

EMERGENCY SERVICES TRAINING CENTER

RULES FOR USE OF THE FLASHOVER CONTAINER

Safety is the primary concern. Any violation of the rules or directions given by the instructors will result in the offender being excused from the exercise, or cancellation of the exercise.

These rules are in addition to the rules and guidelines in the instructor's manual.

The lead instructor is responsible to see that all of the rules are followed.

The lead instructor will be the final judge in all matters regarding the rules and operation of the container.

PRIOR TO CONTAINER OPERATION

1. All participants ***must*** have attended the classroom flashover instruction.
2. The officer in charge of the company certifies that all participants are 18 years old or over, they are physically fit for structural fire fighting, are SCBA trained, and are covered by workers compensation insurance.
3. Container operation requires two Staff Instructors.
4. A line from the hydrant (2 ½" minimum) will be used to supply the primary and safety line.
5. The primary line and safety line will be 1 ½" with the primary line having a low flow nozzle supplied by the ESTC.
6. All participants must demonstrate the use of the primary nozzle prior to entering the container.
7. When the container is in use both lines will be inside.
8. There are to be no more than seven students in the front of the container during flashover.

9. There are to be no more than six observers in the rear of the observation container. All observers will be instructed to exit by the lead instructor prior to any flashover occurring.
10. The lead instructor will determine if the wind direction is acceptable for container operation. If the wind direction is not acceptable the container session will be rescheduled.

PARTICIPANT DRESS

1. No jewelry, earrings, bracelets, necklaces, body piercing, or watches will be permitted, except a wedding band, and it is suggested that this also be removed.
2. The facial hair policy from the Pennsylvania State Fire Academy will be strictly enforced.
3. Participants must wear long sleeve shirts, long trousers, cotton or wool socks under their turnout gear. Loose fitting cotton sweat suits are recommended.
4. All clothing worn in the container should be completely dry.
5. Turnout gear must be NFPA approved structural fire fighting gear including, boots, pants, coat, Nomex or PBI hood, helmet, gloves, and SCBA capable of 30 minute duration. No polycarbonate helmets will be permitted.
6. Face shields, hardware, flashlights, plastic chin cups, nametags, and other items must be removed from helmets.
7. No one is to enter the container unless a Staff Instructor has checked and approved their personal protective equipment.

CONTAINER OPERATION

1. Only fuel supplied by the ESTC will be used in the container.
2. Staff instructors will approve container fuel loading.
3. The vent operator will be the ignition officer.
4. The lead instructor and vent operator will change positions after six students have completed a nozzle rotation.
5. The instructor at the front of the observation container is in charge of the evolution.

6. **NO ONE** is permitted to enter the burn container after the crib fire is ignited.
7. **NO ONE** will stand up in the container during the training exercise.
8. **DO NOT** touch other participant's turnouts. Pushing hot turnouts against the skin can cause burns.
9. This is a training exercise. The object is not seeing how hot it can get or if you can burn up turnout gear. SCBA face piece lenses can melt due to the radiant heat so do not stare into the fire for an extended period of time. Keep your head down, and if the heat is too much let the nearest instructor know and crawl out of the container.

POST BURN PROCEDURES

1. When instructed, all participants will exit the container.
2. The doors to the burn container will be opened. (the handles can spring open suddenly keep your face clear)
3. The remaining fire in the container will be extinguished and debris removed.
4. No one is to be in the container during the extinguishing or clean out operations without full turnouts and SCBA.
5. After the burn session turnout gear, coat snaps, and SCBA parts will be **HOT**. Keep gloves on to avoid burns when removing gear.
6. During warm weather the instructors should observe the participants for signs of heat exhaustion.
7. The instructors should encourage participants to drink plenty of water before and after the burn session.
8. If additional burn sessions are to be conducted do not cool the interior of the burn container any more than is necessary.

Date: August 8, 2002 – Reissued

Subject: Facial Hair/SCBA Use

To: All Local Level Instructors
County/Regional School Committees
Certification Field Test Sites

From: Timothy L. Dunkle, Administrator
Pennsylvania State Fire Academy

The issue of facial hair on firefighters has long plagued the fire service and, specifically, fire training programs. Concern has been centered on the effect of facial hair has on the safety of a facepiece seal on SCBA.

After reviewing all evidence pro and con, pertinent legal decisions, Federal regulations and other relevant data, we at the Pennsylvania State Fire Academy have determined that the wearing of beards or other facial hair (other than a trimmed mustache) is incompatible with the duties of persons directly involved (or who **may** become directly involved) in operations at emergency scenes where SCBA is or **may be** required.

In keeping with this determination, and in order to protect the interests of both students and the Commonwealth, it shall be the policy of the Pennsylvania State Fire Academy that persons taking part in any class whose subject matter involves the use or potential use of SCBA in any **simulated** or actual irrespirable or potentially irrespirable atmosphere as part of class activity shall be clean shaven, except for the option of a well trimmed mustache. Other hair will be worn in such a manner as to preclude interference with a SCBA facepiece seal and to be substantially covered by protective clothing.

The final determination as to whether an individual meets this criterion shall rest with the instructor(s) of the class. Instructors and sponsoring officials of county or regional training activities shall be held fully accountable for adherence to this policy. Students **not** in compliance will be deemed to have **not** satisfied class completion criteria, and will **not** be issued certificates.

We feel that this policy will serve the best interests of the students and will set a positive example for day-to-day fire service operations.

This policy is in effect as to the conduct of courses of the Pennsylvania State Fire Academy Resident and Local Level training programs, and the Voluntary Fire Fighter Certification program.

Supersedes Facial Hair/SCBA Use Memo dated June 10, 1991

SWEDE FLASHOVER TRAINER PRICING POLICY

FIRE DEPARTMENT USERS IN DELAWARE COUNTY

1. Provide three hours of classroom instruction at the training center or off site.
2. Supply all fuel for the container, hose, nozzles, and two certified instructors.
3. Conduct field instruction and two burn sessions for up to twelve students (approximately four hours).

TOTAL COST FOR 1998 IS \$ 240.00

(This cost has been reduced by \$ 60.00 below the actual cost of \$ 300.00 due to a contribution made by the Delaware County Firemens Association)

4. For each additional six students add \$ 120.00 for each burn evolution.

FOR USERS FROM OUTSIDE OF THE COUNTY OR INDUSTRIAL USERS

1. Provide three hours of classroom instruction at the training center or off site.
2. Supply all fuel for the container, hose, nozzles, and two certified instructors.
3. Conduct field instruction and two burn evolutions for up to twelve students (approximately four hours)

TOTAL COST FOR 1998 IS \$ 350.00

4. For each additional six students add \$ 175.00 for each burn evolution.

~~Note: The in county costs will rise \$ 60.00 for up to twelve students and by \$ 30.00 for each additional six students on January 1, 1999.~~

To schedule the use of the Flashover Trainer contact the Delaware County
Emergency Services Training Center at 610-237-8630