

# *Augusta County Emergency Services Officers Association*

*Augusta County Government Center  
P.O. Box 590 – 18 Government Center Lane  
Verona, Virginia 24482*



## *Fire-EMS*

### *Standard Operating Guideline*

<b>Section:</b>	<b>4 Fire Operational Information</b>
<b>Title:</b>	<b>Burning Exercises</b>
<b>Date:</b>	<b>August 2008 (REVISED 2/10/16)</b>

## **BURNING EXERCISES**

### **Scope**

This procedure is intended to prescribe the management of all classes where actual fires are used, either in acquired structures or the Burn Building at the Fire Training Center.

### **Standard for Live Fire Training Exercises**

The Augusta County Fire Rescue Chief or his/her designee shall be notified and consulted with before the burning of any acquired structure, whether as a controlled burn or for live training.

All burning exercises, regardless of the type of structure, shall follow the NFPA 1403 Standard (current edition) in its' entirety as a minimum. This shall also include all associated documents identified within the standard. Exercises utilizing the Burn Building at the Fire Training Center will follow the section of NFPA 1403 governing such use. Exercises using acquired structures shall follow that section of NFPA 1403 in its entirety. No one shall have the authority to disregard any safety guidelines contained therein. Prior to the burning of any acquired structure, all necessary documentation must be obtained by the hosting agency and must be on file with the department conducting the training. A copy of these documents shall also be forwarded to the Augusta County Fire Rescue Administration Office at least one week prior to the exercise taking place. The ACFR Training Division can assist with necessary documentation if needed.

### **General**

All burning of acquired structures will be coordinated with the ACFR Training Division. No companies will be taken totally out of service for training drills.

When conducting live burn exercises in Augusta County (acquired structure or burn building), the use of all instructors shall follow the current administrative guideline established by the Virginia Department of Fire Programs as it relates to the Firefighter Level I program. These requirements can be found on the VDFP website at [www.vafire.com](http://www.vafire.com). This shall include the minimum qualifications, the identified student/instructor ratio, and task specific instructors.

## **Safety**

Safety should be a primary concern at any training drill, and especially so at any live fire training drill. A Safety Officer will be appointed at any drill where actual fires are used.

The Safety Officer shall have the authority to instruct any student or instructor, no matter their rank, to operate in a manner consistent with safety. The Safety Officer will also have the authority to stop any exercise or any part of any exercise that is, in his opinion, unsafe until corrections are made.

## **Jr. Members in Live Fire Training Exercises**

The State Child Labor laws are very specific in regard to Junior Firefighters. Any firefighter under the age of 18 is not allowed to enter any structure where any part of the structure is involved in fire unless they are currently certified as Firefighter Level I or higher under the NFPA 1001 standard. The exception to this is when they are entering a non-combustible building as part of the Firefighter Level I training program.

Reference – Code of Virginia Labor and Employment Law section 40.1-79.1.

## **Burn Building**

Any company can schedule the use of the Burn Building by contacting the ACFR Training Division. ACFR will provide a qualified burn building operator at no cost to the agency. The agency using the building will be responsible for scheduling the proper number of qualified instructors to conduct the training and meet the NFPA 1403/VDFP Firefighter Level I requirements. The ACFR Fire Training Officer can assist with this if necessary. During any live fire training exercise held at the ACFR burn building, there shall be a minimum of 1 BLS EMS transport unit, with a dedicated crew, on site at all times. In the event this cannot be arranged, notification shall be made to the Fire Training Captain for further assistance at least 72 hours in advance. Any and all possible assistance will be given to ensure the training can be completed.

**NOTE: Burning documentation for home owner can be found in Section 10, Appendix.**