



Table Top Training Drill-March 2010

Lost in the structure; heavy smoke.

Report #[09-990](#)

The goal of this table-top exercise is to teach firefighters of every rank a different way to utilize the National Fire Fighter Near-Miss Reporting System as a training tool in their stations. This table-top training exercise creates a large variety of learning opportunities and perspectives using the scenarios from report [09-990](#) received at www.firefighternearmiss.com. The exercise is designed to generate learning from the tabletop without the risk of injury. Use this as a training opportunity rather than an opportunity to “Monday Morning Quarterback” the report submitter.

To begin, assign a position to each group or individual. This exercise is best completed with groups of five or fewer people; however you can conduct it with more than five individuals, if needed. You may also find it beneficial to create a pre-plan team to include tasks that should be done during training.

All participants should read the following report description. Each group or individual should create a checklist of their roles, actions and responsibilities. This offers an opportunity to discuss departmental policies, procedures, and tactics.

A sample discussion checklist appears below the event description.

Send your checklist to ahultman@iafc.org for posting on the Near-Miss Reporting System Facebook fan page.

Event Description: Report [09-990](#)

You are dispatched to a structure fire reported by police who were initially dispatched to a burglar alarm. First companies arrived to find a two story, wood frame multi-use structure with moderate smoke issuing from the structure. After forcing entry, the engine company (three person hose team) entered with an inch and three-quarter attack line and a TIC. The crew reported high heat conditions and indicated that the TIC screen was red! They proceeded to the right and pushed to the rear of the structure with heavy black smoke but no visible fire. A rescue company (2 person team) entered shortly after the engine company. They too reported extreme heat at the floor and a Red screen on the TIC. The rescue crew also proceeded to the right and pushed to the rear.

Outside, the IC and ladder company crew observed smoke conditions rapidly changing from laminar light brown smoke to a turbulent black smoke pushing from the entry

doorway. At this time, IC attempted to contact the initial engine company without success.

Back inside, the rescue crew reached the engine company at the rear wall. They all reported the same high heat conditions with no visible fire. Some confusion occurred when personnel mingled together and at some point, the rescue crew lost contact with each other. The engine captain also lost track of one of his two rookie firefighters. One of the rescue members retreated outside and reported he had lost his partner. At the same time, the engine captain attempted to radio IC that he too had lost a member of his crew and to report the condition encountered inside.

Back outside, the IC ordered the ladder company to "vent" a large window on the A Side of the structure. As this window was vented, the ladder crew observed fire at the floor level and it rolled across the room toward the rear of the structure.

The captain of the engine observed the fire roll over head and ordered his crew to evacuate. He reported extreme heat and made a hasty exit out of a window. Upon exiting, he reported that he had lost his crew and a MAYDAY was called. Almost immediately, all interior crews were accounted for at the entry doorway. The engine captain sustained 2nd degree burns to his face. No other injuries were reported. Crews quickly regrouped. Later arriving companies were assigned to the fire attack, and the fire was quickly contained.

Sample Discussion Checklist

Incident Commander

1. Considerations-structural, operational
2. Priorities
3. Concerns

Engine Officer

1. Communications-problems and corrections
2. Smoke Conditions reading the signs.
3. Heat and Fire Conditions (TIC)-reading the signs.

Rescue Officer

1. Search-Type
2. Ventilation-when and where.
3. Communication-what and to whom.

Ladder Crew

1. Exterior Ventilation-when and where.
2. Ladder Placement-locations, how many.
3. Communications-what and to whom.