Report of the Committee on
Fire Service Training

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Committee Scope: This Committee shall have primary responsibility for documents on all fire service training techniques, operations, and procedures to develop maximum efficiency and proper utilization of available personnel. Such activities can include training guides for fire prevention, fire suppression, and other missions for which the fire service has responsibility.

This list represents the membership at the time the Committee was balloted on the text of this edition. Since that time, changes in the membership may have occurred. A key to classifications is found at the front of this book.

The Technical Committee on Fire Service Training is presenting four Reports for adoption, as follows:


NFPA 1402 has been submitted to letter ballot of the Technical Committee on Fire Service Training, which consists of 24 voting members; of whom 20 voted affirmatively and 4 ballots were not returned (Grupp, Hoglund, Reid, Welch).


NFPA 1403 has been submitted to letter ballot of the Technical Committee on Fire Service Training, which consists of 24 voting members; of whom 20 voted affirmatively and 4 ballots were not returned (Grupp, Hoglund, Reid, Welch).


NFPA 1404 has been submitted to letter ballot of the Technical Committee on Fire Service Training, which consists of 24 voting members; of whom 19 voted affirmatively and 5 ballots were not returned (Best, Grupp, Hoglund, Reid, Welch).

Mr. Hall voted affirmative with the following comment: “Add a definition of “Open Circuit SCBA” in Chapter 3, Definitions, or refer to NFPA 1981 or NFPA 1852.”


NFPA 1451 has been submitted to letter ballot of the Technical Committee on Fire Service Training, which consists of 24 voting members; of whom 20 voted affirmatively and 4 ballots were not returned (Grupp, Hoglund, Reid, Welch).
Guide to Building Fire Service Training Centers

2002 Edition

NOTICE: An asterisk (*) following the number or letter designating a paragraph indicates that explanatory material on the paragraph can be found in Annex A. Information on referenced publications can be found in Annex B.

Chapter 1 Administration

1.2 Purpose. This document provides guidance for the planning of fire-fighting training facilities. Regardless of whether a particular situation requires inclusion of all the items specified, they are provided to provoke thought. This guide is intended to assist in the identification of those elements that are of the greatest benefit(s) to those involved in planning and constructing such facilities.

1.3 Application. Some of the structures in a fire training facility are designed to be training props not required to meet all of the requirements of the jurisdiction’s building codes. However, the structural integrity of all props must be assured.

1.4 Definitions.

1.4.1 Guide. A document that is advisory or informative in nature and that contains only nonmandatory provisions. A guide may contain mandatory statements such as when a guide can be used, but the document as a whole is not suitable for adoption into law.

1.4.2 Should. Indicates a recommendation or that which is advised but not required.

Chapter 2 Needs Analysis

2.1 General. The fire service training programs should be analyzed to determine what type of training facility is required. Is a fire service training facility necessary? If the answer is yes, then the initial step is to develop a statement on the broad purpose of the facility. An example follows:

"Everchanging technologies in fire suppression and fire prevention require that today’s fire fighter be knowledgeable and well trained. A proper environment for obtaining this knowledge and training is equally important. This facility provides the physical requirements of a fire training center and enhances the community’s well-being through better fire protection and fire prevention."

2.1.1 The construction of a fire fighter training facility, regardless of its size, involves planning, design, and the expenditure of funds. In order to derive the maximum benefits from the resources available, a comprehensive assessment of current and future needs should be made. This assessment should consider the following:

(1) Current and future training needs
(2) Facilities currently available
(3) Organizations or department using the facility
(4) Viable alternatives to new construction
(5) Fuel sources
2.1.2 The resources available can constitute a major constraint to facility development and construction. These resources include money, land, governmental, and private support. Questions concerning the availability of resources should be answered during the planning of a facility.

2.2 Alternative Facilities. If a fire department requests a training facility, its existence needs to be justified. The use of existing facilities at the state or regional level should be explored. If the department is located in an industrial area, the fire training facilities of the local plants should be considered. It might be possible to use their facilities, or they might be willing to contribute to some of the cost of building a new facility.

2.3 New Facilities. If a new facility is decided upon, certain factors need to be considered.

2.3.1 Cost Considerations. Who will assume the cost? Both initial and ongoing costs such as site acquisition, legal and architectural fees, staffing, building costs, apparatus and equipment, maintenance, utilities (i.e., water, electricity, gas), fuel costs, noise, smoke, water abatement, and roadway systems need to be identified.

2.3.2 Cost-Effectiveness Analysis.

2.3.2.1 A cost-benefit analysis should be conducted to enable a community to determine whether the investment is cost-effective and if it is feasible to contribute to long-range financial support. This analysis should include those departments and agencies that will use the facility. State, county, and regional training agencies might wish to sponsor their programs at the facility. For example, local police share a need for driver training, physical fitness, and classroom space. Combining the training facility with an in-service fire station can satisfy two needs and reduce the total financial impact of separate facilities.

2.3.2.2 Modular construction can be particularly advantageous and cost-effective for administration and classroom facilities.

2.3.3 Advisory Groups. If the community accepts the need for the facility, criteria then should be established to judge how the need is to be fulfilled. It might be beneficial to organize a commission or advisory group to interface between governing bodies and the fire training agency. The group should include representatives of the agencies, organizations, and departments that will use the facility. Such a group can weigh the importance of the following potential benefits:

(1) Reduced injuries and deaths of civilians and firefighters
(2) Reduced number of fires and property damage
(3) Increased efficiency and morale of the fire-fighting force
(4) Improved training capability and improved public image of the fire department

Chapter 3 Components and Considerations

3.1 General. This chapter lists general components that could be part of a training facility. There are other components that might be unique to a particular area of industry and are not included. For the purpose of this guide, the buildings are discussed separately; however, combinations might be necessary or advantageous. As long as the purpose of an individual component is not compromised, each component can be located wherever it is conducive to effective training and safety. The installation of all components is not necessary for an efficient training facility. The following lists of components should be considered:

(a) Administration and support facilities.
   (1) Offices
   (2) Conference areas

(b) Training facilities.
   (1) Drill tower
   (2) Drafting pit
   (3) Live fire training structure
   (4) Motor vehicle driving range
   (5) Flammable liquids and gases/fuel distribution area
   (6) Hazardous materials area and decontamination area
   (7) Outside classroom areas
   (8) Helicopter landing site
   (9) Respiratory protection training laboratory
   (10) Storage space for portable equipment, vehicles, and props
   (11) Bleachers for outdoor classes or observation of drill tower activities
   (12) Fire station
   (13) Outside rehabilitation areas
   (14) Technical rescue area, (e.g., high angle, collapse, trench, confined space, vehicle)
   (15) Safety monitoring and control areas

(c) Outside facilities.
   (1) Drill tower
   (2) Drafting pit
   (3) Live fire training structure
   (4) Motor vehicle driving range
   (5) Flammable liquids and gases/fuel distribution area
   (6) Hazardous materials area and decontamination area
   (7) Outside classroom areas
   (8) Helicopter landing site
   (9) Respiratory protection training laboratory
   (10) Storage space for portable equipment, vehicles, and props
   (11) Bleachers for outdoor classes or observation of drill tower activities
   (12) Fire station
   (13) Outside rehabilitation areas
   (14) Technical rescue area, (e.g., high angle, collapse, trench, confined space, vehicle)
   (15) Safety monitoring and control areas

(d) Infrastructure.
   (1) Water distribution, sewer, and other utilities
   (2) Parking facilities (open and covered)
   (3) Site maintenance equipment and facilities
   (4) Environmental cleanup activities
   (5) Communications
   (6) Water filtration/reclamation

3.2 Planning Considerations. Because a training facility is a specialized facility, there are a number of specific features that should be considered. Since a training facility will probably be expected to be used for 40 or 50 years, it is desirable to rely on the experience gained by others. The remaining chapters provide some specific areas of guidance while the following general guidelines should be considered:
Chapter 4 Infrastructure Considerations and Exposures

4.1 General. Certain factors that should be considered in determining the placement of the training facility in the community include the site, water supply, environment, security, support services, and access to utilities.

4.2 Site Considerations.

4.2.1 What land is available? Does the agency own land that could be considered for this purpose? Are there abandoned properties available? The cost of the land should be included within the agency’s budget. A sequential spending plan might allow for the purchase of the necessary land one year and the construction of certain buildings thereafter. A sequential plan could enable the community to realize its objective over an extended period of time rather than placing pressure on current resources for immediate large expenditures. On the other hand, using a bond issue to build at the current year’s rate and paying off with future dollars could be more cost-effective. Financial consultation is recommended.

4.2.2 There is always a possibility of a ledge formation or a high water table that poses hidden problems; therefore, a geological expert should be consulted during the planning stages, especially to determine whether borings are necessary to test subsoil consistency.

4.2.3 The area master plan, if one exists, should be taken into consideration. The site of the training facility should be located away from the center of community life to minimize negative impact on adjacent land use. Where the site has highly favorable features and a plan variance is necessary, all pertinent facts should be gathered and a presentation should be made to the planning board. If possible, the area master plan should be used to support the agency’s advantage position. The voting public should be informed of the advantages of the training facility, and every effort should be made to develop public support.

4.2.4 The title to the property should be clear. Further expansion is often desirable, so the surrounding land should be surveyed. A land use determination from the planning board for fire training would be beneficial. This requires the municipality to check with the agency before allowing other types of usage. If possible, the site should be marked prominently on land maps and should be surrounded by a nonresidential area. A lawyer’s guidance can be advantageous in such cases.

4.2.5 Vehicle traffic patterns should be studied, and the most convenient route to the training facility should be chosen. Heavy, noise-producing apparatus should be routed to avoid residential areas. Travel time to the facility for users should be taken into consideration. On-duty personnel who are receiving in-service training at the facility could be required to respond to emergency incidents. The facility should be located so that it is accessible to appropriate emergency response routes.

4.2.6 The size of the site should be ample for planned buildings, parking, and future expansion. Adequate separation should be planned between buildings for safety, vehicular movement, and instructional purposes. It is better to conserve on the size of structures than to overcrowd limited land.

4.2.7 Site pavement should be such that the facility can be used in all kinds of weather. Any pavement deteriorates, especially when subjected to hydrocarbons or hot exhausts. Concrete pavement withstands training facility usage with minimum maintenance.

4.2.8 Landscaping and site layout should take into consideration local climatic conditions. Consideration should be given to rain, snow, wind, heat, and other adverse elements that could affect facility operations. Site layout can incorporate a roadway system that is typical
4.3 Water Supply.

4.3.1 The maximum water supply required should be estimated so that an adequate system can be installed to deliver the necessary volume and pressure of water for training activities, facility fire protection systems, and domestic water needs. Water supply estimates should include the amount of water used in attack lines, back-up lines, and drafting and pumping exercises, with an additional 100 percent included as a safety factor. A loop or grid system with properly placed valves can help to ensure an adequate water delivery. Dead-end mains should be avoided. Valves should be placed to segregate sections of the water system to allow for repairs without complete shutdown.

4.3.2 The type of hydrant(s) installed at the training center should be representative of types found in the community. Where more than one community uses the training center and the hose threads are not uniform, a variety of fittings with appropriate threads should be provided.

4.3.3 Even where there is a hydrant system, drafting can always be an additional source. During times of water emergency, drafting might be necessary. Lakes or ponds, streams, man-made containers, and dry hydrants are potential drafting sources. Consideration should be given to supplying water from the water distribution system to maintain the water level in the drafting pit.

4.3.4 The on-site water supply needs should be determined and storage containers constructed if necessary. Either elevated, surface, or underground storage can be used. Pumps also can be used to move the water at the desired pressure.

4.3.5 For durability, the water main should meet the requirements of NFPA 24, Standard for the Installation of Private Fire Service Mains and Their Appurtenances, and be constructed with bolted flanges or steel-rodded joints. If severe turns have to be engineered into the piping, consideration should be given to thrust blocks. Both of these features help overcome the effect of water hammer. (See Figure 4.3.5.)

Existing 4.3.5 (97 ed.) (no change)

Figure 4.3.5 Compensator.

4.3.6 Tank trucks or long relays could be used to provide water for training. However, this increases the number of vehicles and personnel needed to accomplish basic evolutions, and it further increases the vehicular accident potential and maintenance cost.

4.3.7 A pumper test pit could be used as a cistern if water mains are not available.

4.3.8 A run-off settling pond equipped with a dry hydrant could be used as a water source.

4.4 Security.

4.4.1 The training facility should be secure. (See Figure 4.4.1.) The site should be fenced and well lighted, and, if necessary, a guard should be provided. Local police can make the training facility a part of their rounds. Security could be augmented by alarm systems with connection to appropriate monitoring stations. Buildings, elevator shafts, drafting pits, underground utility covers, and all exterior valves and cabinets should be locked.

Existing 4.4.1 (97 ed.) (no change)

Figure 4.4.1 Security fence. (Courtesy of Omaha Fire Academy, NE.)

4.4.2 An evacuation signaling system and an automatic fire detection and alarm system should be installed throughout the facility in accordance with NFPA 72, National Fire Alarm Code®. A central station connection should be provided where a 24-hour guard is not posted at the control/monitor center.

4.5 Environment.

4.5.1 Federal, state, and local environmental protection agencies should be consulted. The results of these consultations can facilitate procurement of the necessary permits and licenses. These consultations should address the problem of waste water (treatment and disposal) and pollution (air, water, and noise). The facts gleaned from these agency contacts can be of use when the architect/engineer is consulted.

4.5.2 When selecting a site for a training facility, there are environmental factors to consider. It is important to ensure that the facility is environmentally safe. Factors that should be considered from an environmental aspect are water, air, and the ground (soil).

4.5.2.1 There are governmental agencies that have a jurisdictional interest in the location, design, and construction of a training facility. These include agencies at the federal level such as the Army Corps of Engineers and the Environmental Protection Agency. Each state or municipality, or both, also has regulatory agencies from which approval might be necessary prior to the construction of a facility. Most of the regulatory agencies do not have the resources or the staff to assist in planning a facility but will, in most cases, professionally review designs as described in 4.5.2.2 through 4.5.2.6.

4.5.2.2 There should be an environmental review by professional engineers, geologists, hydrologists, and environmental scientists. These professionals should develop an environmental impact study to determine what effect, if any, the training facility will have on the environment.

4.5.2.3 There are certain water-related issues that should be considered when planning a training facility. The first consideration should be the disposal of waste water from firefighting operations. This water varies in its degree of contamination, depending upon the evolutions that are performed. If evolutions involve flammable or combustible hydrocarbons or other potentially environmentally detrimental chemicals or compounds, provisions should be made for separating the contaminants from the runoff. (Waste water treatment can be reduced by using propane or natural gas in lieu of flammable liquid.) Separation of containments can be accomplished by oil separators, ponding, and bacteriological breakdowns. Extreme care should be taken to prevent affecting the groundwater with contaminated runoff. In addition, the facility should be designed to take full advantage of runoff to replenish supplies for training. Proper consideration also should be given to the amount of new pavement created so that excessive velocities and quantities of runoff do not affect surrounding properties. Special care should be taken to prevent damage to any wetlands in the area.

4.5.2.4 The second water-related issue to consider is the need for portable water for use by the trainees, visitors, and staff. This water can come from wells or a municipal source. The third issue is fire-fighting water, including water for automatic sprinklers for the facility buildings. The use of fresh potable water for training purposes should be discouraged because of the large volumes involved and the waste of a shrinking resource.

4.5.2.5 The prevalent wind direction and force should be considered when selecting the location of a training facility and when selecting the location of buildings at the facility. Smoke generated by the facility should not interfere with the surrounding area or buildings. The residue from extinguishing agents and the products of combustion have been found at considerable distances from training
sites. A wind sock on the training ground can assist instructors in evaluating the effect of wind on the areas surrounding the training facility. Light generated by fires, particularly at night, should be considered where the facility is to be located near an airport. Noise is a factor that should be considered. The existing terrain should be used advantageously to direct noise away from populated areas.

4.5.2.6 Taking full advantage of the shape and contour of the land to develop runoff patterns and establish locations for various buildings and props so that they do not interfere with the drainage of the water during all seasons and weather conditions should be one of the goals of the designer of the training facility. The type of soil at the facility location is important. The type of soil and geology affect such factors as foundation types, bearing capacity, pavement life, and runoff both above and below the surface, and it can indicate the presence of rock, which can be expensive to remove.

4.6 Utilities.

4.6.1 The use of pumps, air compressors, simulators, and heat, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) units can greatly increase power requirements. An on-site total energy system might be a practical alternative. Such systems consist of a mechanical package on site that provides utility services (e.g., electrical, heat, air) for use in buildings. The largest portion of the electrical needs are dictated by the number of buildings and their purposes.

4.6.2 The need for natural gas feed, computer connections, and telephone connections also should be considered. The distance from these services could be a determining factor in locating the facility.

4.6.3 Electrical outlets should be installed in sufficient numbers to prevent the use of long extension cords. The electrical outlets should be installed in accordance with NFPA 70, *National Electrical Code*.

4.7 Support Services. Where housing and food services are to be provided, space should be planned for such purposes. Food service might be provided by a private vendor. The transportation of staff and trainees, housekeeping and laundry service, vending machine location, janitorial service, and ground and facility maintenance might have to be considered. Provisions should be made to address recycling requirements of the jurisdiction.

Chapter 5 Selecting an Architect/Engineer (A/E)

5.1 General.

5.1.1 A committee should be formed to develop design requirements with a chairperson to act as liaison between the agency and the A/E.

5.1.2 The A/E should be selected as early as possible to assist with the needs assessment phase.

5.2 A/E’s.

5.2.1 It is recommended that the agency employ an A/E with experience in fire training facilities. A/E selection should occur using a qualifications-based selection system so credentials can be reviewed prior to employment. The American Institute of Architects (AIA) can be consulted for references. An A/E with the necessary qualifications for the site development and conventional building design (administrative and classroom buildings) might not have the qualifications for the training props (live fire training structure, training tower, outdoor props, and mobile trainer). There are specialists for props that provide this expertise internationally.

5.2.2 Visiting training facilities that have been in operation for 5 to 10 years should be considered in order to learn of any inherent construction or operational deficiencies and successful features.

Training personnel at the facility can comment on the A/E’s performance and how they would improve the facility.

5.2.3 The A/E firm should be interviewed before making the final selection. The A/E responsibilities include site selection, design of the facility, the production of contract documents, construction administration, and on-site observation.

5.2.4 The final design should reflect the agency’s needs and construction budget and be developed through a team-oriented approach with a series of approvals. Design progress should be reviewed at intervals such as schematic design, design development, and at 25 percent, 50 percent, and 95 percent of the contract documents.

5.2.5 Contractors build according to approved contract documents. The contract documents should be thoroughly understood by the agency in an attempt to avoid change orders. Changes in the construction after a contract is let can be expensive. A system of additive alternates can be used to achieve more efficient and full use of available funds.

5.2.6 A request for bids notice normally precedes the issuance of the contract documents for bidding. A pre-bid conference with the A/E is necessary to establish the building requirements. An agency representative should be present. The construction progress should be reviewed by the A/E at stages commensurate with the work.

5.2.7 Record drawings should be prepared by the A/E using documentation provided by the contractor. This information should be retained after the project has been completed for use during repairs, alterations, and future expansions.

5.3 Clerk of the Works/Owner’s Project Manager.

5.3.1 A clerk of the works might be necessary depending on the complexity of the project. The clerk should be familiar with the contract documents. The clerk’s job is to attend design and progress meetings, visit the site on a regular basis, and review the progress of construction.

5.3.2 A clerk of the works is usually compensated by the building agency. At times the A/E might provide on-site observation services.

Chapter 6 Administration/Classroom Building

6.1 General.

6.1.1 This chapter addresses the many components that should be considered when a jurisdiction is planning an administration/classroom building. [See Figures 6.1.1(a) through (c).]

Existing 6.1.1(a) (97 ed.) (no change)
Figure 6.1.1(a) Administration building. (Courtesy of Dover County Fire Academy, Dover County, NJ.)

Existing 6.1.1(b) (97 ed.) (no change)
Figure 6.1.1(b) Administration building. (Courtesy of Toronto Fire Academy, Toronto, Canada.)

Existing 6.1.1(c) (97 ed.) (no change)
Figure 6.1.1(c) Administration building including director’s office; boardroom; clerical area; instructor offices; A/V storage area; four classrooms with capacity for 50 students in each room and one double classroom with capacity for 200 students, for a total student capacity of 400; dining area; kitchen; and student lockers with restrooms. (Courtesy of Mississippi Fire Academy, Jackson, MS.)

6.1.2 Certain components are needed only if the structure is to be used for administrative purposes; others are pertinent only to a
classroom building. However, if the purposes are to be combined, all of the following items should be considered. Only those items needed for the individual situation should be included to produce a viable administration/classroom building.

6.2 Offices. Office space should be provided for the officer in charge, assistant administrator, instructors, and clerical personnel. Additional office space requirements are dictated by agencies housed at the facility. Properly designed open office space can add flexibility. Closet and storage space should be included.

6.3 Conference Room. A conference room can be desirable for staff meetings, for press conferences and other on-site functions that need clean space, chairs, tables, and other items to support a variety of different groups and their needs.

6.4 Auditorium.

6.4.1 The auditorium can be used for classrooms, seminars, promotional ceremonies, and community activities. Movable chairs can increase the utility of this component. A balcony also can add to the seating capacity. Physical fitness classes could be held in the auditorium.

6.4.2 The floor and the wall coverings could be designed to withstand indoor basic training when inclement weather precludes outside activities. A public address system should be installed. Some of the features discussed in the classroom component should be installed in the auditorium.

6.5 Classrooms.

6.5.1 Classroom size is dictated by the number of students and the type of training to be conducted. For example, hands-on training might require more space per student than training by lecture. [See Figures 6.5.1(a) through (c).]

Existing 6-5.1(a) (97 ed.) (no change)

Figure 6.5.1 (a) One of four 50-student classrooms. (Courtesy of Mississippi Fire Academy, Jackson, MS.)

Existing 6-5.1(b) (97 ed.) (no change)

Figure 6.5.1 (b) Alberta Fire School classroom. (Courtesy of Alberta Fire School, Alberta, Canada.)

Existing 6-5.1(c) (97 ed.) (no change)

Figure 6.5.1 (c) Mobile training classrooms. The unit is provided with rear screen projection and will seat 50 students. (Courtesy of Mississippi Fire Academy, Jackson, MS; photo by William Warren.)

6.5.2 Moveable soundproof walls can be used to vary classroom size. Adequate aisle space is necessary for proper classroom function. Heavy duty flooring should be installed to withstand the movement of fire fighters with soiled gear.

6.5.3 The instructor should be able to control room climate and audiovisual equipment. Good lighting is a must, and the use of individual controls and rheostats should be considered to vary illumination. A podium light and separate chalkboard illumination can make a presentation in a darkened room more effective. Electrical, data, and telecommunications outlets in the floor and the walls should be spaced to eliminate the use of extension cords.

6.5.4 Classroom furniture should be durable. Writing surfaces for use by the instructors and students should be provided. Folding tables that are 450 mm (18 in.) wide and stacking chairs provide greater flexibility in room utilization. Experience has shown that wider tables occupy space that can be better used.

6.5.5 To decrease classroom disturbances caused by noise, the following features need to be explored:

(a) Doors to the room should open and close quietly.
(b) Restroom and refreshment facilities should be close to the room.
(c) Ceiling height should allow the hanging of wall screens or the placement of portable screens for good viewing. The ceiling height should be a minimum of 3 m (10 ft) as indicated by experience.

6.5.6 Air-conditioning and heating units should not be installed in the classroom due to their noise.

6.5.7 There might be a need for a dirty classroom that students can enter with gear that has been exposed to the fire environment.

6.5.8 An effective sound system should be installed in all classroom and assembly areas.

6.6 Library.

6.6.1 The library is an essential part of the fire service training. The library should contain job-related periodicals and technical program books. The fire department’s regulations, procedures, history, past and present orders, and national standards should be included in the library.

6.6.2 An index system should be maintained. The security of the library contents should be considered. The librarian should motivate retirees or people interested in the fire department to bequeath their fire department books to the library.

6.6.3 The services of a retired teacher can be secured on a voluntary basis. Most town libraries are glad to assist in starting a library and provide assistance.

6.6.4 If the library is large enough, individual carrels could be provided for each student.

6.6.5 Electrical, data, and telecommunications outlets in the floor and the walls should be spaced to eliminate the use of extension cords.

6.7 Kitchen and Cafeteria.

6.7.1 Kitchens could have the following available for staff and trainees to use:

(1) Refrigerator
(2) Stove
(3) Tables and chairs
(4) Sink
(5) Vending machine(s)
(6) Coffee maker
(7) Microwave oven
(8) Dishwasher

Where the facility is large enough, a cafeteria service line could be installed. Food service consultants might be necessary in order to design a cafeteria that services large numbers of people efficiently. (See Figure 6.7.1.)

Existing 6-7.1 (97 ed.) (no change)

Figure 6.7.1 Dining area — seating capacity of approximately 85. (Courtesy of Mississippi Fire Academy, Jackson, MS.)

6.7.2 Fire protection for cooking equipment should be provided according to standards. It might be desirable to have a separate eating area or facility for the faculty. The dining area could also be used as a classroom.
6.7.3 It might be more effective to use an outside vendor to provide meals. Vendors might provide packaged meals that are prepared off site or at the facility.

6.8 Audiovisual Area.

6.8.1 To allow the instructor to take advantage of various media, the following equipment should be available:

- Whiteboard
- Chalkboard (liquid chalk is highly desirable)
- Felt board
- Hook and loop
- Magnetic board

6.8.2 Cameras and associated equipment can be major assets in bringing realism to the classroom, and portable video cameras, recorders, and video-editing machines can be used efficiently. A television monitor can also be useful.

6.8.3 Projectors fall into the following categories:

- 16 mm movie
- 35 mm slide with a dissolve unit
- Overhead
- Multimedia

Cassette tape equipment, sound sync units, portable wall or ceiling screens, and rear projectors can be beneficial adjuncts.

6.8.4 To make a professional presentation, an audio jack should be installed near any equipment use station.

6.8.5 When using audiovisual equipment, the following recommendations should be considered:

- An extra electrical switch with a rheostat to control illumination should be provided.
- The rearview screen should be protected from breakage by covering it with chalkboards.
- Care should be taken to avoid writing on rearview screens.
- Permanent writing on white boards can be avoided by illumination should be provided.
- The projector area should be located near a hallway so equipment can be moved easily.
- Adequate distance for front and rear projectors should be provided.
- Stepped-down ceilings should be avoided if they will interfere with projection or viewing.
- Heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) should be provided in the projection room to ensure a comfortable worker environment and to avoid thermal shock to expensive electrical projector bulbs.
- Audiovisual equipment, lighting, and sound with remote controls should be provided.
- Electrical, data, and telecommunications receptacles should be installed in the floor to eliminate the use of extension cords.

6.9 Darkroom.

6.9.1 The department’s photographic needs might include a darkroom facility. Sufficient space should be allowed for the necessary equipment, for storage, and for future expansion. The storage room could be used as a projection booth; however, the applicable fire safety regulations should be considered.

6.9.2 When taking the cost factor into account, it might be more economical to send material to outside vendors for processing. Fewer personnel and less space will be needed. The disadvantage of this option is the time required to send material outside and to receive the finished product. In addition, it is necessary to establish a procedure to document every step of the photographic process in order to maintain the chain of evidence of photos involved in legal matters.

6.10 Printing Room.

6.10.1 The facility should furnish provisions for the reproduction of printed materials. Space for a copier, computer printer, offset duplicator, collator, binding machine, transparency maker, and computers should be available. This might necessitate special electrical services. This equipment might be noisy, so the location of the printing room should be considered carefully.

6.10.2 Proper storage for flammables and an exhaust system should be considered during the design stages. Space to store supplies and printed materials is essential.

6.11 Graphic Unit. A room for the preparation of graphics and other aids should be considered and should be located in a quiet area. In addition, space should be planned for instructor preparation of audiovisual programs (e.g., slide, tape, video).

6.12 Simulator Facility. If simulation in training is desired, space should be provided. Consideration should be given to simulation methods such as flat board mock-ups, actual equipment, videotape, simple to complex computer arrangements, and rear screen projection.

6.13 Locker and Shower Facilities. (See Figure 6.13.)

Existing 6-13 (97 ed.) (no change)

Figure 6.13 One of two student locker rooms with showers and restroom facilities. (Courtesy of Mississippi Fire Academy, Jackson, MS.)

6.13.1 Locker and shower facilities are necessary. Separate areas should be provided for males and females. This area should include a shower room(s), sinks with mirrors, and toilets. There should be an emphasis on ventilation to reduce the water vapor accumulation from the showers.

6.13.2 Locker space is needed for instructors/staff, long-term students (e.g., recruits), short-term students (1 to 3 days), personnel using the fitness room, and maintenance personnel. Separate areas are recommended for personnel lockers and turnout gear storage. The instructors’ showers and lockers should be separate from the students’ showers.

6.14 Cleanup/Drying Room. A cleanup/drying room for turnout gear is a necessity where students leave their gear at the facility or where turnout gear is maintained at the facility. This area should provide space for the students and instructors to clean their gear with a commercial washer/dryer, or water from a hose or shower. This room should be accessible from the outside and from the locker room. Gear should be stored in a well-ventilated locker that can be locked. Special rust-resistant wire cage-type lockers might be necessary.

6.15 Arson Lab. It is recommended that the agency responsible for arson investigation be included in the planning stage of the facility. The arson investigation force might want office space, room for sophisticated equipment, or a room in which to store teaching materials. Meetings between the arson force and the fire department planners are necessary to determine their needs.

6.16 Emergency Care.
6.16.1 Safety should be the foremost consideration in facility design. However, accidents and illnesses do occur. Space should be available for emergency care equipment.

6.16.2 A parking area for an ambulance should be provided during major training programs. Transportation for multiple victims should be considered. Communications with a local hospital might help provide resources for design as well as a personnel pool for staffing.

6.17 Building Maintenance.

6.17.1 The material used as a finish for the facility should be attractive and easy to maintain; durable material can cut down on replacement and refinishing costs. Custodial space is needed for deep sinks, mops and wringers, and cabinets for the storage of cleaning materials and other equipment.

6.17.2 Electrical outlets should be provided in the hallways for the use of buffers and vacuum cleaners.

6.18 Observation/Control Tower.

6.18.1 Consideration should be given to the need for an observation/control tower in order to monitor various training functions from one location. (See Figure 6.18.1.) This might include communications systems, fire temperature sensors, remote annunciator panels, remote cameras, and emergency fuel shutoffs. This should enable overall monitoring of activities and enhance operational safety. Designers should be aware of space and utility needs for control equipment associated with automated systems.

Existing 6-18.1 (97 ed.) (no change)

Figure 6.18.1 Training area control tower. From the control tower, the safety officer can observe all field training. The first floor area can be used as a first aid station. (Courtesy of Mississippi Fire Academy, Jackson, MS.)

6.18.2 The observation/control towers work well where they are elevated and located adjacent to the training tower. Some training centers have designed this feature as the second floor above the administrative area and classroom.

6.18.3 Consideration should be given to adequate window space for full observation of the drill area, including observations of units responding to the drill building from off site.

6.19 Sprinkler Laboratory. The need for a laboratory from which sprinkler systems can be operated, demonstrated, and inspected should be considered. An area where fires can be ignited to fuse sprinkler heads connected to a water supply should be included.

6.20 Alarm System Laboratory. Consideration should be given to an area where several different types of operable fire alarm systems can be located.

6.21 Fire Extinguishing Systems. Consideration should be given to providing an area that allows the installation of fire extinguishing systems for demonstration purposes.

6.22 Miscellaneous.

6.22.1 Public telephones should be provided.

6.22.2 A break area in which students can congregate between classes should be provided.

Chapter 7 Drill Tower

7.1 General. See Figures 7.1(a) through (d).

Existing 7-1(a) (97 ed.) (no change)

Figure 7.1(a) Drill tower. (Courtesy of University of Kansas, Lawrence, KS.)

Existing 7-1(b) (97 ed.) (no change)

Figure 7.1(b) Drill tower. (Courtesy of Toronto Fire Academy, Toronto, Canada.)

Existing 7-1(c) (97 ed.) (no change)

Figure 7.1(c) Drill tower. (Courtesy of New York Fire Department Academy, New York, NY.)

Existing 7-1(d) (97 ed.) (no change)

Figure 7.1(d) Drill tower. (Courtesy of Burlington County Fire Academy, Burlington County, NJ.)

7.1.1 The main purpose of the drill tower is to train fire fighters in the basic evolutions using pumper and ladder equipment. Using this tower can instill confidence in the trainees and further their ability to work at various heights in a skilled manner. Some law enforcement agencies ask training centers for permission to use the tower to train in rappel or other skills. (See Figure 7.1.1.)

Existing 7-1.1 (97 ed.) (no change)

Figure 7.1.1 Fire department training facility used by 10 departments weekly for mutual aid training. Other departments can use it by renting it at a reasonable price. (Courtesy of Pleasanton Fire Department, Pleasanton, CA.)

7.1.2 Training towers are expensive to build with sufficient fire resistance to withstand intense heat. Soot and dirt resulting from such fires can impair the tower for normal use. It can be preferable to use the tower for training evolutions and to conduct interior fires in a separate building. If live fire burns are planned for the tower, see Chapter 8.

7.2 Height. The height of the tower should be typical of the buildings found in the locale. However, consideration should be given to future community development. A six-story tower is considered optimum when evolutions involving the exterior of the tower are being considered.

7.3 Construction. The materials used in the construction of the tower can be wood frame, reinforced concrete, steel, or other durable material. Both interior and exterior walls of the drill tower should be structurally sound; this should provide for the safety of personnel in training and for withstanding the force of master streams. (See Figure 7.3.)

Existing 7-3 (97 ed.) (no change)

Figure 7.3 Ladder training tower. (Courtesy of Dover Township Fire Academy, Ocean County, NJ.)

7.4 Dimensions.

7.4.1 The tower should be at least 6 m × 6 m (36 m²) [20 ft × 20 ft (400 ft²)] of floor area. This dimension should accommodate interior stairwell openings and allow room for fire companies to maneuver hoselines.

7.4.2 A square configuration might be easier to construct, but a rectangular design can allow for an exterior enclosed stairway and a fire escape to provide two means of entrance or egress. The rectangular design can provide more interior floor space for hose stretching practice. [See Figures 7.4.2(a) and (b).]
7.5 Stairways.

7.5.1 Stairways in the drill tower might be either interior stairways or exterior stairways, or both. Stairways should provide not only a means of access between floor levels but also should simulate fireground conditions. A variety of types, widths, and situations should be realistically represented. Stairways included in the tower should be located to maximize available interior floor area. All stairway treads in the tower should be slip resistant; open grate treads can prevent water accumulation. The size of all stair landings should be carefully planned to provide for personnel and equipment that must be maneuvered around corners. Floor numbers should be indicated on all landings.

7.5.2 In the case of outside stairways, railings should be of sufficient height and strength to ensure safety during training evolutions.

7.6 Exterior Openings.

7.6.1 All door and window openings should be fully framed and located to simulate situations existing in the field. Heavy wooden window sills should be installed to accommodate rope and ladder evolutions.

7.6.2 Where it is not possible for the tower to include various types of doors and windows, a separate display mock-up including an example of each should be constructed. Those areas located near ocean or river shipping facilities should take into consideration the doors or hatches found on ships.

7.7 Fire Escapes. Fire escape configurations can be placed on the building. Railings should be high enough to safeguard a fire fighter who is operating a charged hoseline on the fire escape. The bottom of the fire escape can terminate in a straight ladder or a counterbalanced ladder. The top of the fire escape could end at the top floor or rise over the roof by means of a goose neck ladder. Caged vertical ladders might be desirable to install if they are representative of community construction.

7.8 Sprinkler and Standpipe Connections. The drill tower should include provisions for standpipe connections at all floor levels of the facility. These connections not only provide the opportunity to develop the proper procedures for connecting to and providing a water supply for the system but also can be utilized for simulated fire attack by fire forces operating in a high-rise building. Siamese connections should be installed and identified at ground level to accommodate auxiliary water supplies. Section valves should be installed in systems at each floor, or selected locations, to enable the instructor to shut down only sections, not entire systems, for training purposes.

7.9 Roof Openings. Roof openings should be provided for the practice of ventilation procedures. Various size openings on flat and sloped roof surfaces should be designed into the structure so that different situations and types of roof conditions can be simulated. (See Figure 7.9.) Normally, these practice sessions are best conducted at lower levels of the building because of safety. In all cases, safety railings should be provided for roof operations.

7.10 Coping. Flat and sloped roofs can be designed into a live fire training structure. Where not covered by the roof, the topmost section of the walls should have a coping. Heavy wood bolted into the structure is best for rope work and evolutions. Stone, concrete, or other material might break away in pieces or abrade equipment and personnel.

7.11 Nets. Consideration should be given to the provision of a temporary or permanent safety net on at least one exterior side of the building, especially if rappelling is contemplated. (See Figures 7.11(a) and (b).) A safe distance should be provided between the ground and the net to allow for movement upon impact.

7.12 Drains. Each floor of the building should be equipped with floor drains or scuppers. In areas subject to freezing temperatures, conventional floor drains might not be effective. Where scuppers are used, the water discharge should be directed to areas that will not interfere with activities below the openings. Regardless of the types of drains that are selected, their installation should ensure the quick runoff of water. (See Figure 7.12.)

7.13 Special Training Features. Special features can be included in the tower to accommodate local area needs. For example, a 910-mm (36-in.) diameter pipe could connect two floors for caisson and mine shaft rescue simulation. An elevator could be installed to be used in the simulation of elevator emergencies and for the movement of personnel and equipment. Anchor points for rope evolutions should be provided.

Chapter 8 Live Fire Training Structure

8.1 General. See Figures 8.1(a) and (b).

8.1.1 The purpose of the live fire training structure is to safely train fire fighters in methods of interior fire suppression. Every room should have an exterior exit or secondary means of egress. Burn areas...
below grade are not recommended and should be avoided. In order to provide simulated training for the suppression of basement or cellar fires, a raised open-grid walkway can be constructed level with the second floor on the exterior of the building. (See Figure 8.1.1.) Fire fighters then can simulate attacking below-grade fires while working on the second floor to the ground floor and are not exposed to below-grade hazards.

Existing 8.1.1 (97 ed.) (no change)

Figure 8.1.1 Burn building with raised open-grid walkways level with the second floor. (Courtesy of New York Fire Department Fire Academy, New York, NY.)

8.1.2 The live fire training structure could be designed to take into consideration fire spread, rescue, ventilation, and special problems.

8.1.3* When designing the facility, consideration should be given to the types of evolutions that will be conducted at the site. It is much easier, and less costly, to incorporate the necessary safety features into the design during the construction phase.

8.2 Fire Temperature.

8.2.1 Walls, floors, ceilings, and other permanent features should have strong resistance to heat generated by fires. High-temperature training fires can cause accelerated deterioration of the structure and expose fire fighters in training to unnecessary risk.

8.2.2 In planning a live fire training structure, the A/E or live fire training structure designer and the user should consider the problems created by fire temperatures. Where unprotected, concrete might spall and steel might distort when exposed to fire temperatures. Even in live fire training structures built with adequate protection, fires should be limited to short durations.

8.2.3 When specifying interior fire-resistant coverings to protect live fire training structures, consideration should be given to the durability of the material and the ease of replacing damaged sections. To provide high-temperature protection to the structural elements of the live fire training structure, the following materials can be utilized:

(a) Non-structural precast modules made from poured calcium aluminate concrete with lightweight aggregate of high carbon content has high strength and resistance to spalling.

(b) Gunning (the spraying of exposed surfaces with a cementitious concrete) provides a self-adhering joint-free surface whose usefulness can be extended by patching.

(c) Refractory blocks set in refractory mortar can be used.

(d) Proprietary panels made from fire-resistant material can be attached to the structure. (Care should be taken when choosing products; some fire-resistant panels might crack or spall below the rated maximum temperature when fire streams are used in the area.)

In order to maximize the useful life of a live fire training structure, designs might employ liners in areas where flames impinge on structural surfaces. The selection of these liners and mounting systems should consider the durability of the material, ease of replacing damaged sections, thermal expansion and contraction, and secure mounting.

(e) Panels made of weathering steel can be inserted into tracks on the walls and ceilings. Mounting should allow for thermal movement of the panel while maintaining secure attachment so personnel are not injured by falling panels or mounting hardware. The selection of panel material, thickness, and air space depends on the nature, size, and duration of the fire.

8.2.4 To extend the life of less durable linings, a fire in a heavy gauge metal drum, with metal plates welded above to prevent flame impingement on the structure, can be used as a smoke and heat simulation method. If used, the drum should be raised above the floor, and the floor should be protected with a steel plate. Metal drums or burn containers with steel wheels installed might be made mobile and the bottom lined with fire brick.

8.3 Instrumentation. The purpose of the instrumentation is to monitor temperatures in order to provide information to help the agency keep the fire within safe parameters, observe the effect of suppression agent application, and, with sophisticated equipment, observe and record the products of combustion. Thermocouples and analyzing equipment can be used to attain the first two objectives. Thermocouples can be installed between protective linings and structural elements of the live fire training structure to monitor temperatures radiating through the lining system, which can affect the structure.

8.4 Built-in Safeguards.

8.4.1 One step in safeguarding staff and trainees is the proper design of the live fire training structure. A ventilation system capable of removing heat and smoke should be installed in the building. The ventilation system should be sized to provide a minimum of one air change per minute in the training space.

8.4.2 Open sprinklers are not reliable in a burn room because of repeated heat exposure. Other methods of applying water should be provided and coordinated with proper ventilation procedures.

8.5 Cutouts.

8.5.1 In order to perform rescue and ventilation evolutions, parts of the building should be designed to be destroyed and replaced. These expendable sections (cutouts or choppouts) can be located in walls, ceilings, or roofs. (See Figure 8.5.1.)

Existing 8.5.1 (97 ed.) (no change)

Figure 8.5.1 Pitched roof with chopout. (Courtesy of Alexandria Fire Department, Alexandria, VA.)

8.5.2 The cutout openings should have a safety device installed to prevent personnel or tools from falling through. Consideration should be given to the fact that the cutouts can catch on fire and cost money to replace, and manpower is needed to reconstruct them.

8.6 Gas-Fired Live Fire Training Structures. Gas-fired live fire training structures can provide a safe and environmentally clean method of conducting live fire burns. Systems are available that enable trainee and instructor safety by providing a safe, continuously monitored live fire training environment. These systems can eliminate Class A and B material cleanup and possibly extend live fire training structure life. These systems provide consistent and repetitive training fires with complete operator control. Several vendors manufacture and install these sophisticated systems in both fixed and transportable configurations.

8.6.1 Safety Considerations. The use of flammable gases in a live fire training structure requires constant care to ensure the safety and reliability of the overall operation. Engineering expertise during design is essential, and the following safety provisions should be provided:

(a) All installations should comply with NFPA 54, National Fuel Gas Code, and NFPA 58, Liquefied Petroleum Gas Code. System designers should determine area hazard classification for equipment rooms, burn rooms, and other spaces in order to assess electrical installation requirements.

(b) All components of the live fire training system should be certified and labeled by a nationally recognized (third party) testing laboratory (NRTL) to ensure compliance with the requirements of UL 508, Standard for Industrial Control Equipment, and NFPA 86, Standard for Ovens and Furnaces.
9.3.3 Smoke rooms can have sensors built into the floor that indicate the location of the trainees at all times.

9.3.4 Provisions should be made for the quick ventilation of the building. Consideration should be given to stopping or quickly redirecting the smoke being introduced into that section of the smoke building; this can be accomplished by the use of blowers or exhaust fans.

9.3.5 Communication capabilities between the instructor and trainees should be designed into the system. These can provide safeguards as well as the ability to transmit instructions to the trainees.

9.4 Smoke. Smoke used in the training facility should be nontoxic and of a known composition. Specially designed mechanical equipment can be installed in the facility to produce nontoxic smoke for training purposes.

Chapter 10 Combination Buildings

10.1 General. See Figures 10.1(a) through (c).

Existing 10-1(a) (97 ed.) (no change)
Figure 10.1(a) Combination building. (Courtesy of Omaha Fire Academy, Omaha, NE.)

Existing 10-1(b) (97 ed.) (no change)
Figure 10.1(b) Combination building — maximum use of minimum space with existing smoke stack for EPA considerations. This building provides for ventilation, smoke chamber, rappelling, laddering, live fire training, sprinkler laboratory, gas and electric cutoff, and forcible entry.

Existing 10-1(c) (97 ed.) (no change)
Figure 10.1(c) Multipurpose drill building. (Courtesy of St. Louis Fire Department, St. Louis, MO.)

10.1.1 In some training facilities, because of a lack of available space or funds, individual structures for ladder evolutions, fires, or smoke training might not be built. In these instances, a combination building that embraces all of the desirable functions in one structure might be constructed. Consideration should be given to the detrimental effects that any single function can have on the facility, equipment, or other functions.

10.1.2 Certain combinations of functions are, by their very nature, more compatible than others. Consideration might be given to combining all functions, excluding actual fires; the fire function usually results in faster than normal deterioration of the facility. If adequate protection from water and smoke damage is provided, classroom facilities can be combined with the drill tower and smoke function. Other combinations are possible, depending on which functions are required or desired, including functions performed by other divisions of the department. Facility planners have found that
the limiting factors include available space and funding. [See Figures 10.1.2(a) and (b).]

Existing 10-1.2(a) (97 ed.) (no change)

Figure 10.1.2(a) Fire apparatus building, housing classroom. This building is approximately 29.9 m (100 ft) long with five 4.5-m (15-ft) overhead doors, classroom, maintenance areas, and apparatus storage area. (Courtesy of Nassau County Fire Academy, Old Bethpage, NY.)

Existing 10-1.2(b) (97 ed.) (no change)

Figure 10.1.2(b) Combination building, housing classrooms, mask service unit, garage, and kitchen. (Courtesy of Burlington County Fire Academy, Burlington County, NJ.)

Chapter 11 Outside Activities

11.1 General. Ample outside space should be provided for a variety of uses, including auto extraction, ventilation, forcible entry, and property conservation training problems. Specific layouts will be needed as permanent installations for training in the areas discussed in this chapter. (See Figure 11.1.)

Existing 11-1 (97 ed.) (no change)

Figure 11.1 Transportation problem — train in tunnel. (Courtesy of New York Fire Department Academy, New York, NY.)

11.2 Flammable Liquids and Flammable Gases. See Figures 11.2(a) through (c).

Existing 11-2(a) (97 ed.) (no change)

Figure 11.2(a) Flammable liquid burn area for fixed storage. (Courtesy of Nassau County Fire Training Academy, Old Bethpage, NY.)

Existing 11-2(b) (97 ed.) (no change)

Figure 11.2(b) Flammable liquid transportation incident. (Courtesy of Nassau County Fire Training Academy, Old Bethpage, NY.)

Existing 11-2(c) (97 ed.) (no change)

Figure 11.2(c) Flammable liquid incident. (Courtesy of Nassau County Fire Training Academy, Old Bethpage, NY.)

11.2.1 The flammable liquid burn area should be located as remote from the main building as possible. Fencing should be provided for safety.

11.2.2 Pits can be constructed in various sizes and shapes. Obstructions can be built into these pits to make extinguishment more difficult. Pit aprons should be made of concrete, crushed stone, or iron ore slag. (See Figure 11.2.2.)

Existing 11-2.2 (97 ed.) (no change)

Figure 11.2.2 District of Columbia Fire Department flammable liquid pond. Note the heavy stone surrounding pond. (Courtesy of District of Columbia Fire Department, Washington, DC.)

11.2.3 Other props might include aboveground tanks, overhead flanges, “Christmas trees,” and liquefied petroleum gas facilities. Careful consideration should be given to water supply, fuel supply, fuel pumping capability, drainage, and environmental regulations. Close coordination with environmental protection agencies is essential to ensure that the area is designed to applicable standards. Management of liquid fuels can result in lower fuel consumption as well as a lower volume of contaminated runoff. This can be accomplished by metering the quantity of fuel available, by mixing water with the fuel, and by using devices that atomize or restrict fuel flow. (See Figures 11.2.3(a) through (g).)

Existing 11-2.3(a) (97 ed.) (no change)

Figure 11.2.3(a) Chemical complex fire training aid. (Courtesy of Fire Protection, Texas A & M University.)

Existing 11-2.3(b) (97 ed.) (no change)

Figure 11.2.3(b) Rail car loading terminal. (Courtesy of Fire Protection, Texas A & M University, College Station, TX.)

Existing 11-2.3(c) (97 ed.) (no change)

Figure 11.2.3(c) Portable fire extinguisher training area. Training area is 25 m × 26 m (75 ft × 85 ft). Seven training scenario areas are located on this pad. (Courtesy of Mississippi Fire Academy, Jackson, MS.)

Existing 11-2.3(d) (97 ed.) (no change)

Figure 11.2.3(d) The three-level chemical complex and tank farm is used to stimulate fire and leak situations that could occur within a petrochemical process unit. Multiple fire objectives can be created and controlled from the training field control tower. The “pressure vessels” are equipped with remotely operated relief valves to stimulate inadequate cooling and containment techniques. (Courtesy of fire training facility, Texas Eastman Co., Longview, TX.)

Existing 11-2.3(e) (97 ed.) (no change)

Figure 11.2.3(e) Hazardous material spill training aid. (Courtesy of Fire Protection Training, Texas A & M University, College Station, TX.)

Existing 11-2.3(f) (97 ed.) (no change)

Figure 11.2.3(f) Flammable liquid-cooled electric transformer mock-up. Note the diking to contain runoff.

Existing 11-2.3(g) (97 ed.) (no change)

Figure 11.2.3(g) Vertical “floating roof” fuel storage tank fire training aid. (Courtesy of Fire Protection Training, Texas A & M University, College Station, TX.)

11.2.4 If flammable liquid or gas is fed to an area, the flow should be controlled by quick shutoff valves. In case of an emergency, an instantaneous shutdown is necessary.

11.2.5 Gas-Fired Props.

11.2.5.1 General. Gas-fired burn props can provide a safe and environmentally clean method of conducting live fire burns. Systems are available that enhance trainee and instructor safety by providing a safe, continuously monitored live fire training environment. These systems can eliminate Class A and B material cleanup and possibly extend prop life. These systems provide consistent and repetitive training fires with complete operator control. Several vendors manufacture and install these sophisticated systems in both fixed and transportable configurations.

11.2.5.2 Safety Considerations. The use of flammable gases requires constant care to ensure the safety and reliability of the overall operation. Engineering expertise during design is essential, and the following safety provisions should be provided:

(a) All installations should comply with NFPA 54, National Fuel Gas Code, and NFPA 58, Liquefied Petroleum Gas Code.

(b) All components should be certified and labeled by a nationally recognized (third party) testing laboratory (NRTL) to ensure compliance with the requirements of UL 508, Standard for Industrial Control Equipment, and NFPA 86, Standard for Ovens and Furnaces.

(c) Pilot flames should be interlocked with fuel delivery valves to prevent fuel from flowing without a confirmed pilot flame being present. Commercial flame safety control systems are available. Pilot flames should be continuously monitored at the point they ignite the main burner element. Upon loss of pilot flame all gas supply valves should automatically close.

(d) All burner controls should include at least two gas valves in series that close automatically in response to a loss of electrical power, fail-safe.
11.3 Electrical. Electrical safety can be taught by constructing various electrical wiring systems. (See Figure 11.3.) Some electrical problems that might be addressed are downed wires, vaults, transformers, meters, and main disconnects. The local utility could be requested to participate in the planning phase of this section of the training facility.

11.4 Drafting Pit. See Figures 11.4(a) and (b).

11.4.1 A drafting pit can be desirable to facilitate the training of pump operators and to test pumper apparatus. In general, a capacity of at least 172,500 L (35,000 gal) of water is necessary, assuming water will be recycled to the pit. Where the pit also serves as the sole supply of water for training, much larger quantities will be needed. The size of the pit and the collection tube configuration should be designed to reduce or minimize the heating of the water, turbulence and air entrainment.

11.4.2 Permanently installed wood chafing blocks can be used to lessen wear on the hose; tie-down rings are beneficial. It is desirable to have a hinged cover on the pit. Ample access openings are needed, and collection hoods can be arranged to direct pumper discharge back into the pit. (See Figure 11.4.2.) Baffles are needed in the pit to minimize turbulence.

11.5 Apparatus Driver Training Course.

11.5.1 The design features of driver training courses should challenge the abilities of the student driver based on the customary or anticipated problems encountered in that particular jurisdiction and by matching those challenges to practical situations. In addition, course components should reflect national professional qualification standards for driver training certification.

11.5.2 Limited resources, high property values, and availability of sufficient property adjacent to the proposed facility can impact the design features of the driver training course. Resource pooling with other departments or agencies should be explored as a means to overcome these obstacles.

11.5.3 The specific design components should be agreed upon in advance and suitable time-sharing agreements reached prior to any commitment of funds. Agreements between different parties should be resolved at the very minimum through an appropriate “letter of understanding” or preferably by means of a formal contract.

11.5.4 Incorporating driver training space within the drill field area of the training facility can be the most practical solution to budgetary or property concerns, but this arrangement can necessitate setting priorities and can result in a decrease in driver training activities.

11.5.5 The optimum arrangement is a combination of two separated yet interconnected areas, such as an open drill field and a separate driver training area with roadways, hills or inclines, and lane markers. These areas should be interconnected so that movement from one to the other is accomplished readily and without interference; however, they should be distinctly separated in some manner to make entry from one area to the other a conscious effort, thus protecting the activities in progress in each area at any given time. A live fire training structure, for instance, serves as a good and practical separation barrier.

11.5.6 Student, staff, and visitor parking areas should be segregated from any driver training areas and should be posted or within some physical barrier or fence. Apparatus involved in driver training exercises should not enter parking areas, and areas of training should be posted to avoid accidental access by unauthorized vehicles.

11.5.7 The components of any good driver training course should incorporate the following basic driving maneuvers as a minimum:

1. Serpentine
2. Alley docking
3. Opposite alley pull-in
4. Diminishing clearance
5. Straight-line driving
6. Backing

In addition, a hill-incline ramp, with sufficient angle to test the student driver’s ability to “hold” apparatus or to demonstrate stopping on an incline, can be of immense value. For those facilities with ample resources and space, a skid pad can be excellent for skid control and braking exercises.

11.5.8 Whether safety cones are used to mark the course (this can accommodate variances in apparatus size and flexibility in time-sharing with other agencies) or permanent obstacles are erected, the course design should depend heavily on the following:

1. Knowledge of the standard width of streets and intersections in the geographical location
2. Specifications for highway and road construction in the area served with special emphasis on weather and climate condition
3. Length, type, and specifications (turning ratio and wheel base) for new, old, and anticipated apparatus
4. Snow removal and grass-cutting maintenance
5. Storm drainage of driving track and skid pad
6. Weight and size of vehicles

Chapter 12 Mobile Training

12.1 General. See Figure 12.1.

12.1.1 Where the personnel to be trained are spread over a large geographical area, a mobile training unit(s) might be an alternative to transporting the personnel to a permanent training center.

12.1.2 Mobile training units can be customized to address the specific needs of a training course or the personnel to be trained.
12.1.3 Mobile training units can decentralize the training programs of a training center, thereby supplementing the training conducted at the center.

12.1.4 Mobile training units can bring training to personnel who ordinarily would not or could not travel to a training center.

12.1.5 Mobile training units can contribute to the ability to provide in-service training to personnel, thereby keeping them near their duty station and available for emergency service.

12.1.6 Mobile training units can provide an opportunity to publicize a training program because of their high visibility, mobility, and, usually, large surface areas that can graphically transmit a message to the bystander.

12.1.7 Graphic designs and lettering can indicate to the general public that there is an active training program and that their fire fighters are actively training. The message that is delivered could be a fire safety message, using the vehicle as a rolling billboard.

12.2 Types of Units.

12.2.1 The types of units can be divided into two broad categories:

1. Vehicles that serve as the training device themselves
2. Vehicles that transport one or more training props or scenarios

12.2.2 Vehicles that can serve as training devices include the following:

1. Tankers that leak to simulate hazardous materials spills
2. Specialized pumping and aerial training vehicles
3. Portable training towers
4. Vehicles containing a maze for self-contained breathing apparatus training
5. Portable classrooms
6. Public fire education trailers for the promotion of residential sprinklers, smoke detectors, stop, drop, and roll, and escape planning
7. Mobile live fire training systems

12.2.3 Vehicles that transport one or more training props or scenarios can range from a pickup truck, van, or station wagon to a trailer or large truck. These vehicles are especially useful for transporting smaller, more portable training devices and simulators. Devices might include the following:

1. Computer simulators
2. Pump panel simulators
3. Driver training equipment
4. Rescue tools and equipment
5. Hazardous materials handling equipment
6. Live fire training (e.g., LPG, extinguishers)

12.3 Vehicle Design.

12.3.1 Vehicles should meet all federal and state motor vehicle requirements.

12.3.2 The safety of the operators and users of the vehicle should be a top priority during the design of the vehicle.

12.3.2.1 Switches and knobs should be properly labeled as to their function and should be designed or located so that they do not protrude and pose a bumping hazard.

12.3.2.2 Walkways, stairs, and ladders might need nonslip surface treatment. Areas where students will be crawling should be smooth, without splinters, and have edges and corners that are rounded.

12.3.2.3 Interior lighting should be appropriate for the type of training being conducted. It might be necessary to provide a different lighting system to be used during emergencies or maintenance.

12.3.2.4 Handrails and grab bars should be placed strategically to ensure that students can maintain their stability. Rounded and smooth edges can prevent the students from being snagged or scraped by these devices.

12.3.2.5 Reflectors are inexpensive and can help mark the outside of the vehicle to avoid nighttime collisions. Reflectors and safety tape can be particularly helpful to delineate staircases, handrails, and doorways.

12.3.2.6 Vehicles that will be used after dark might need outside flood lighting to illuminate the area around the vehicle. This can be especially useful where the training exercise requires the student to don personal protective gear prior to entering the vehicle.

12.3.2.7 The structural integrity of the vehicle should be checked carefully to ensure that it is designed to perform the duties of a training vehicle. For example, a mobile home that was designed to be a residence might be inappropriate as a training vehicle that has to accommodate fifty 91 kg (200 lb) fire fighters crawling through it every 4 hours.

12.3.2.8 An operations manual should be developed to provide training for the operator, a list of operating policies, a description of emergency procedures, and lesson plans for the training programs to be conducted.

12.3.3 Special equipment, in addition to the actual training devices, should be included in the vehicle design or outfitting.

12.3.3.1 A retractable canopy, such as those that are used on the side of a recreational vehicle, can be an excellent way to keep those students who are waiting to enter the vehicle out of the weather.

12.3.3.2 A public address system that can be heard both inside and outside of the vehicle can provide an efficient method of making announcements during the training exercises.

12.3.3.3 An appropriate emergency medical supply kit is essential and should be provided.

12.3.3.4 Communications systems should allow the vehicle operator to be in contact at all times with outside agencies such as dispatchers or training centers. Vehicles crossing jurisdictional boundaries might find existing radio networks inadequate. The use of cellular telephones should be considered in such cases.

12.3.3.5 An electrical generator might be required to power the auxiliary equipment in the vehicle. The noise, exhaust fumes, and access for servicing of the generator should be considered when selecting a location on the vehicle.

12.3.3.6 Any auxiliary fuels should be carried in appropriate safety containers and adequately stored and secured.

12.4 Emergency Response Capability. Certain training vehicles might be appropriate for use during emergency operations. Emergency response capability should be determined during the design of the vehicle. Emergency response might change the status of the vehicle with regard to federal and state motor vehicle laws. It should be considered whether or not the condition and quality of the tools and equipment on the vehicle are appropriate for emergency operations.
This is especially important with regard to durable items such as hazardous materials plugging and patch kits.

12.5 Problems to Be Identified.

12.5.1 Mobile training devices can inherently pose a scheduling problem. The time needed to transport a vehicle from one place to another should be considered. Set-up time can be a factor.

12.5.2 Regionalized use of the vehicle can assist in scheduling programs. Maintaining the location of the vehicle in a given region for a specified time can cut over-the-road transportation time to a minimum.

12.5.3 Where the unit is not self-contained, the location for the class might need to provide support to the vehicle in the form of utilities, water, electricity, sewage, and breathing air supply.

12.5.4 During the design of the vehicle, a check should be made for laws that govern size limitations. Particular attention should be paid to the size of the roads to be traveled and, especially, to low bridges and overpasses.

12.5.5 Driver regulations should be checked for laws that require special driver’s licenses for the operators of the vehicle.

12.6 Operating Costs. In calculating operating costs for the vehicle, the following factors should be considered:

1. Student wear and tear on the vehicle and equipment
2. Over-the-road wear and tear
3. Vehicle wear and tear caused by different operators
4. Overnight accommodations for the operator and training staff

Annex A Explanatory Material

Annex A is not a part of the requirements of this NFPA document but is included for informational purposes only. This annex contains explanatory material, numbered to correspond with the applicable text paragraphs.

A.4.3.5 For more information on this topic, see NFPA 24, Standard for the Installation of Private Fire Service Mains and Their Appurtenances.

A.7.8 See NFPA 13, Standard for the Installation of Sprinkler Systems, and NFPA 14, Standard for the Installation of Standpipe, Private Hydrant, and Hose Systems, for information regarding the proper installation of sprinkler and standpipe fire department connections.

A.8.1.3 See NFPA 1403, Standard on Live Fire Training Evolutions, for requirements relating to the use of burn buildings for live fire training exercises.