



DRILL CARDS

TRAINING AIDS

Print. Laminate. Keep on the clipboard.

Home study → bay drill → hotwash. End on time.

DF-01 · First-Due Size-Up (Thin Crew)

DF-02 · Water Supply — Tanker / Draft

DF-03 · Primary Search (Limited Staffing)

DF-04 · Hose Lines That Move

DF-05 · Mayday / RIT Basics

DF-06 · Radio Discipline & Thin-Crew Command

Same Standard Co.

Same fire. Same bar. Different paycheck.



First-Due Size-Up (Thin Crew)

45–60 MIN BAY · 10 MIN HOME

OBJECTIVE

Deliver a clear, repeatable first-due size-up with 3–4 firefighters.

HOME STUDY (10 MIN)

- Review a standard size-up order (unit, location, conditions, actions, needs).
- Speak a size-up for a 2-story wood-frame residential out loud once.
- List your first three actions if you only have three on the truck.

BAY DRILL (45–60 MIN)

- 0–5: Safety brief. PPE. Assign roles (IC, nozzle, backup, water).
- 5–15: Walk a structure or prop. Each member gives a 20-second size-up.
- 15–35: Timed scenario — pull a line, set water plan or ladder, report.
- 35–50: Rotate roles. Same scenario. No coaching until after.
- 50–60: Hotwash. What was unclear on the radio? Fix the script.

THE STANDARD

If a career engine would be embarrassed by your size-up, rewrite it. Same bar.

GEAR: Radios, structure or prop, one attack line, PPE.



Water Supply — Tanker / Draft

45–60 MIN BAY · 10 MIN HOME

OBJECTIVE

Establish a working rural water plan without wasting the first tank.

HOME STUDY (10 MIN)

- Sketch first-due water options: hydrant, tanker shuttle, draft site.
- Know your tank gallons and estimated flow time at 150 GPM.
- List who drops tank vs who lays in on your typical staffing.

BAY DRILL (45–60 MIN)

- 0–5: Brief. Review shuttle vs draft decision.
- 5–20: Dry drill drop tank / fill site setup (or tabletop if no water site).
- 20–40: Live or simulated fill, dump, relay. Time arrival to continuous water.
- 40–55: Break it. Force a problem (kink, empty, late tanker). Recover.
- 55–60: Hotwash. Write the standing water-supply plan in one paragraph.

THE STANDARD

Continuous water is the job. Fancy nozzles mean nothing on an empty tank.

GEAR: Engine/tanker as available, drop tank, LDH/supply, cones.



Primary Search (Limited Staffing)

45–60 MIN BAY · 10 MIN HOME

OBJECTIVE

Run an oriented primary search with minimal crew and a clear exit plan.

HOME STUDY (10 MIN)

- Review oriented search / left-right wall pattern.
- Mayday script: who you are, where, what's wrong, air, assignment.
- Decide search priority for bedrooms vs exit paths on a night residential.

BAY DRILL (45–60 MIN)

- 0–5: Brief. Zero-vis rules. Partner integrity.
- 5–15: Masked crawl in bay — maintain wall, tool, communication.
- 15–40: Prop or darkened room search for a victim. Timed. Rotate.
- 40–55: Add stress — radio report mid-search, low-air tone, find exit.
- 55–60: Hotwash. Did anyone freestyle? Fix it.

THE STANDARD

Lost firefighters help no victims. Orientation is non-negotiable.

GEAR: SCBA, search rope/tool, victim prop, darkened area.



Hose Lines That Move

45–60 MIN BAY · 10 MIN HOME

OBJECTIVE

Advance a charged line efficiently with a thin crew and keep flow on the fire.

HOME STUDY (10 MIN)

- Review your load: crosslay lengths, nozzle type, flaking plan.
- Estimate how many people you need to advance vs hold the door.
- One page notes: kink points and how you clear them.

BAY DRILL (45–60 MIN)

- 0–5: Brief. Stretch objectives.
- 5–20: Dry stretches to landmarks. Flake for advance.
- 20–40: Charged advance. Hit a target. Move corners. Clear kinks.
- 40–55: Two-person stretch drill. Same target. Compare times.
- 55–60: Hotwash. What wasted water or time?

THE STANDARD

Water on the seat beats looking busy at the door.

GEAR: Attack lines, nozzles, PPE, cones/targets.



Mayday / RIT Basics

45–60 MIN BAY · 10 MIN HOME

OBJECTIVE

Transmit a clean mayday and start a simple RIT response without panic theater.

HOME STUDY (10 MIN)

- Memorize mayday elements until you can say them under stress.
- Know your department RIT expectation with your real staffing.
- Check personal gear: flashlight, wire cutters, webbing.

BAY DRILL (45–60 MIN)

- 0–5: Brief. This is serious — no joking during reps.
- 5–20: Mayday radio reps. Everyone transmits. Critique clarity.
- 20–40: Simple RIT scenario — locate, package, remove short distance.
- 40–55: Rotate. Lost firefighter in known area. Keep command calm.
- 55–60: Hotwash. Strip ego. Fix the script.

THE STANDARD

Calm radio saves air. Chaos burns it.

GEAR: SCBA, radios, webbing, RIT bag if available.



Radio Discipline & Thin-Crew Command

45–60 MIN BAY · 10 MIN HOME

OBJECTIVE

Run short, clear radio traffic and a simple command structure with few people.

HOME STUDY (10 MIN)

- Write your first five radio lines for a working house fire.
- Cut filler words. If it doesn't help the next action, delete it.
- Know who is IC if the officer is on the nozzle (real rural problem).

BAY DRILL (45–60 MIN)

- 0–5: Brief. Radio rules for the night.
- 5–20: Tabletop fire. Assign IC. Force short traffic only.
- 20–40: Live drill with intentional radio clutter — cut it down.
- 40–55: Transfer command cleanly. Confirm accountability.
- 55–60: Hotwash. Replay worst transmission. Rewrite it.

THE STANDARD

Command is clarity. Paycheck doesn't grant it — practice does.

GEAR: Radios, whiteboard, simple scenario cards.



SIZE-UP ORDER

1) Unit on scene 2) Location / what I see 3) Conditions 4) Actions 5) Needs / command

MAYDAY

Who I am · Where I am · What's wrong · Air · Assignment · Audible

THIN-CREW FIRST MOVES

1) Water plan 2) Line to the seat 3) Search or vent as staffing allows 4) Talk on the radio

WATER CLOCK

Know tank gallons divided by flow. Say your working time out loud on arrival.

HOTWASH (5 MIN)

What worked · What was unclear · What we change next time · No speeches