

Firefighters guidance note #7-1: Safe Training

Take precautions to keep firefighters safe during practical training sessions.

Issued:

On this page

1. Background
 2. Concerns/hazards
 3. Actions for employers
 4. Precautions
 5. Applicable regulations and acts
 6. Related
-

Background

Firefighter training includes simulations of dangerous scenarios . rope rescue, live fire and ice rescue are a few examples.

In order for firefighters to learn how to do their jobs effectively, training must resemble real conditions.

Concerns/hazards

During training, firefighters are exposed to real hazards and there is a potential for injuries or fatalities to occur.

Actions for employers

Employers must:

- take every precaution reasonable in the circumstances for the protection of firefighters involved in training sessions

Employers should:

- develop written **lesson plans** and **training safety plans** for all training

Precautions

Consider the following precautions to keep firefighters safe during training:

- develop a **lesson plan** for each training session, that outlines the learning objectives and how they will be achieved
- develop a **training safety plan** for each training session, that anticipates what may go wrong, the measures that would be taken and the resources and equipment needed
- in the training safety plan, identify:
 - circumstances in which training will be stopped
 - how training will be stopped, such as by using a code like NO DUFF, to differentiate between a training scenario and a real emergency
- ensure all training participants understand the lesson plan and the training safety plan prior to training
- ensure all training participants are aware of the hazards of the training area
- ensure that all resources and equipment identified in the training safety plan are in place prior to training
- allow for the graduated acquisition of skills . so that learners are competent in a set of skills before exposure to more difficult tasks and higher hazards
- teach learners how to identify potential hazards and what to do to mitigate them
- ensure competent supervision of all training
- consult with the joint health and safety committee or health and safety representative when developing the lesson plan and the training safety plan

Applicable regulations and acts

Read:

- [Occupational Health and Safety Act](#)

- clause 25(2)(h) for taking every precaution reasonable in the circumstances to protect workers
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Related

Contact the [Ontario Fire College](#) for a copy of a sample training safety plan.

This resource does not replace the *Occupational Health and Safety Act* (OHSA) and its regulations, and should not be used as or considered legal advice. Health and safety inspectors apply the law based on the facts in the workplace.