



Table Top Training Drills

Table Top Training Exercise-June 2012

Air Management

Air management in the fire and emergency service is a crucial element of firefighter survival. SCBA use in any IDLH atmosphere is not only required but also one of the best ways to protect the firefighter in terms of returning home and enjoying a long and healthy career. SCBA training should be conducted and reviewed on a regular basis. Proficiency with SCBA is an absolute must for all firefighters before they enter into any IDLH atmosphere.

Near-miss report [10-277](#) is a classic example of firefighters overextending themselves and putting their personal safety second when the SCBA bottle runs completely empty. An excerpt is below:

In interviewing the [downed firefighter], he stated that he was with his crew member in the basement on fire attack, along with another two-person crew. His low-air alarm had activated and he continued to work, thinking he had plenty of time. After a time, he told his partner that he was going to run outside and get another bottle. He then left his partner and headed out of the laundry area in the basement, following the hoseline around the corner and up the stairs. Part way up the stairs, he completely ran out of air. In a condition of "high motivation," he started to hurry. Staying low and following the hoseline, he became disoriented and ended up reversing his direction. He then fell back down the stairs, knocking his face piece off. The conditions were still untenable. He repositioned his face piece so his hood would give him some filtering action. He then activated his PASS device and activated the emergency button on his radio. He stated that he was unable to speak due to the heavy smoke conditions.

Unfortunately, this scenario could have been written many times over throughout the country. As firefighters, pushing the limit is all too common. As this report is reviewed and discussed, put yourself and your department in the shoes of the reporter and consider the drill listed below that has been developed by Seattle Fire Department Instructors Mike Gagliano, Casey Phillips, Phillip Jose, and Steve Bernocco at www.manageyourair.com. SMART drills [# 60-01, 60-02 and 60-03](#) were used as a part of the 2010 Firefighter Safety, Health and Survival Week.