



Table Top Training Drills



Table Top Training Exercise-April 2012

Personal Protective Equipment

The fire and emergency service today is as dangerous as ever. Many of the daily fire and EMS related emergencies have endless hazards that can be controlled or contained. There are also hidden dangers that cannot be controlled or contained that we are forced to deal with in order to protect life and property. Personal protective equipment (PPE) is issued to insure that precautions are taken for our own health and safety. Sometimes other influences cause a lapse in judgment on donning this personal protective equipment.

Consider near-miss report # 08-302 located at www.firefighternearmiss.com. A seemingly harmless outside controlled burn in a wooded area puts a firefighter at ease and unconcerned of the possibility of any danger resulting in not donning proper PPE. The lessons learned portion explains the concern of the reporter and department.

Given the nature of the call, complacency was the largest contributing factor to this accident. Our department responds to a large amount grass and brush fires within our district and the general attitude was that this was just another routine event. The firefighter involved has been with the department for a little less than one year. Multiple personnel, including the assistant chief, were aware that the firefighter was not wearing any PPE but took no steps to correct the situation. Any firefighter on the scene, regardless of their rank or position in the department, should have stopped the firefighter and required them to don their PPE before continuing with suppression activities. A lack of enforcement from the officers on scene led to this injury.

Philadelphia Fire Department's Battalion Chief Henry Costo has written an article regarding risk assessments needed while a department is selecting PPE. Take the opportunity to read and discuss this article, the April Training Calendar case study and the supplemental calendar information. Thanks to FirefighterNation.com for sharing this article:

<http://www.firefighternation.com/article/firefighter-safety-and-health/elements-ppe-risk-assessment>