

Santa Barbara City Fire Department - Standard Operating Procedures Safety Operations	Code: S-II-1
Tower Safety	
Chpt: II Training	Revised: 7/1/12 Pages: 3

I. INTRODUCTION

- A. This S.O.P. is intended to help insure the safety of those firefighters who conduct structural live fire exercises at the training facility.

II. SCOPE

- A. This standard deals with the establishment of procedures for the training of fire suppression personnel engaged in structural firefighting operations under live fire conditions. Information herein, is adopted in part from NFPA #1403, “Live Fire Training Evolutions in Structures”, as that standard pertains to training center burn buildings.

III. PURPOSE

- A. This S.O.P. deals with the training of structural firefighters under live fire conditions and focuses on training for coordinated interior fire suppression operations with a minimum exposure to risk for the participants.
- B. Exercises conducted under the guidelines of this S.O.P. shall be conducted using a standardized incident management system.
- C. The Santa Barbara City Fire Department shall use the Incident Command System.
- D. This S.O.P. recognizes that the training facility is used by professional firefighters, both from the City Fire Department and other neighboring agencies, and it is also used by pre-employment personnel from the regional fire academy/ies.

IV. OVERVIEW

- A. Structural live fire training shall be conducted in the training tower of the Santa Barbara City Fire Department’s Training Facility. The training tower consists of an all cement 4 story building with basement.
- B. Although the building itself is non-combustible, training fires in the tower must be planned and supervised with great care. The training tower and adjacent burn room shall be inspected by the Training Officer for structural damage and maintenance needs no less than once each calendar quarter.

Tower Safety

V. PROCEDURE

- A. Prior to any live fire training exercise, the training tower shall be inspected to insure that no unauthorized persons, animals, or objects are in the building. The building shall be left in a safe condition upon completion of live fire exercises. Debris shall be removed and standing water shall be pumped from the tower's basement.
- B. Role Descriptions - There are two primary positions which need to be filled when conducting structural live fire exercises.
 1. Drill Master/ Instructor
 - a) Is in charge of the overall exercise - its planning and its execution. In smaller exercises, the Drill Master may also serve as the Instructor and the Safety Officer. However, if the number of personnel present is sufficient, these roles should be delegated to other supervisors. **Will be responsible for all notifications and paperwork. The Santa Barbara City Fire Combined Communications Center shall be called prior to any ignition 805 897-2410 or ext 4765.**
 2. Safety Officer
 - a) Is a supervisor position. This person has the authority to intervene and control any aspects of the operations, when in his/her judgment, a potential or real danger, accident, or unsafe condition exists. The Safety Officer shall provide for the safety of all persons on the drill grounds including students, instructors, visitors, and spectators. The Safety Officer shall not be assigned any other duties that interfere with safety responsibilities.
- C. Water Supply - There should be one hose line used for initial fire attack and one additional hose line from a secondary source set up as a safety line. Separate sources shall be utilized for supply of attack lines and back up lines in order to preclude the loss of both water supply sources at the same time. Each hose line on the drill ground should have a minimal flow of 95 gpm.
- D.** Live Burn Exercise - Prior to conducting the actual live fire training exercise in the building, a Safety Briefing session shall be conducted for all participants. (See [S-II-2](#) Safety briefing) All facets of the exercise will be reviewed and assignments given to the participants. If there are participants unfamiliar with the interior layout of the training building, they will have an opportunity to walk through the building prior to the live burn. **Where possible, ICS forms shall be utilized for briefings and submitted within 48 hours to the Training Division prior to training.**
- E. Spectators and visitors, with no active role in the exercise, will be assigned to an observation area/perimeter by the Safety Officer. Spectators and visitors can be

Tower Safety

escorted into the exercise perimeter but only if they are wearing the sponsoring agency's designated safety clothing.

- F. There are specific materials that can be burned during live fire exercises.
 - 1. A regional fire academy using the facility with pre-employment students, are limited to burning hay or straw in the building.
 - 2. Professional fire agencies using the facility may use the hay or straw or they may use the other "Class A" fuels stored on site.

- G. Prohibited materials for burning.
 - 1. Pressure treated wood, rubber, plastic, and synthetic materials including mattresses and stuffed furniture

- H. Training fires shall be kept to a moderate size, recognizing the limitations of the facility and the potential damage that may occur when the fires generate excessive heat.

- I. A method of **primary** fire ground communications, **along with a secondary method**, shall be established so that the Drill Master can coordinate activities between interior crews, exterior crews, and the Safety Officer. **Outside agencies shall monitor and have access to the primary SBFD Command Channel and utilize when necessary to call for assistance.**

- J. Any Department or Agency that utilizes the Tower is responsible for all provisions of this SOP.

- K. Each person taking part in a live fire training exercise, shall wear full structure PPE ([S-IV-2](#)). Self Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA's) shall also be worn by anyone entering the training tower during live fire training exercises.

- L. Like all department training, live fire training exercises are intended to teach new skills, improve existing skills, and do so safely.