

Effective Fire Service Training – S.M.A.R.T #60-03

The ROAM and Company Operations – Intermediate ROAM

S – Statement of Intent / Objectives

The intent of this drill is to provide an opportunity for company officers' to identify the Point Of NO Return by managing their team's air supply commensurate with the assigned activity, work load, fitness levels, stress, and other factors that can affect the duration of the air supply. In order to achieve the stated intent participants will be able to demonstrate the ability to:

- Understand the Rule Of Air Management and how air management increases firefighter safety
The Rule Of Air Management States: *Know how much air you have in your SCBA, and manage that air so that you exit the hazardous environment before your SCBA's low-air warning bell begins to ring.*
- Make a scene size-up that includes air management.
- Make effective decisions regarding work vs. air use
- Demonstrate air management for themselves and their crewmembers
- Perform the company officer's role and responsibilities regarding air management
- Identify the Point Of NO Return so team exits the hazard area before low-pressure bell rings

M – Material(s)

- Prop space large enough to incorporate drill elements with zero or near zero visibility.
- 1 – 200' 2 ½" Line with gated wye attached
- 2 – 200' 1 ¾" lines attached to 2 ½" wye, one pre-laid, one coiled for advancement.
- 1 – Hydration station to include water and cups
- 1 – ICS Status board per department standard operation guidelines.
- Portable radios per department standard operating guidelines.
- Debris as necessary to establish work load.

A – Actions

Crews are briefed that the first in company has laid a 2 ½" line extended with an 1 ¾" line to the fire area. The backup line was attached to the same 2 ½" line and charged. The crew assigned to the backup line had a mask failure and was unable to complete their assignment. The crew participating in the drill is to follow the 2 ½" line to the wye and then advance the backup line along the attack line to the fire area.

- Follow the 2 ½" line to the wye, secure the 1 ¾" nozzle, and advance the backup line.
- Identify when the crew has reached the Point Of NO Return and begin exiting the prop.
- Exit the prop before any member of the crew's low-pressure bell rings.
- Perform progress reporting per department standard when operating within the prop.
- Follow the ROAM, check your air when you enter and at regular intervals during your work in the hazard area.
- Distribute, or re-distribute, the workload between the members of your team.
- Recognize the "Point of No Return" and demonstrate that the team is following the Rule of Air Management, by having the team out of the Hazard Area before any team members' low-air warning bell begins to ring.
- If your bell rings make the proper radio report and notify your instructor when you have left the hazard area.
- Demonstrate firefighter emergency and "Mayday" procedures per department standard operating guidelines.

The Instructor must identify and correct any unsafe practices while the team is operating in the prop.

R – Review / Recording

The Instructor will record:

- Time that team went on air and time exited the prop. (Time on air.)
- Beginning and ending pressure for each member of the team.
- If, and how many, low-pressure bells activated.
- Any significant problems the team had while operating in the "hazard area."

T – Talking Points at Debriefing

The instructor must be able to conduct debriefs of drill participants. These debriefings are a significant portion of the learning environment of this session. Students will be operating in the prop according to lessons learned over the course of their career as well as specific training. Experience-based learning is a powerful teacher. The instructor will need to facilitate this learning in a positive and constructive manner and should allow the team members to carry most of the discussion with brief, focused input from the instructor. The debriefing should include;

- How long did the team operate while on air?
- Were there any difficulties with equipment or communications regarding air checks?
- How much air each member of the team had left on exit?
- Did the team leader effectively identify the Point Of NO Return so the team was out of the "hazard area" before any member of the team's low-pressure bell sounded?
- Could they have done more? (Lots of air left for lowest pressure member.)
- Should they have done less? (One or more bells ringing prior to exit.)
- What information or clues did the team leader use in the decision making process for when to egress the building?
- Discuss any successes or difficulties that you noticed as the members went through the course.

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Example of typical layout for Smart Drill #60-3. 200' of 2 1/2" hose with a wye attached. Extended with 200' 1 3/4" "attack line" extended to the "fire" area and 200' of 1 3/4" "backup line" coiled and charged to be advanced along attack line.

