



MINNESOTA BOARD OF FIREFIGHTER TRAINING AND EDUCATION
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Memo

Date: June 5, 2020

To: Minnesota Fire Service

From: Steve Flaherty, Executive Director

Re: **REVISED** - Live Burn Training Conducted in Acquired Structures during COVID-19

In a letter dated April 17, 2020, the Minnesota Board of Firefighter Training and Education (MBFTE) recommended that fire departments suspend Live Burn training in Acquired Structures during the social distancing orders due to COVID-19. With that, it continues to be our position that firefighters engaged in this type of training will be at a greater risk of contracting Covid-19 due to the fact that proper social distancing measures will be difficult to follow; therefore, potentially putting themselves and others at unreasonable risk.

In reference to our concerns, on March 31, 2020, Governor Walz signed Executive Order 20-25 which extended the license renewal period for firefighters to January 1, 2021. However, we have been made aware of situations that are unique in nature and require live burn training for firefighter certification. In an effort to get new firefighters through the certification process, the MBFTE and SFMD have concernedly modified the recommendations sent out on April 17, 2020.

Therefore, in the event a live burn training session **needs** to be conducted:

The AHJ and/or fire chief is strongly encouraged to have a written, comprehensive "wellness plan" for minimizing the spread of Covid-19 during these training sessions. Measures should include (but are not limited to) proper social distancing, assuring that is everyone wearing masks when social distancing is not possible, Re-hab personnel wearing protective gloves and eye wear, and proper cleaning of all fire and re-hab medical equipment at the conclusion of the session. This document should be retained by the fire department and saved in the fire department's training record filing system.

The MN Department of Natural Resources, Division of Forestry has been informed of our current recommendations and fully supports the additional planning to minimize the spread of COVID 19. Please note: This comprehensive "wellness plan" is not required as part of the burn permit application. It is solely for the purposes of documenting the measures taken to limit the possible spread of Covid-19. The greatest concern from our agencies is for the health and safety of our first responders, and for the public in which they serve. We ask that you do everything in your power to minimize the spread of Covid-19, today, tomorrow, and into the future.