

# THE TRAINING OFFICER



## Take Action

Do the classes you teach translate into action oriented, decision making Incident Commanders, Company Officer and firefighters? A successful training program prepares the men and women of your department to become both action oriented and decision makers. As a program manager you must make your training as realistic as possible, while maintaining all safety requirements. Remove as many training artifacts as possible. For example, not all evolutions should be offensive interior attacks. Require critical thinking in all of your evolutions. Build training evolutions based on your or other local departments after action reports. This give you an opportunity to debrief the evolution and relate what happened in the field.

## Firefighters Must Be Taught

- Situational Awareness, including why their officers are assigning them to certain tasks.
- As much as possible about fire behavior and building construction. Our Frank Branigan, and many military officers have taught, we must know our enemy in order to predict how they will react during the battle.
- How to Size-up their area of tactical responsibility while understanding how their task effects the “Big Picture”.
- How to report bench marks and issues to their company officers. This requires teaching critical thinking skills, as mentioned earlier.
- How to get out of trouble should as unanticipated event occur.
- It is ok to cool the firebox before you walk into it.

### The First Five Minutes

Spend the week of June 19-25 focusing on the first five minutes of structural fire response at the chief, incident commander, company officer, and firefighter levels. Make sure all duty shifts are able to participate in the training throughout the week.

### IAFC Rules of Engagement for Structural Firefighting

*Section 1: Increasing Firefighter Survival provides lesson plans for firefighter survival. Section 3: Rules of Engagement provides resources for firefighters and incident commanders.*

### NVFC Volunteer Firefighter Health and Safety Priorities

*B.E.S.T Practices: Behavior, Equipment, Standards and Codes, Training*

### Stand Down Resources

*All resources are available at [www.safetystanddown.org](http://www.safetystanddown.org).*



## Company Must Be Taught

- In addition to the skills mentioned above, the company officer must be taught. 360° thinking. Being aware of what is happening away from their immediate work area. For example, the effects of their actions on victims, the building or surrounding buildings and on the resources operating at the scene.
- Situational Awareness, including why their officers are assigning their crews to certain tasks.
- The incident command system, and how the company or crew fits into the Incident Action Plan (IAP).

## Incident Command-Level Officer Must Be Taught

- In addition to the skills mentioned above, how to think strategically. The transition from tactic and task thinking to strategy thinking is not always an easy transition.
- Clearfireground communication and accountability skills must be mastered before he or she becomes good at command and control.