Fire Department
Orientation / Organization
Objectives

• Identify the organization of the fire department.
• Identify the basic firefighter’s role as a member of the fire service.
• Identify the mission of the fire service.
• Identify the fire department documents that apply to the position of firefighter.
Objectives

- Identify the function of Standard Operating Procedures / Guidelines.
- Identify the components of a member assistance program.
- Identify the roll of other agencies as they relate to the fire department.
- Define the chain of command as it applies to a fire department.
Organization of the Fire Department

• Generally the components of any given fire department are:
  – Administration
  – Line
  – Staff
Organization of the Fire Department

• Administration
  – Responsible for the day-to-day operation of the department
  – Consists of the Chief and any support staff
Organization of the Fire Department

• Line
  – Responsible for fire suppression, rescue, EMS, Hazmat response and any number of technical rescue services
  – Consists of officers and firefighters assigned to operational shifts or crews
Organization of the Fire Department

• Staff
  – Responsible for support operations of the department
  – May include: training, fire prevention, fire/arson investigation, public education, maintenance and any other support services of the department
Organization of a Fire Department

Organizational Chart for a Fire Department

- **Fire Chief**
  - Assistant Chief/Operations
    - Battalion Chief
      - Station 1 Captain
      - Station 2 Captain
      - Station 3 Captain
      - Station 4 Captain
      - Station 5 Captain
  - Assistant Chief/Fire Marshal
    - Fire Protection Engineer
    - Fire Inspector
    - Fire Inspector
Organization of the Flora Fire Department

- Fire Chief
- Assistant Chiefs
- Captains
- Firefighters
Organization Principles

• Unity of command
  – Each fire fighter answers to only one supervisor.

• Span of control
  – Number of people one person can supervise effectively
  – Normally between 3 and 7 firefighters
Organization Principles

• Division of labor
  – Divides large jobs into small jobs
  – Assigns responsibility
  – Prevents duplication of effort
  – Makes specific and clear-cut assignments

• Discipline
  – The organization’s responsibility to provide the direction needed to satisfy the goals and objectives it has identified.
Organizational Structure of the Fire Department

• Fire companies
• Job assignments
• Special operations assignments
• Fire prevention personnel
• Emergency Medical Services Personnel
• Training Personnel
Fire Companies

• Engine company
  – Size-up incident
  – Determine stage of fire
  – Obtain a water supply
  – Conduct primary search
  – Determine fire location and extent
  – Locate-Confine-Extinguish the fire
Fire Companies

• Truck company
  – Forcible entry
  – Ventilation
  – Roof operations
  – Search and rescue
  – Deployment of ground ladders
Fire Companies

• Rescue company
  – Rescue victims from:
    • Vehicle / machinery
    • Confined spaces
    • Trenches
    • High angles
Fire Companies

• Brush company
  – Size-up incident
  – Obtain a water supply
  – Establish fire lines
  – Extinguish the fire
Fire Companies

• Hazardous Materials
  – Classify, identify & verify material
  – Select proper PPE
  – Control, contain and/or confine
  – Decontaminate
Fire Companies

• Emergency Medical Services
  – Assess condition
  – Provide medical care
  – Transport to hospital
Job Assignments

- Firefighter
- Apparatus driver / operator (Engineer)
- Officer
- Safety officer
- Communications (Dispatcher)
- Others
Special Operations Assignments

- Airport firefighter
- Hazardous materials technician
- SCUBA diver
- Special rescue technician
Fire Prevention Personnel

- Fire inspector
- Fire / Arson investigator
- Public fire and life safety educator
- Fire protection engineer / specialist
Emergency Medical Services Personnel

- First responder
- Emergency medical technician
- Paramedic
Training Personnel

• Training officer / Chief of training
• Instructor
Firefighter’s Role in the Fire Service

• Must meet the minimum requirements for employment / membership
  – Age
  – Education
  – Medical requirements
  – Physical fitness requirements
  – Certifications
Firefighter’s Role in the Fire Service

• After receiving training, one must be able to perform typically required duties
  – Responding to alarms
  – Operating equipment
  – Climbing ladders
  – Ventilating building
  – Search and rescue
  – Salvage and overhaul
Firefighter’s Role in the Fire Service

– Relay instructions, orders and information
– Avoid injuries while performing duties
– Ensure safe keeping and proper care of department property
– Perform assigned inspections for compliance with codes and ordinances
Mission of the Fire Service

– The mission of every fire department is to practice life safety, incident stabilization and property conservation
Fire Department Documents That Apply to the Position of Firefighter

• Rules and Regulations
  – Involves the everyday conduct of department business
  – Involves items such as personnel matters, wearing of uniforms and schedule of shifts
Fire Department Documents That Apply to the Position of Firefighter

• NFPA Code Books
  – National Fire Prevention Association

• Administrative policies and procedures
  – Policy: A guide to decision making
  – Procedure: A detailed guide to action
Fire Department Documents That Apply to the Position of Firefighter

- Standard Operating Guidelines / Procedures
  - Definition: A predetermined plan for nearly every type of emergency that the local department could conceive of
  - Based on similarities of fires
  - Require / assign specific procedures to be carried out
  - Provide a standard set of actions that are the core of an incident plan
  - Plan or written document
Components of a Member Assistance Program

• Provide confidential service with programs that are established to help members and their families with problems that could adversely affect job performance.
Components of a Member Assistance Program

- Areas covered include but are not limited to:
  - Alcohol and/or drug abuse
  - Personal and interpersonal problems
  - Stress, depression and/or anxiety
  - Marital and family problems / concerns
  - Nutrition, smoking and weight control
Components of a Member Assistance Program

• Usually will provide referrals to appropriate service providers and/or professionals when faced with long-term problems/situations

• May also include critical incident stress debriefing service to personnel in a fire or rescue incident that was particularly gruesome/horrific, physically or mentally exhausting
Roll of other agencies

• Fire department must be able to work with
  – Law enforcement
  – ESDA
  – EMS services
  – Red Cross
  – State and Federal agencies
    • IEMA
    • FEMA
Roll of other agencies

• Office of the State Fire Marshal
  – Requires
    • Record of all learning experiences
    • Record of all practical skills evaluation sheets and examinations
    • Record of all firefighter certificates
    • Record of all call outs
Training and Education

• Originally, little was required beyond muscular strength and endurance.
• Requirements have increased as fire suppression has become more complicated and technical.
Training and Education

- Completion of Basic Operations course (180 hours)
  - Passage of State Practical Skills
- Completion of Fire Service Vehicle Operator (8 hours)
- Certification for Hazardous Materials Operations (40 hours)
- Certification for Technical Rescue Awareness (8 hours)
- CPR/Basic First Aid (8 hours)
- NIMS 100 (2 hours)
- NIMS 700 (2 hours)
- Courage To Be Safe course (8 hours)
Training Resources

• Office of the State Fire Marshal
  – Provides
    • Objectives
    • Lesson plans
    • Practical skills evaluation sheets
    • Certifications

• Illinois Fire Service Institute
  – Provides
    • Training through University of Illinois campus, regional training centers and online courses
    • Various classes and programs
Training Resources

• Community Colleges
  – Provides
    • Fire science degree programs
    • Continuing education

• Fire Service Organizations
  – Illinois Fire Chief’s Association
  – Illinois Society of Fire Service Instructors
  – Illinois Association of Fire Protection Districts
Training Resources

www.firefighter.jbpub.com
Q & A