.*

**Materials Required:** Personal Protective Equipment  
Self Contained Breathing Apparatus  
1 3/4" Hose  
Pittsburgh Drill Course  
Forcible Entry Tool  
*Note: It is the discretion of the company officer what props and configuration are utilized for this company skill.*

**Critical Teaching Points:**

1. The company officer should demonstrate the skills and techniques in an open environment, and allow firefighters to practice in an open environment before progressing to demonstration in a closed environment and allowing the firefighter to perform in a closed environment
2. The scenario begins with open environment and ending with the successful completion of the desired props with no visibility, full PPE, and "on air" from SCBA.
3. It is critical that any time a firefighter rescue is being performed, that all methods are communicated and the proper method is selected and implemented. Remind firefighters to remain calm at all times, manage their air supply, think about their options, and perform the rescue.
4. ***All members of the crew must successfully perform the rescue of the firefighter. Failure to finish the course dictates that the course must be done again. Completion is mandatory.***

## *Pittsburgh Drill*

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1. Ensure that all personal protective equipment is appropriately donned and secure before starting the evolutions
2. Ensure that all evolutions are conducted in worse case situations, limited to no visibility and simulated high heat which will require the individual to remain low throughout the evolutions.
3. Utilize the grassy areas at the Emergency Training Center (ETC) for this exercise.

The obstacle course is 50 feet in length with three (3) separate obstacles (under/over/through). The first obstacle is a low profile opening, the second is an A-frame, and the third is a 10-12 foot tube. A section of 1 3/4" hose is stretched from the entrance of the course through all 3 obstacles to the firefighter (victim) at the end. The victim is a simulated downed firefighter (preferably in full gear, SCBA, and facepiece).

1. Each team is limited to 20 minutes to complete the exercise.
2. Participants face pieces are covered with wax paper to simulate limited visibility
3. Each crew must maneuver all three obstacles to access the victim then work to bring the victim back through the obstacle course while on air.
4. At the entrance to the third obstacle (the tube), two team members will low profile crawl through the tube to the victim while the remaining crewmembers wait in place at the entrance of the tube.
5. Once through the tube, the victim is assumed to have good air supply but is unconscious
6. Team members must prepare the victim for a low profile drag back through the tube using a handcuff knot or similar knot appropriate for the specified rescue techniques.
7. Once everyone is back through the third obstacle the team works together to maneuver the victim over the second obstacle (A-frame), then on to the first obstacle (wall breach /narrow opening).
8. The team must send two members through the breach first to pull from the opposite side. The remaining team members position the victim into the breach and push the victim through as the team members on the opposite side pull the victim through.
9. The rest of the team must get themselves through the breach and assist getting the victim to the starting point where the time will stop
10. The victim's facepiece must remain in place throughout obstacle course. If it dislodges, the team is stopped and given instructions to reposition the facepiece.
11. If a team member's low air alarm sounds, another team member must escort them to the spare cylinder (outside) to change out before being allowed back in to assist with the extraction.
12. The average time is 18 to 20 minutes. The importance of the Pittsburgh Drill is not in completing the course 20 minutes or less, but rather to make the team work together while in an effort to enhance / sharpen their RIT rescue skills. While not an easy exercise, it's not impossible.