

LESSON ONE

FIREFIGHTER II

Loss Control - Overhaul

DOMAIN: COGNITIVE

LEVEL OF LEARNING: KNOWLEDGE

MATERIALS

IFSTA Essentials 5th edition or Jones and Bartlett Fundamentals of Fire Fighter Skills 2nd Edition or Delmar Firefighter's Handbook 3rd Edition; overhead projector or laptop computer and multimedia projector; projection screen; abandoned or burned building.

NFPA 1001 JPR, 2008 edition

6.3.4 Protect evidence of fire cause and origin

Junior Member Statement:

Junior Member training activities should be supervised by qualified instructors to assure that the cognitive and psychomotor skills are completed in a safe and non-evasive manner. While it is critical that instructors be constantly aware of the capabilities of all students both mentally and physically to complete certain tasks safely and successfully, the instructor should take every opportunity to discuss with departmental leaders and students the maturity and job awareness each participant has for the hazards associated with fire and rescue training.

TERMINAL OBJECTIVE

The Firefighter II candidate shall correctly describe in writing the ways of collecting and recording fire scene data, securing the scene, and protecting and preserving evidence.

ENABLING OBJECTIVES

1. The Firefighter II candidate shall correctly identify in writing the responsibilities of the firefighter for collecting on scene information about the fire.
2. The Firefighter II candidate shall correctly identify in writing the procedures for securing a fire scene and preserving evidence.

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MOTIVATION

Preserving evidence at a fire scene is at best difficult. The firefighter must be knowledgeable in collecting and documenting on scene information relative to what might have contributed to the start of the fire thereby protecting the chain of evidence and providing valuable information to the fire investigator. Without good evidence it is very difficult to get an arson conviction. So everyone from the first firefighter to the arson investigator plays an important role in gaining facts that can determine the cause and origin of the fire.

PRESENTATION

ENABLING OBJECTIVE #1

The Firefighter II candidate shall correctly identify the responsibilities of the firefighter and the role of the investigator for collecting on scene information about the fire.

1. List the various observations the first arriving firefighter should make mental and written notes of.
2. Discuss with the class the importance of staying alert during fire operations as well as the overhaul phase. Point out the need to make mental or written notes of things that seem suspicious.
3. Discuss the importance that any firefighter actions should not contribute to destroying evidence.
4. Discuss the role of the fire investigator, and the different ways arson investigations are handled.
5. Canvas the class to see how each authority having jurisdiction represented handles arson investigations.

6. Discuss the facts that can be gathered while firefighters respond to the scene.
7. Discuss the observations that should be made upon arrival at the scene.
8. Discuss the observations that should be made while fighting fire.
9. Discuss actions that should be taken once the fire is out.
10. Discuss how firefighter conduct and making assumption statements can play a critical role in the outcome of a potential arson investigation.

Reference:

Delmar Handbook 3rd edition, pages 746-747
J&B Fundamentals 2nd edition, pages 575, 974-985
IFSTA Essentials 5th edition, pages 910-918

PRESENTATION

ENABLING OBJECTIVE #2

The Firefighter II candidate shall correctly identify in writing the procedures for securing a fire scene and preserving evidence.

1. Discuss the procedures that on scene fire personnel should follow to insure the fire scene is secured from any potential contamination of evidence.
2. Discuss the legal issues regarding fire departments rights to continue an investigation once personnel leave the scene.
3. Discuss the procedures for protecting and preserving evidence found at the scene.

Reference:

Delmar Handbook 3rd edition, pages 747-749
J&B Fundamentals 2nd edition, pages 979-986
IFSTA Essentials 5th edition, pages 916-918

APPLICATION

Option 1: Take the class to a burned house. Divide the class into small groups. If there is a history on the fire, discuss it with the class. Have each group record findings that they feel would be important to an investigation.

Option 2: Invite a local arson investigator to class. Have the investigator share past investigations and pictures.

SUMMARY

Review the various observations the first arriving firefighter should make note of once en-route to the scene, and upon arrival at the scene.

Review the importance of how fire personnel's conduct and statements in front of bystanders and media can make or break an arson investigation.

Review procedures for insuring the security of the fire scene.

Review the legal rights of the fire department once the personnel leave the scene.

Go over the procedures for preserving and protecting fire scene evidence.