

Effective Fire Service Training – S.M.A.R.T #60-06

READY Checks

S – Statement of Intent / Objectives

The intent of this drill is perform a systematic “buddy check” prior to any entry into a hazardous situation. The READY Check is a quick verification of the key elements necessary before such an entry is made. Each element will be discussed, practiced and integrated so that they can be accomplished quickly but with precision. This drill can be performed as part of your timed SCBA drills or with any other training that requires protective gear and SCBA. The READY Check covers the following:

- R – RADIO The members have their radios on, turned to the correct channel, and know to whom they report
- E – Equipment The members have the appropriate equipment for the assignment and know how to use it
- A – Air The members check their pre-entry air and it is adequate for the assignment
- D – Duties The members know their assignment and are trained to accomplish it
- Y – YES If the answer to all of the above is YES, the team is ready to make entry

M – Material(s)

The drill will require the following:

- Full PPE – This must be the compliment of gear required by your organization for entry
 - SCBA
 - Equipment specific to the tasks you will assign the teams
 - Passport or other accountability items
- Assignment sheets or an instructor to verbally give tasks

A – Actions

Teams of two or more will be given an assignment that involves entry into a hazardous situation. They will practice the use of the READY Check to determine if it is safe for them enter. The following will be the areas covered:

- R – Radio Each member will verify that their radio is turned on, is switched to the correct channel, and they know to whom they are reporting.
- E – Equipment Each member has the equipment needed for the assignment and knows how to use it. This includes proper operation of their radios, SCBAs, and task specific tools. Also included in this portion of the check is the proper donning of PPE. Every member will verify their partner’s status before proceeding
- A – Air Each member will do a pre-entry air check and verify they have enough air to begin the assignment. This determination will be based on your department’s policy.
- D – Duties Each member will be advised of the their duties within the team’s assignment and will be trained to accomplish the task.
- Y – YES If the answer to all of the above is affirmative, the team is ready to make entry.

R – Review / Recording

The instructor will review the actions taken by each team and address any oversights.

T – Talking Points at Debriefing

The instructor will debrief the students on their observations, insights and corrections while performing the READY Check. Each member will discuss their experience with implementing the procedure and how it went from their perspective. Some talking points that will prove helpful follow:

- How does the READY Check compare to what your doing now in regards to buddy checks
- How did you do on your initial attempts to implement it
- What parts of the check came the most naturally
- What parts were difficult and caused you the need to be reminded
- How did having a partner verifying your status impact the operation
- Do you feel more prepared having done the READY Check
- Describe any insights you have into how to make your current checks better