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| **Safety During Training Exercises** | Related Policies:  Live Fire Training | |
| *This policy is for internal use only and does not enlarge an employee’s civil liability in any way. The policy should not be construed as creating a higher duty of care, in an evidentiary sense, with respect to third party civil claims against employees. A violation of this policy, if proven, can only form the basis of a complaint by this department for non-judicial administrative action in accordance with the laws governing employee discipline.* | | |
| Applicable KY Statutes: | | |
| OSHA: | | |
| NFPA Standard: NFPA 1500, NFPA 1403 | | |
| Date Implemented: | | Review Date: |

1. **Purpose:** The purpose of the policy is to enhance firefighter safety during training activities by ensuring compliance with all OSHA and NFPA standards.

1. **Policy:** Safety shall be a primary consideration at all training exercises and drills.
2. The primary goal of the fire department‘s training, education, and professional development programs is to prevent occupational deaths, injuries, and illnesses.
3. Training, education, and professional development shall be provided for all department members commensurate with the duties and functions that they are expected to perform.
4. New members shall be trained and evaluated for skills and knowledge prior to being allowed to engage in emergency operations.
5. New members shall not engage in emergency operations until they have demonstrated the skills and abilities to safely complete the tasks expected.
6. Prior to any training activity other than a classroom session, the officer or member (instructor) conducting the training shall apply basic risk management principles to the proposed curriculum by evaluating potential risk and taking affirmative steps to eliminate or reduce any risk identified.
7. Where a training exercise involves the risk of serious injury or death to any participant, the instructor shall notify Fire Department Safety Officer in advance to assist in planning and overseeing the training. This specifically includes any rope rescue training, confined space rescue training, high angle training, water rescue training, ice rescue training, training involving the operation of saws or cutting implements, special operations training, or live fire training.
8. Prior to any hands on training class, the officer or member in charge of the training shall conduct a safety briefing with all participants.
9. The safety briefing shall address any known or potential safety concerns that may arise during the training exercise. Additional safety briefings shall be held as necessary throughout the training exercise.
10. Members shall listen to all safety briefings prior and during any training exercise, and follow the directions given by the instructor.
11. Members shall take necessary steps to notify instructors, supervisors and other individuals of hazards that they become aware of during a training exercise.
12. Where the nature of a training exercise places member’s safety at risk a Safety Officer shall be appointed in addition to the instructors. The Safety Officer shall ensure that OSHA and NFPA requirements are complied with, as well as all fire department polices and procedures.
13. The Safety Officer shall have the authority to stop any unsafe act and halt any training exercise without regard for the rank of the members involved.
14. Prior to the start of any hands-on training exercise, the officer(s), instructor(s) and if present Safety Officers shall ensure that each student/member is properly hydrated. The officer(s), instructor(s) and if present Safety Officers shall ensure that members remain properly hydrated throughout the training. Any indication that a member is dehydrated, overheated, or suffering from a heat related condition shall warrant the training being terminated for that member, and proper rehab and medical attention provided immediately.
15. All officers, instructors and Safety Officers shall ensure that live fire training conforms to the requirements of NFPA 1403, NFPA 1500, OSHA and department policies, and that all training meets the requirements of OSHA, NFPA 1500, and department policies. In addition, all live fire training shall comply with the policy on live fire training.

**Editor’s Note:** Departments that do not have a policy on live fire training should use the following provision in place of N.

*N. Live fire training is expressly prohibited in this department. Conducting live fire training shall be considered to be a serious disciplinary infraction for which termination may be appropriate for a first offense without resort to progressive discipline. This applies to any officer and instructor who organizes such training as well as any members who participate in it.*