

University of Illinois Fire Service Institute

Course Syllabus

Course Title: Responder Intervention Team Chief

Course Duration: 50 Hours

Program: Special Operations Training Program

Course Prerequisites: Basic Operations Firefighter Certification or Firefighter II Certification

Course Description: This course runs in conjunction with Responder Intervention Team Rescue Technician and provides firefighters with the necessary advanced skills to effectively operate as command of a responder intervention team. Responder Intervention Team Chief combines classroom lecture, firefighter fatality case studies, command drills, and hands-on scenario-based training involving a firefighter MAYDAY. Skills are practiced and honed under live fire conditions that will challenge each student mentally and physically. This course goes beyond any traditional class by experiencing command operations in the fire suppression environment, preparing the officer for our worst-case scenario.

Course Requirements:

Pre-Course Work – None
Course Work – None
Post-Course Work – None

Course Policies:

Attendance Policy: IFSI requires students to attend (100%) or make up all course content that leads to certification. Students are expected to attend on time and to remain in class for the duration of the course. Students **MUST COMPLETE** all portions of a certification course, both classroom and practical, to be eligible to receive their certification.

If a student misses any portion of class with an accumulated absence of 20% or less of scheduled class time, it will be the student's responsibility to arrange the make-up of the missed course content with the instructor(s) or program manager. The student must make up the specific course content that s/he missed, not just the hours. Make-ups are limited to 20% of scheduled class time. Make-ups must be documented on the class roster. If a student's absence is greater than 20%, refer to "True Emergences" section of the IFSI Examination Policy.

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Safety Policy: Students shall understand and follow all instructions pertaining to operational safety, as stated by instructors or as written in course materials. Instructors and students shall be mindful of safety at all times. Conduct judged to be unsafe shall be grounds for dismissal from the course.

Academic Integrity Policy: IFSI has the responsibility for maintaining academic integrity so as to protect the quality of the education provided through its courses, and to protect those who depend upon our integrity. It is the responsibility of the student to refrain from infractions of academic integrity, from conduct that may lead to suspicion of such infractions, and from conduct that aids others in such infractions. Any violation of the code of conduct is grounds for immediate dismissal from the course.

American Disabilities Act: As guaranteed in the Vocational Rehabilitation Act and in the American Disabilities Act, if any student needs special accommodations, they are to notify their instructor and provide documentation as soon as possible so arrangements can be made to provide for the student's needs. If arrangements cannot be made at the class site, the student will test at an alternative time and place where the special accommodations can be made.

Evaluation Strategy: Simulated rescue evaluations involving various rescue problems are conducted throughout the course.

Course Content:

Module: 1

Title: Firefighter Casualties/Fatalities

Terminal Learning Objective:

At the conclusion of this module, the student will identify significant factors that contribute to firefighter casualties.

Module: 2

Title: Size Up

Terminal Learning Objective:

At the conclusion of this module, the student will explain the principles of size-up, and how it may affect firefighter safety.

Module: 3

Title: Initiating the MAYDAY

Terminal Learning Objective:

At the conclusion of this module, the student will describe a MAYDAY situation.

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Module: 4

Title: Disorientation

Terminal Learning Objective:

At the conclusion of this module, the student will identify ways to locate a lost firefighter who has become disoriented.

Module: 5

Title: Firefighter Survival

Terminal Learning Objective:

At the conclusion of this module, the student will understand techniques firefighters use to prevent firefighter casualties.

Module: 6

Title: Downed Firefighter Stabilization

Terminal Learning Objective:

At the conclusion of this module, the student will understand the methods used to prepare a downed firefighter for extrication.

Module: 7

Title: Finding the Downed Firefighter

Terminal Learning Objective:

At the conclusion of this module, the student will describe methods used to search for a downed firefighter.

Module: 8

Title: Command at a RIT Incident

Terminal Learning Objective:

At the conclusion of this module, the student will demonstrate how to perform command functions after a MAYDAY has been called.

Module: 9

Title: Extracting a Downed Firefighter

Terminal Learning Objective:

At the conclusion of this module, the student will understand methods used to extract a downed firefighter to safety.

Module: 10

Title: Final Scenario

Terminal Learning Objective:

At the conclusion of this module, the student will operate as a member of the command staff during a multiple MAYDAY operation.

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Reference List:

Current and Past NIOSH Reports

Emergency Response to Terrorism Basic Concepts-Student Manual FEMA 2002

Firefighter Rescue and Survival, Kolomay & Hoff (2003)

National Fire Protection Association Standards 1001 *Standard for Fire Fighter Professional Qualifications* (2019)

National Fire Protection Association Standards 1404 *Standard for Fire Service Respiratory Protection Training* (2018)

National Fire Protection Association Standards 1407 *Standard for Training Fire Service Rapid Intervention Crews* (2020)

National Fire Protection Association Standards 1500 *Standard on Fire Department Occupational Safety, Health, and Wellness Program* (2021)

National Fire Protection Association Standards 1561 *Standard on Emergency Services Incident Management System and Command Safety* (2020)

National Fire Protection Association Standards 1981 *Standard on Open-Circuit Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA) for Emergency Services* (2019)

National Fire Protection Association Standards 2500 *Standard for Operations and Training for Technical Search and Rescue Incidents and Life Safety Rope and Equipment for Emergency Services* (2022)

United States Army Corps of Engineers: *Urban Search and Rescue Structures Specialist Field Operations Guide*

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Course Schedule

DAY ONE

| <u>Event</u> | <u>Duration</u> |
|---|-------------------|
| Module 1, Lecture 1 - Firefighter Fatality Statistics | 20 minutes |
| Module 2 - Size up | 1 hour |
| Module 3/4 – Initiating the MAYDAY & Disorientation | 1 hour 5 minutes |
| Drill 5.1 - SCBA Emergencies | 15 minutes |
| Drill 6.1 - Approach Down Firefighter/SCBA Removal | 15 minutes |
| Drill 6.2 - RIT Pack Familiarization | 15 minutes |
| Drill 7.1 – Rope Assisted Search Procedures | 15 minutes |
| Lunch | |
| Module 8, Lecture 1 – Five Combat Positions of Command Lecture | 1 hour |
| Drill 8.1 – Plans Drill | 1 hour 20 minutes |
| Discussion 9.1 – Removing firefighters via ground ladders, One and two firefighter drags, removal via stairs | 40 minutes |
| <i>Live fire drills</i> | |
| Drill 8.2 – Firefighter removal ascending stairs | 55 minutes |
| Drill 8.3 - Firefighter removal descending via ground ladder | 55 minutes |
| Drill 8.4 - Firefighter descending interior stairs | 55 minutes |
| Drill 8.5 - Firefighter removal descending aerial ladder | 1 hour 5 minutes |

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DAY TWO

| <u>Event</u> | <u>Duration</u> |
|--|--------------------|
| Module 5 – Entanglement/Entrapment Lectures | 1 hour |
| Discussion 1.1 - OSHA & LODD | 1 hour 15 minutes |
| Drill 8.6 – RIT Script Drill | 2 hours |
| Discussion 5.1 – Buddy Breathing, SCBA confidence course, Breaching, Team-building | 1 hour 15 minutes |
| Lunch | |
| Discussion 7.1 – Lifting & Stabilization, FF Removal with rope, Forcible Entry, Metal Cutting | 4 hours 30 minutes |
| Drill 8.7 – Firefighter Removal (Wood Wall Breach) | 1 hour 15 minutes |

DAY THREE

| <u>Event</u> | <u>Duration</u> |
|--|--------------------|
| Module 8, Lecture 2 – Managing the May Day Lecture | 1 hour 30 minutes |
| <i>Live fire drills</i> | |
| Drill 8.8 – Firefighter Removal from an Attic Space | 1 hour 15 minutes |
| Drill 8.9 – Firefighter Entrapment Due to Roof Collapse | 1 hour 15 minutes |
| Drill 8.10 – Basement Evolution with Entrapment | 1 hour 15 minutes |
| Lunch | |
| Drill 8.11 – RIT Theories and Concepts for High-Rise Buildings | 2 hours 30 minutes |
| Drill 8.12 - Firefighter Removal from Residential Structure due to Pancake Collapse | 1 hour 15 minutes |
| Drill 8.13 – Ground Ladder Entry/Exit for Firefighter Removal | 1 hour 15 minutes |
| Drill 8.14 – Metal Entrapment | 1 hour 15 minutes |

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DAY FOUR

| <u>Event</u> | <u>Duration</u> |
|--|-------------------|
| Module 1, Lecture 2 – Firefighter Fatality Case Study | 1 hour |
| Drill 8.15 – Concrete Beam Collapse with Entrapment | 1 hour 15 minutes |
| Drill 8.16 – Roof Operations with Firefighter Removal via Rope | 1 hour 15 minutes |
| Drill 8.17 - Initiating a MAYDAY/Disorientation | 1 hour 15 minutes |
| Drill 8.18 – Coordinated Operations for Effective Firefighter Removal | 1 hour 15 minutes |

Lunch

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|---|-------------------|
| Drill 8.19 – Firefighter Removal with Masonry Wall Breach | 1 hour 15 minutes |
| Drill 8.20 – Firefighter Removal While Locating an Alternate Exit | 1 hour 15 minutes |
| Drill 8.21 – Engine Company Responsibilities while Supporting RIT Operations | 1 hour 15 minutes |
| Drill 8.22 - Missing Firefighter | 1 hour 15 minutes |

DAY FIVE

| <u>Event</u> | <u>Duration</u> |
|----------------------------|-----------------|
| Module 10 – Final Scenario | 6 hours |