PURPOSE
The purpose of this drill is to conduct refresher training in search and rescue skills. A brief review of search techniques will be given to allow each participant to perform adequately during the following evolutions.

OBJECTIVE
At the conclusion of the drill, each participant will have participated in search and rescue evolutions.

EQUIPMENT
1. A watch
2. A 1/4" or 3/8" rope or hose line approximately 100' to 150' in length
3. Six pieces of 1/4" or 3/8" rope approximately 100’ in length
4. Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus
5. Various forcible entry tools
6. Personal protective equipment
7. Waxed paper
8. Masking tape

SAFETY PRECAUTIONS
1. Participants should wear personal protective equipment and Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus.
2. The drill area should be adequately lighted.
3. Each search team should be monitored by the Drill Leader during the evolution.
4. The Drill Leader will be responsible for being familiar with and following the drill guidelines.

REFERENCES
- IFSTA "Essentials of Firefighting", 7th Edition

INSTRUCTOR SET-UP
As this is a large area search, a large area is needed. This can be the fire stations bays, a large meeting room, ramp in front of (or behind) the apparatus bays, or a paved basketball court. To make it more like a “Phoenix Drill”, the large area should have obstructions or dividers (which can be fire apparatus, LDH hose on edge or other physical barriers). Take care if the drills are in the station or other buildings to prevent damage to furniture, walls, apparatus, etc. This drill takes some preparation time and assistance to conduct effectively. Although pretty involved, the need to conduct a large area search can easily be recognized in almost all communities.

STUDENT MOTIVATION
One of the most dangerous situations can be firefighters operating in “big box” or other large occupancies where it becomes easier to become disorientated and further away from exits. Firefighters’ #1 goal is saving life, and as labor intensive as search is, the removal of a victim once found can really tax the personnel on scene. This drill will show the difficulty and personnel needs as well

Grocery stores, many department stores (Wal-mart, Target, etc.) are generally built on a system of two sided “aisles” most often with displays tall enough not to see over, with intersecting aisles. Newer ones often have diagonal displays and displays forming limited access “boxes” for certain departments, such as electronics (see diagram that follows).
NIOSH recommendations for fire department operations in large areas

- Ensure that the department’s Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) are followed and continuous refresher training is provided.
- Ensure that a proper size-up, using common terminology, is conducted by all fire fighters responsible for reporting interior/exterior conditions to the Incident Commander (IC).
- Ensure that pre-incident plans are established and updated on mercantile occupancies in their district.
- Ensure that fire fighters manage their air supplies as warranted by the size of the structure involved.
- Instruct and train fire fighters on initiating emergency traffic (Mayday-Mayday) and on the importance of activating their personal alert safety system (PASS) device when they become lost, disoriented, or trapped.
- Ensure that multiple Rapid Intervention Crews (RIC) are in place when an interior attack is being performed in a large structure with multiple points of entry.
- Consider placing fire fighter identification emblems on the fire fighters’ helmet and turnout gear.
- Consider placing a bright, narrow-beamed light at all entry portals to a structure to assist lost or disoriented fire fighters in emergency egress.
SKILL REVIEW

1. SCBA facepiece lens should be covered with waxed paper secured with masking tape to obscure vision, but allow the area to be lighted to allow the Drill Leader and observing members to monitor the searchers.

2. Participant "victims" should be placed in the search area for teams to locate. These participants should wear protective clothing.

3. Review techniques for removing victims with members before the drill (see FETI Drill Guide 14-09).
   a. Impress upon the participants the amount of personnel required to move victims and review the availability of resources
   b. Review the need to use available materials (blanket or coat from the house or occupancy being searched).

SKILL EVOLUTION #1: Large area search

1. Participants enter the large area wearing protective gear and SCBA with waxed paper taped over face piece.

2. May use six (6) to eight (8) participants on a team as long as they work in pairs and one participant is the leader of the team.

3. Participants will search area for victims and when one is located they will explain to the Drill Leader what drag or carry they would use to remove the victim.

4. Participants not on the search team or acting as victim should quietly observe from an out-of-the-way part of the room to see how the search progresses.

5. The first participant to enter the room takes a reference point such as a hoseline or a rope along a wall or down a center aisle. One end is held by a control person at the entry door and is played out only as it is needed to move into the area.

6. The control person logs entry time and keeps track of time so searchers do not exceed fifteen (15) minutes in searching, to allow enough air to get back out (important for participants to realize at 15 minutes they probably won’t have enough air to finish).

7. As the first person comes to a cross aisle, they have the second person tie a line to the main reference point and this person play out their rope as they go down the cross aisle, searching the aisle and under any obstructions such as furniture. Use the forcible entry tool taken with them to sweep under furniture.

8. The first person continues along the wall or aisle, leaving the third person at the junction of the reference point and the cross aisle rope to communicate with the second person who is proceeding down the cross aisle searching. (Persons 2 and 3 are Team A)

9. At the next cross aisle, the fourth and fifth person to enter the room search that cross aisle using the same method as the second and third person team used. (Persons 4 and 5 are Team B)
10. When the first cross aisle is searched, the searcher moves back up the rope to the junction with the reference point. An item such as a chair is laid across the cross aisle indicating it has been searched.

11. These two persons (Team A) then go down the reference point past the second cross aisle (where the fourth and fifth persons, Team B, are searching) to the third cross aisle and search it using the same method.

12. The control person at the door periodically verbally has the teams check in and lets them know how long before they should come out.

13. When time is up and the entire crew comes out, the first person to enter the room is the last person out. They should leave the reference point to mark the forward progress.

14. The first crew checks out with the control person at the door and a second crew enters, moves down the reference point to the mark of forward progress and continues to search cross aisles using the same procedures as the first crew.

15. This system continues until the entire area is searched.

SKILL EVOLUTION #2: Small area search

1. Participants search area made up of smaller rooms such as an office area.

2. Participants work in teams of two to search rooms, explaining to the Drill Leader how they would remove victims when they locate one.

3. Reference points such as rope, hose line, or walls should be used.

4. An organized pattern such as a left hand or right hand search method needs to be used.

5. Use furniture to indicate that a room has been searched to avoid duplication of primary searches.

6. A control person should be left at the entry point to the area of rooms to keep track of time and progress of search pairs.

7. Stress communication of search pairs with each other and with the control person at the entry point.

REVIEW:
Clean up the equipment and return to service. Then come together in the meeting room or location of choice and take the time to have open discussions on what worked for teams and what didn’t. By doing this you assist in ensuring that the firefighters learn from each other’s experience.

2/15 Casey
ATTENDANCE ROSTER FOR FETI DRILL GUIDE 15-02

Topic: Large Area Search & Rescue
Level of Instruction: In service personnel Time Required: 3 hours

| Fire Department: _______________________________ FDID _______ |
| Parish: ____________ Instructor: _______________________________ |
| Number of Students: _______ (from above FD only) |
| Keep this form for your department’s records |

Attendance Roster

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