

# Firehouse.com WEEKLY DRILL

## DRILL # 49: POST-FIRE ANALYSIS

### Introduction

We all know that training allows us to improve our skills, abilities and knowledge, making us the professionals we are. However, not all training has to be hands on.

Some of the best training sessions that I have ever conducted have taken place right around the coffee table. Excellent training sessions can even be accomplished while we are still at the fire incident.

Some items that are worth noting in a post-fire analysis include:

- **The Alarm** – What type of incident was dispatched? Was it a structure fire, motor vehicle accident, EMS call or some other type?

- **Response** – What other units were dispatched to this incident and what route did our company take to get there?

- **Size-up** – Use the size-up acronym your department uses (COAL WAS WEALTH, etc), there are several out there.

- **RIT** – Which unit was assigned as the rapid intervention team (RIT) and were they knowledgeable in the tasks they needed to perform?

- **Rescue** – Were rescues performed and, if so, what were the conditions and how did the operations and support for them go?

- **Exposures** – Were there any exposures issues and how were they addressed?

- **Confinement** – Were units successful at holding the fire to the area of origin, if not why not?

- **Extinguishment** – What method of extinguishment was used? Did you use handlines, master streams or other methods?

- **Ventilation** – Which form of ventilation was used, vertical, horizontal, mechanical or positive pressure ventilation (PPV)?



- **Water supply** – Were hydrant supplies used or were other sources used. Was it sufficient for the incident?

- **Strategy and tactics** – Did the incident action plan (IAP) work or did it need to be revised?

- **Safety** – Did the operations run smoothly and safely? If there were injuries, what were they and how might they have been prevented?

- **Salvage and Overhaul** – How extensive were these operations and how much property damage was done? Better yet, how successful were the operations at saving the property and contents?

- **Utilities** – Was it necessary for the utilities to be secured, isolated or disconnected? Was this accomplished successfully?

- **ICS** – What were the staffing levels needed in the incident command system (ICS)?

- **Comments** – Most of all, get the members talking about the incident. Find out what they thought went well and what did not go so well. Then, discuss how to make it work better next time.

*—Prepared by Russell Merrick*