

CAL FIRE Butte Unit
Policies and Procedures



Approved By: 
Darren Read, Unit Chief

Approval Date: **June 6, 2016**

Subject: **4000 Training**
Specific Subject: **4000.005 Basic Skills & Drills/Readiness**

Original Policy Date:
Revision Date:

POLICY:

In order to emphasize safety, accountability, and operational competence the Butte Unit will conduct annual “readiness drills/inspections”, to be known as “Back to Basics Skills & Drills”. This training will normally be scheduled at the Openshaw Training Center (OTC) in order to maximize participation and reduce drive times for all stations/battalions.

In addition to “Back to Basics Skills & Drills” the Butte Unit will also conduct “Readiness Exercises/Inspections”, as well as competitive training, “Competition of the Battalions”.

The goal of all of these training drills/exercises is to foster a positive training environment, while encouraging teamwork, competence, efficiency, and safety.

PROCEDURE:

The Skills/Drills will typically be scheduled during the month of July, as part of the MCD schedule. For each of the three “Back to Basics Skills and Drills”, each battalion will be requested to assign a minimum of one engine. The goal is that each station in the Unit will have the opportunity to attend a session.

Listed below are some bullet points to successfully accomplish this training:

1. Daily Schedule: 0900 to 1500. This will allow for an initial overall briefing/expectation and PPE review for all resources. Resources will then be assigned to circuit stations, hosted by a chief officer and/or Subject Matter Expert (SME). These stations will be “quick paced” and focus on basic skills. Ideally, there will be no technical rescue drills, no live fire, no drawn out drills requiring extensive rehab. It is expected that resources will rotate between stations about every 45 minutes (max). There will be a working lunch, where an Executive Chief Officer may discuss “Hot Topics” or have just a question/answer session with the entire group. The skills and drills will conclude by 1500, followed by a maximum 30 minute review (Hot Wash) for all, discussing common operational strengths and challenges (resources and personnel will not be singled out). After the release of resources,

proctors will conduct a hasty debriefing, summarizing challenges and areas for improvement. These comments will be documented and provided to the TSB Chief for future training purposes, with a summary to all chief officers.

2. Logistics: We will maximize use of OTC props and tools so as to minimize apparatus downtime (in order to keep the drills on schedule). The Unit will provide hydration; personnel will bring their own snacks and lunch.
3. Coordinator: Training and Safety Bureau Chief and staff
4. Proctors: Chief Officers and TSB staff will be the primary "proctors". The training will be scheduled typically during the month of July when the schedule reflects the most chief officer/Training Bureau staff availability.
5. Back to Basics Topics: The following topics are suggested and will be selected prior to the week of the training. Proctors will be requested (assigned) and should know the subject matter well before the training. The Back to Basics suggested topics list below is in no way inclusive:

SKILLS & DRILLS:

1. Wildland Firefighter Safety basics (10/18, LCES, Fire Environment, Common Denominators, Preparing for tanker drop, etc.)
2. Firing tools (types, usage, preparing for use, authorization)
3. Mobile attack
4. Progressive hose lays
5. Hand line construction and extinguishing fire with hand tools
6. Shelter deployment
7. Extension ladder deployment
8. SCBA donning
9. Basic chainsaw use, safety, policy
10. EMS simulation: CPR with King Airway, traction splints, air splints, basic patient assessment
11. Taking weather observations
12. Backing apparatus
13. Hydraulics/pumping
14. Apparatus safety checks/brakes
15. Interior hose line management
16. Simple oriented search
17. Hazmat simulation: Using ERG

18. Water safety (basics, PFD's, throw bags, etc.)
19. GPS skills/map reading/navigation
20. Radio use/programming
21. Ropes & Knots
22. Set up for vehicle extrication, tool staging area setup
23. Salvage covers/hall runners, throwing and folding, catch basins, water shoots
24. Monitors, deck gun and ground based
25. Forcible entry, inward and outward door
26. Company Performance Standards

REVIEW TOPICS (discussion):

1. Policy for testing fire hose
2. Procedures for calling a mayday
3. Extinguishers – appropriate use and ratings
4. Accountability at incidents
5. Policy on Heat Illness Prevention
6. Policy on dealing with life safety hazards
7. Ladder serviceability
8. WUI terminology
9. Structure fire priorities, organization, and general safety
10. Wildland fire priorities, organization, and general safety
11. Aviation operations – Wildland and EMS incidents
12. Ventilation – Cut Sequence

READINESS INSPECTIONS:

Readiness Inspections may be occasionally scheduled by Executive Staff. The Duty Chief will coordinate the attending resource(s) with the covering Battalion Chief(s). Typically, the resource(s) selected will be alerted by the ECC to report to a specific location for a Readiness Exercise. Station coverage, if needed, will be promptly handled by the covering BC. Readiness Exercises can include any topics and/or an inspection of apparatus, tools, and PPE. It may include an apparatus inspection by the FEM for mechanical safety. It may include question about procedures, etc., weather, or a recent safety bulletin or Green Sheet.

COMPETITION OF THE BATTALIONS:

This motivational competition will be a one-day event scheduled at a location that will allow for the drill selected (typically OTC). These competitions will be scheduled as activity allows, with August typically being a preferred/targeted month. Executive Chiefs will determine the date of the competition, with input from battalion chiefs. Each BC will schedule a single engine from their battalion to attend. This engine will represent the entire battalion. The competition will be rated by chief officers and scored. The highest scoring engine companies (top 2 places) will be acknowledged and rewarded (award TBD by Executive Chiefs prior to competition). Special recognition for unique accomplishments may also be recognized or rewarded.