TACTICAL ACTION GUIDELINES

1. NUMBER: 9.2.2

2. SUBJECT: ***Training Fires***

3. POLICY: It is the policy of this District to conduct training fires in a safe manner, consistent with recognized national standards and this Policy and Procedure.

4. SCOPE: This Policy and Procedure is applicable to all personnel of Grant County Fire District 3.

5. RESPONSIBILITIES:

   A. The District Fire Chief is responsible for ensuring that this Policy and Procedure is followed.

   B. The Training Officer is responsible for monitoring compliance with this Policy and Procedure at all Training Fires.

   C. All District personnel are responsible for following the provisions of this Policy and Procedure.

6. PROCEDURE:

   A. General: Prior to any training fire or smoke drill in a structure, all training scheduling requirements will be completed. In addition, a training safety survey will be completed, deficiencies corrected, and a record of the survey placed on file. The survey will be reviewed by the District Fire Chief.

   B. Training Fires and/or Smoke Drills on property other than the Grant County Fire District 3's training tower.

      1. All training fires shall be in accordance with the rules and regulations as set forth by the Washington State Department of Ecology. Said agency is to be contacted 30 days prior to any training fires(s) as listed in this policy. Contact is to be in written format, and a letter received back from the Department of Ecology giving Grant County Fire District 3 permission to burn. Said letter will be in Grant County Fire District 3's file prior to conducting any live fire exercise.
         The letter shall contain the following information:
         a. Name and number of all the fire districts participating in the

training exercise.

b. Grant County Fire District 3's address, telephone number and name of responsible party.

c. A primary and backup date of the proposed burn.

d. A list of all sensitive receptors within a one-quarter (1/4) mile radius of the proposed burn site. This should include, but not be limited to; hospitals, schools, nursing homes, densely populated neighborhoods, retirement communities, businesses, etc.

e. Information that the building has been reviewed for asbestos hazards.

f. A statement that the fire district will advise all residences and businesses within a minimum two (2) block area of the burn site, the date, time and purpose of the burn.

2. Prior to any training fire or smoke drill conducted on public property, the District will receive owners' permission. Said permission will be accompanied with an "Affidavit and Release." This form will be completely filled out, dated and notarized. This Affidavit and Release will be on fire district file prior to a training exercise.

3. For the purpose of public convenience, the proven property owner may be given a copy of the "**Taxpayer's Claim for Reduction of Assessments on Destroyed Real and Personal Property",** per RCW 36.21.080, Chapter 84.70. Said form is given to the proven property owner as a convenience only. The District will not assist in filling out, nor in the mailing of the form.

C. Training Fire Safety Check:

1. Prior to any training fire or smoke drill in a structure, information requested on a Fire Safety Check will be conducted. The information discovered will, in summary, be read aloud to all fire district personnel involved at the training site, prior to their participation in fire attack or simulated fire/rescue operations.

2. Prior to any fire, citizens within the immediate area of the training site will receive a notification of the proposed training fire. This notification will be hand delivered one (1) week prior to the fire.

D. Emergency Notification:

1. At any time during a live fire or smoke training drill that conditions warrant, an emergency signal will be utilized. This emergency signal can and shall be ordered by any personnel of the fire district while on the fireground. This Emergency Signal shall be demonstrated to all personnel prior to any participation in fire attack or simulated fire/rescue operations.

2. The emergency alerting procedure to alert firefighters of an emergency

that requires all personnel to exit the training structure will be (1) one long blast originating from a fire engine nearest the fire ground.

3. Normal air horn signals from engine/truck operator to hydrant person will be no more than three (3) air blasts.
4. In addition to items 1, 2 and 3 above, the term **"Emergency Traffic"** shall be transmitted over the air. The term Emergency Traffic should be initiated only when the hazard appears to be imminent.
5. During a training fire or smoke drill on public property, no firefighter will enter a hazardous atmosphere or area with less than 1000 PSIG showing on the cylinder valve. All standard SCBA user guidelines as contained in district training manuals will be followed.
6. Motion sensors will be tested by all firefighters prior to entering a hazardous atmosphere or area during a training fire or smoke drill. When firefighters enter the structure, motion sensors are to be in use.

E. G.P.M. Attack Lines - Backup Lines Policy:

1. Square footage and needed fire flow for any building to be used for training fires or smoke drills will be calculated prior to conducting the Training Fire. Hydrant and hydrant supply line capable of flowing water, plus 20% required, shall be available at the fire scene drill ground Supply lines from a hydrant or hydrants shall be five inch (5") in diameter or two 2-1/2" lines in size. In the event that hydrants are not available, water tender/shuttle operations will be required to provide the necessary calculated flow in G.P.M.
2. The following formula will be used to determine needed fire flow (G.P.M.) required for any training fire:
   Square footage divided by 100 = Needed Fire Flow + 20% (for training fires).
3. No hose line smaller than 1-1/2" diameter with a nozzle pressure of 100 PSIG will be used during a live fire training exercise.
4. Minimum crew and maximum attack crew sizes will be:
   a. 3 firefighters on an attack line
   b. 2 firefighters on a backup line

F. Safety Officer:

1. A designated Safety Officer will be present during all training fires or smoke drills conducted in or on public property. The designated Safety Officer will be Lieutenant, or above, in rank. The designated Safety Officer shall wear the I.C.S. vest indicating their function at the training fire.

2. Duties and responsibilities of the training fire/smoke drill Safety Officer:
   a. Review Safety Survey.
   b. Read aloud all information pertaining to the Safety Requirements to conduct the Training Fire to firefighters who will be participating in fire/rescue or smoke training.
   c. Meet with the Training Officer to make recommended changes for the training fire or smoke drill prior to the drill.
   d. Meet with Firefighters prior to Firefighters entering drill buildings and assess the Firefighter's safety equipment. Any defective or missing equipment, or SCBA, not meeting areas listed in any portion of this procedure will be cause to prevent any or all Firefighters from entering a hazardous atmosphere or dangerous building.
   e. See that all Firefighters work in twos. See that the accountability system is utilized.
   f. See that one backup hose line of equal or greater size is available, manned and ready to follow up the main attack line.
   g. See that all fire/smoke training ground activities are conducted in a safe and efficient manner.
   h. Report any and all safety concerns or problems to the officer in charge of the training drill.
   i. See that all primary interior attack lines are 1-1/2" in size, or larger, and that the primary attack line is backed up by a secondary hose line of equal or greater size. The backup hose line is to be connected to a second engine. Both engines are to have a minimum of 3/4ths tank of fuel. If fuel levels drop below 1/4 tank, the training drill is to stop until refueling takes place.

G. Training Fire "Incident Command":

1. At all training fires or smoke drills a designated Command Officer will preside.
2. Prior to any fire/smoke drill training, all Firefighters will be advised by the I.C. of his/her radio designation and location. The term "Command" will be used to designate Incident Command.
3. The training ground Incident Command Officer shall utilize the standard steps of the Incident Command System.
4. The training ground Incident Commander shall assure that the District approved Accountability System is used at all times.
5. Radio use will be on a "fire communications" designated channel assigned the Drill Command Officer.

H. Hose Line Policy:

1. Primary fire attack hose lines are to come off of and be supplied by a primary triple combination pumper. Secondary (backup) attack lines are to come off a separate triple combination pumper. The primary engine is to be located in such a way as to provide its operator with a clear view of the fireground.
2. Operators of primary or secondary engines are to maintain a full tank of water that can be used in an emergency, i.e., supply line failure.

I. Crowd Control, Building Security: The designated Command Officer at a training fire will see that the following actions are taken at the scene of a training fire or smoke drill:

1. Crowd control be maintained and that all citizens keep a safe and clear distance away from the drill area. This safety precaution will also apply to the property owner or contractor.
2. Prior to leaving the training scene, buildings left standing are to be secured. Plywood to windows, locked or nailed shut doors, etc. Holes in roofs need to be covered only if public access is obtainable.
3. Posting of "No Trespassing" signs (and if necessary, barrier tape) in at least two locations on each side of the buildings involved in the training drill.

J. Training Fire Postponement:

1. <u>TRAINING FIRES AND SMOKE DRILLS ARE TO BE STOPPED AND THE PROBLEM REMOVED IF:</u>
   a. Airborne particulate matter is spreading to exposures or creating a hazard.
   b. If traffic obscured due to wind change and the situation warrants putting the fire out.
   c. If a citizen complaint cannot be rectified and is considered valid by the senior officer on scene. If doubt exists, contact should be made with the Duty Chief.
   d. Upon recommendation of the training scene Safety Officer.
   e. Upon direct order of a Chief Officer.
   f. Other emergency incidents.

K. Training Officer-Responsibilities:

1. It is the responsibility of the Training Officer to see that all listed procedures in this policy are adhered to. In the absence of the District's Training Officer, a Chief Officer can schedule, conduct and critique a training fire or smoke drill. Any Firefighter who neglects to follow these or other safety procedures will be dismissed from the training ground. A report on this action shall be forwarded to the individuals department.
2. All training fires are to be ignited under the direction of the designated Safety Officer.
3. Fuel used for lighting training fires shall be L.P.G. used in conjunction with an approved burner.
4. Prior to igniting a training fire, a Firefighter will accompany the designated person lighting the fire. Both of these individuals will be in full bunker gear and have a minimum "five" pound portable fire extinguisher as a safety precaution.
5. Training fires are to be ignited with a flare or fuel powered torch. If a flare is used to start the training fire, it is to stay in the training building once the fire is started.
6. For the purpose of smoke drills, the fire district's smoke machine will be used. Smoke drills for search and rescue practice can be conducted without charged hose lines, provided that no live fire exists.
7. After the drill is complete, the District's Training Officer is to conduct a training critique. If training deficiencies are noted, or if equipment failure occurs, the Training Officer is to notify the District Fire Chief of such problems.