

Tuesday, June 15, 2010

Chief or FPO

Department

Address

City, Illinois Zip

Re: Side-By-Side Demonstration Tips

Chief/Fire Marshal,

The following are preparation tips for your side-by-side demonstration.

Since your department will be building a unit, we wanted to supply you with a check list to assure you of a successful demonstration. The following will be your fire departments responsibilities.

- Protected Unit Storage
- Clear Display Area
- Water Supply
- Pumper
- Suppression personnel
- Scene Safety
- Furniture Acquisition
- Carpeting for Floor
- Disposal of Debris
- Media Notification
- Invitations to Local Regional and State Officials
- Smoke Detector(s)

For the setup phase of the units we suggest 4 people (minimum of 3) to connect the sections together and will take approximately 2 hours. You will need a hammer, screwdriver, and possibly a drill. If drywall needs to be replaced, you will also need a razor knife to cut the drywall. It is suggested to tape the seams with white duct tape in the unit that will reach flashover. This helps to minimize damage to the unit and to contain the smoke. You should set aside a construction area of 20' x 30' and set your audience back approximately 30' while keeping in mind existing exposures.

Once the units are put up, it is time to start furnishing them. You will need two 8' x 8' sections of carpeting, two love seats or beds, possibly "lazy boy" chairs, night stands or end tables, lamps, TVs, telephones, etc. You can contact your local furniture retailer as they sometimes have damaged goods or customer's old furniture that they picked up at delivery. One such retailer is Walter E. Smithe whose depot is in Itasca. Also, each unit will need to have a smoke detector installed if one hasn't been left from the previous use. There should be a 100% cotton cloth made to look like a drapery on the back wall which comes in contact with a wastebasket full of newspapers located directly in front of it. The wastebasket will need to have a hole cut on the side near the bottom so that a fuse can be inserted into it from the rear of the unit to ignite the newspapers which in turn ignites the drapery (Don't over-pack the basket and smother the fire). If you have decorated your units with either couches or beds, it helps if you score the back of the couches or the mattresses (flashover unit only). This insures a quick fire. Be sure to leave enough space for air to circulate to feed the fire.

By accessorizing your units with TV's, telephones, lamps, computer monitors, stuffed animals, children's toys, etc. you are presenting a sampling of common household property that would be destroyed in a residential fire.

After your units are furnished, attach the 4' x 8' x 1/8" pieces of Plexiglas (8' x 2' on the sprinklered side that is attached by Velcro) at the top of each unit and secure to the top and sides. Pre-drilling on the flashover side is a must as Plexiglas has a tendency to crack. If we supply you with the 4 x 8 sheet it should be drilled for you. Be certain that the Plexiglas for the unit is allowed to reach flashover and is secure otherwise the heat will cause the Plexiglas to pop off. Your units are now ready for your demonstration. You will need two fuses stuck to a broom handle to light the fires from the rear of the units. Fire personnel in full gear should be on hand with line charged to extinguish the flashover unit. A 1 1/2" or a 1 3/4" hose attached to hydrant/engine is needed to supply the water to the sprinkler system with a 1 1/2" double female. If an engine is utilized as the water source, idle pressure is sufficient up to 45 P.S.I.

Begin your demonstration by giving a brief description of what your audience will be viewing and why it is so important for people to realize the effects of flashover and how they can be minimized by the use of a fire sprinkler system. Advise them that no accelerants are used in the demonstration. An additional person with a stopwatch can assist your narrator on informing the audience the time frames from the time the fire is started, to the activation of the smoke detector, to flashover or to when the sprinkler head activates. Most people do not grasp how quickly fire spreads. As a way for them to understand the time frames, inform them as to what your response time is on a house fire and then during your narration, let them know that the unit is in flashover and most departments are still enroute. No matter how good a response time a fire department has, the fire will likely reach flashover prior to their arrival.

Do not allow your fire crew to extinguish the flashover unit until the Plexiglas has melted to the ground. Count to 10 and then begin to extinguish with a 30 degree fog stream (you may want to protect your ground area directly in front of the flashover unit as the molten Plexiglas can cause damage). Once the flashover room is extinguished, begin the fire in your sprinklered unit. Repeat the same procedure by announcing the time frames of ignition, smoke detector activation, and then fire sprinkler activation with extinguishment. Once the fire is out, have one of the fire personnel shut off the water supply to the sprinkler head. Remove the Plexiglas from the sprinklered unit. Have fire personnel finish extinguishing the fire with a pump can and invite your audience to come forward and examine the units.

After the event is over: Dispose of all the debris and strip the flashover units of damaged drywall. The units are ready for disassembly. Disassemble the units by removing the hinge pins; please do not remove the screws that attach the hinges. Take the unit down in sections and salvage the sprinkler piping, hinge pins, headers and screws. Please make note of any repairs that may need to be made to the unit prior to its next use.

Should you have any questions or run into any difficulties, please feel free to contact the NIFSAB office at 708-403-4468.

Sincerely,

Tom Lia
Executive Director NIFSAB



Non-Sprinklered



Sprinklered

Side by Side Task List Memo

TO: Tom Lia
FROM: Jerry Kennedy
cc: Dan Turner
Joe Copeland
DATE: 12/7/2006
RE: Side-by-Side

After several meetings we have several suggestions to increase our efficiency in the planning and construction of our side-by-side demo program.

- Organize files
 - Send form letter with responsibilities of both parties.
 - Use new checklist at time of confirmation.
 - Call department back and verify they are doing their part 10-14 days out.
- Make all units 8X8X8 (last year units were different size).
- Order material early and according to what has been planned. Keep material for the year at Local #281. Buy one time to get bulk pricing and avoid separate pick-up and tow vehicle charges and time lost.

Maintain tools and equipment in job box, including extra sprinkler heads and smoke detectors.

During construction, follow plan to keep units uniform.

- Keep hinges in proper location per plan.
- Construct sprinkler pipes all the same to maintain uniformity. (Last year we had four variations.)
- Build units on wheels, to maintain flexibility when shipping. This will also help when inclement weather is forecasted. Fire departments may be able to locate units inside for days. (We only used wheels once last year.)
- Follow directions in effort to build more efficiently.

Schedule pick-up and deliveries to make travel easier. This would include stripping and rebuilding on site.

All demonstrations should look the same; from time the unit is built to the time the fires are extinguished.

I hope that during the upcoming year the efficiency of our crews will increase and produce a demonstration that never changes from town to town.

Respectfully,

Jerry Kennedy

Attachments: List from November 16th Meeting
Sample Letter
Sample Checklist