

A.B.L.E. Fire Training Facility

Operations Manual

APPLE VALLEY • BURNSVILLE • LAKEVILLE • EAGAN



THE ABLE BURN BUILDING

RULES AND REGULATIONS

1. Helmets must be worn by all personnel whenever on the training area or in the buildings of the drill pad. (Asphalt/Concrete area around the training building, does not include outdoor classroom)
2. All personnel involved in any live fire training must be in full protective equipment ensemble.
3. Class “A” Materials ONLY used for live burns.
4. Materials with steel framing and springs are strictly prohibited. Example: furniture, sofas, mattresses, tires, etc.
5. NO FUEL OIL / GASOLINE OR OTHER ACCELERANT MAY BE USED.
6. LIMIT BURN TO 20 MINUTES – MAXIMUM PER EVOLUTION/ROOM
7. ABLE will provide all burn materials to be used during training evolutions.
8. No live burns are to be built in any stairwell, the open area immediately inside the front door, and in rooms with standpipes.
9. Neighboring Business conflicts (i.e. Walmart)
 - i. Each agency is required to monitor the wind direction PRIOR to their training activities.
 - ii. Training fires creating smoke plumes that drift over Neighboring Businesses must be extinguished immediately and all live fire training must be terminated.
 - iii. If wind conditions prevent live fire training exercises, the agency will be given an opportunity to re-schedule their activities.

BURN BUILDING GUIDELINES

THE FOLLOWING GUIDELINES MUST BE FOLLOWED TO PREVENT SPALLING OF THE CONCRETE FLOORS AND WALLS. **DEPARTMENTS FAILING TO FOLLOW THESE GUIDELINES - WHICH RESULTS IN SPALLED CONCRETE - WILL BE BILLED FOR THE DAMAGES.**

- a. When preparing materials for a burn, a **MAXIMUM** of five pallets can be used. All burn sets must be placed on an elevated burn table and not on the floor. The hay can be dampened with water to create more smoke. Less pallets can be used effectively, but under no circumstances should more than five pallets be used. No fire should burn for more than 20 minutes before being extinguished.



Figure 1.

- b. No burning will be allowed directly on the floor. All burns must be conducted on a burn table/prop.
- c. No fires should be set next to or under windows or doors. Fires should be set away from windows and doors to help prevent the metal from warping.
- d. All windows and doors must be unlocked prior to conducting any live fire training. The doors and windows may be closed but may not have any padlocks or other locking devices that would not allow for easy operation. Only doors that have forcible entry mechanisms using wooden dowels may be secured.
- e. Fire companies are asked to avoid the rapid cooling of any part of the building (doors, windows, concrete, heat tiles, etc.) through the use of excessive water application. Under intense heat and rapid cool down conditions, excessive damage may occur.

- f. Training that includes explosives, firearms, or tear gas shall not be permitted within or near the fire training building
- g. Live fire training shall be in accordance with NFPA 1403
- h. Maximum number of live fire training evolutions per day = 20
- i. Maximum duration of each live fire training evolution = 20 minutes
- j. Maximum sustained temperature during live fire training in burn rooms = 1,000 degrees F
- k. Max. Temp. Spike during live fire training in burn rooms = 1,200 degrees F
- l. Only clean "Class A" fuel materials shall be used for live fire training.
- m. Live fire training shall occur in burn rooms only. No fires are allowed on the interior and exterior stairs and landings, on the balcony, on the roofs, or in the master stream closet.

NFPA 1403, STANDARDS FOR LIVE FIRE TRAINING EXERCISES, MUST BE FOLLOWED BY ALL DEPARTMENTS USING THE ABLE BURN BUILDING.

THE FOLLOWING ITEMS NEED TO BE EMPHASIZED:

- Each department is to have a qualified Safety Officer on-site during live burn training.
- There will be a staffed charged safety line (with at least 2 firefighters in full PPE ensemble which may include the ignition officer, whenever firefighters are in the building). This “safety” line is deployed for the express purpose of protection of the ignition team and attack companies.
- There should be ongoing concern for the progressive damage to burn buildings associated with fire intensity during live fire training evolutions. Excessive fire intensity can result in accelerated destruction of the training center burn building and can increase the risk to personnel to an unacceptable level.

IMPORTANT NOTE:

Once the initial fire has been knocked down, companies are requested to let the room cool down by itself prior to deluging the remaining fire location with water. Using large amounts of water on the walls and floor immediately after a fire is what causes unnecessary damage to the facility. Therefore, we recommend that fire departments plan on multiple fire sites throughout the burn building. That way, companies can extinguish one training fire, and let the room cool while conducting another fire evolution in a separate room. At the end of the training exercise, companies can deluge the multiple burn sites to ensure complete extinguishment of all burned material.

**** CLEAN-UP ****

1. All materials need to be fully extinguished prior to its removal from the burn building.
2. Any partially burned material needs to be removed from the building and placed on the exterior balcony of that floor. ABLE will burn these items at a later date.
3. No smoldering material may be placed in the dumpster
4. All ashes need to be swept up and placed in the on-site dumpster. ABLE has supplied wheelbarrows to aid in this process.
5. No debris may be thrown out of the building onto the concrete/asphalt on sides adjacent to the building. COOLED debris shall be thrown out the debris chute.
6. All doors and windows must be shut and locked before leaving the Drill Site.

**** RESCUE MANNEQUINS ****

- Due to the high cost of rescue mannequins, departments are asked to supply their own for training purposes.

**** WINTER TRAINING EXERCISES ****

- ABLE allows live burn training during the winter months, the procedures may be amended to accommodate the conditions and training in the winter has additional hazards that need to be considered.

**** THE ABLE TOWER * FIREFIGHTING TRAINING ACTIVITIES**

NO LIVE BURNING IS ALLOWED IN THE STAIR TOWER, ROOF or EXTERIOR OF THE BUILDING.

1. Please check all standpipe gate-valves prior to charging the standpipe system.
2. If the standpipe system is used for training activities, it must be drained.

3. All lights must be shut off prior to leaving the building with the exception of the lights on the photoelectric sensors (parking lot lights).

**** THE ABLE DRILL TOWER ****

ROPE RESCUE ACTIVITIES

1. Helmets, gloves, and eye protection are mandatory during High Angle Rescue Training
2. Edge protection must be used wherever the rescue rope comes in contact with the building.
3. All rescuers /trainees must have a safety belay line attached to their harness before their descent.
4. Any specialty rescue shall be conducted under the appropriate safety and industry standards. Only personnel with training in the specialty rescue field being performed should be allowed to participate.

**** RENTAL ****

1. The amount of two hundred fifty dollars (\$250) per one (1) hour of use with a minimum of two hours. The training facility may be rented in half hours after reaching the two-hour minimum. Outside agencies may arrange to set up their materials prior to their rental time if the schedule and personnel time allow, the fee for the ABLE training officer or instructor will apply during that time.
 - A. Scheduling - The ABLE cities will have first priority when reserving the training facility. After the ABLE city reservations are accommodated then outside reservations are on a first come - first serve basis. Scheduling the rental of the facility must be done at least 30 days ahead of time. Departments wishing to use the facilities need to call the Burnsville Fire Administration at (952) 895-4570 or email tracy.simpson@burnsvillemn.gov during normal business hours to schedule a training time and date.
 - B. Renters will need to complete a rental agreement and a burn plan. Burn plan must be in compliance with the burn guidelines. Both documents can be emailed to tracy.simpson@burnsvillemn.gov or mailed to Burnsville Fire Department, Attn: ABLE Rental, 14275 Newton Avenue, Burnsville MN 55306, at least 30 days prior to the scheduled training.
 - C. **Outside users of the ABLE Training Facility**
 - i. The ABLE consortium requires a Training Officer from one of the ABLE cities (or designate) to be on-site during the entire time of the training session. This is to ensure all rules, regulations, and safety issues are followed. The amount of eighty dollars (\$80) per one (1) hour session or fraction thereof, for standby service of an ABLE Training Officer or instructor, if required.

The fee for the ABLE Training Officer or instructor will be charged from the time they leave their home agency until they return to their home agency. This Training Officer or instructor must be on-site anytime an outside agency is on-site, even during set-up/clean-up activities.

- ii. Re-occurring outside agencies that rent the ABLE training facility on a frequent basis may not be required to have an ABLE Training Officer or instructor present at the discretion of the ABLE Chiefs Board.

D. Cancellations

- i. Cancellations that are made at least 30 days prior to the scheduled training will not have a cancellation fee/penalty.
- ii. Cancellations that are made within 30 days will be charged the cost equivalent to the cost of the ABLE Training Officer or instructor for that rental period.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION OR TO SCHEDULE A
TRAINING SESSION, CONTACT:**

BURNSVILLE FIRE DEPARTMENT

952-895-4570 phone number
tracy.simpson@burnsvillemn.gov

14275 Newton Avenue, Burnsville, MN 55306

Please contact the Burnsville Fire Department if assistance is needed after 4:30 p.m. (Monday - Friday) or on the weekends.

Fire Station #2 952-641-1330

Fire Station #1 952-641-1300