DENVER DRILL

Reference: NFPA 1001, 5.3.9 2008 Edition

Purpose: The purpose of this standard is to enhance the firefighter’s ability to rescue a firefighter from a 2nd story window in which the firefighter has collapsed in a narrow area. The skills learned through this exercise will teach the proper procedures and techniques for firefighter rescue from this 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 crew members will also operate with no visibility while utilizing the training prop and may have visibility while operating in the 2nd floor of the tower. There are no established time frames. 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, Denver Drill Prop, Denver Pack

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 the Denver Drill prop and allow firefighters to practice before progressing to demonstration in the tower and allowing the firefighter to perform the drill from the 2nd floor.

2. The scenario ends 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. Completion is mandatory.

Denver Drill
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. FF1 Enters the window over the top of the victim, moves away from the wall to the feet of the victim and turns to face the window. Once in position, he rotates the victim on his back and places him in a sitting position. FF1 then tightens the SCBA should straps of the victim.

4. FF2 enters the window and positions himself between the wall and the victim.

5. FF2 then moves back towards the window until his SCBA is resting against the wall. The victim is then slid back (in a seated position) to FF2. At this point, FF2 is in position to lift.

6. FF1 then pulls the victim towards himself, lifting him up off the ground, so that FF2 can position his knees up and under the victim. FF1 then lowers victim back down onto the knees of FF2.

7. FF1 – in kneeling position – then leans forward between the crotch of victim and places both of the victim’s legs over his shoulders. Both FF’s are now ready to lift the victim up and out the window.

8. With the outside rescuers in a position and ready to assist, the inside rescuers under the control of FF1 – prepare to lift. Simultaneously, FF2 lifts/presses the victim up the SCBA harness/cylinder as FF1 squats the victim up using his legs. It’s important for FF1 to pull back slightly during the lift so the victim isn’t folded together and so that FF2 isn’t crushed against the wall. As the inside FF’s are lifting, the outside FF’s can assist by lifting up on the SCBA shoulder straps.

9. During the lift, either FF needs to reposition and get another grip, FF2 can reposition his knees and rest the victim on them. When both rescuers are ready, the lift can continue.

10. Once the victim is on the window sill he can be repositioned so the outside rescuers can complete the rescue.