Firefighter Skills Trainer—Our New Addition to the Fleet!

The Unit:

The Kansas Fire & Rescue Training Institute is proud to announce our latest addition of state-of-the-art training props available for scheduling. Our new Firefighter Skills Trainer is built in a 50’ semi-trailer and is specifically designed for use in training those “destructive” skills included in firefighter training courses. Roof ventilation (with axes and chainsaws), forcing doors, breaking windows, sprinkler system operations (including connecting to a system and stopping flow from a sprinkler head), breaching walls and “pulling” ceilings are the primary functions the trailer is designed to accommodate. In addition to those skills, the trailer is equipped for training on rescue from a ladder, positive pressure ventilation, and many other things.

This unit features an exterior platform (porch) at the trailer’s floor level so firefighters don’t have to begin each evolution by climbing steps and negotiating the obstacles inherent with getting in and out of a semi-trailer. Five rooms have been built into the trailer; each with a specific purpose. The glass-breaking room has a prop/frame designed to hold glass panels in a realistic fashion. Firefighters will break glass and then have to remove the remaining glass shards (just like in the real world). A wall-breaching room has wall props constructed with typical residential 2-by-4-inch stud walls and sheetrock for breaching skills. Included in this room (and other rooms in the trailer) are ceiling panels for training on “pulling” ceilings.

A Friction Force Forcible Entry Door has been installed in another room for training on the skills of forcing doors. This state-of-the-art device is designed for repetitive use and low cost of operation. The door is held in its frame by friction and can be adjusted to simulate the force required to force a wide range of construction types from wood to metal frame and doors in cinder block walls.

Realistic training on fire sprinkler systems is always a challenge. This trainer has a complete sprinkler system built in. All firefighter skills related to sprinkler systems can be performed in the trainer, from sprinkler connections to valve operations and stopping flow from a sprinkler head. Be ready to get wet—this is a real-world system!

The roof ventilation prop is mounted on the roof and

A fully operational sprinkler system is built into the trailer. Operating valves and stopping flow from heads is not just realistic, it’s real.
infinitely variable to replicate flat to steep roof pitches. Training will include ventilation with traditional tools (axes, etc.) and chainsaws. With easily replaceable panels, firefighters will train in a realistic environment that includes the challenges of roof ventilation with the safety of training on a dedicated prop. Even though some of the safety measures that we will use are not available on real-world structures, we’ll use them for the increased measure of training safety. These include firefighters working on the roof wearing safety harnesses and being secured to the trailer for fall protection. Ladders will be tied in place to prevent the wind from blowing them down. Our philosophy is that we are not teaching ladder raises—that should be done prior to this training. We are teaching the act of ventilation (cutting holes).

The Course:
The accompanying training for this unit is expected to be approximately 16 hours in length. While the training is fully customizable, we will encourage a 16-hour format. This training is designed for the knowledge portions of the skills to be taught prior to receiving this training/prop. The classic example for scheduling this unit is at the appropriate point in a firefighter-training course—after the instructor has covered the lessons in the classroom.

If a fire department wishes to schedule the trailer for refresher training, the department must conduct a refresher course on the topics using the KF&RTI lesson plans. The Institute will be conducting Train-the-Trainers for all fire service instructors wishing to qualify for teaching this course. We estimate that the refresher course (for those firefighters already trained to the Fire Fighter I level) will be from 8 to 24 hours. The refresher course will require the students to meet the stated objectives. If they can meet the objectives in eight hours—GREAT! BUT, they must be able to demonstrate the classroom objectives by passing a quiz on the subjects. This requirement is for the safety of the firefighters. We want to insure proper knowledge prior to performing the “hands-on” portion of the skills.

Instructor Requirements:
For the reasons above, we will require all instructors for this course to attend a Train-the-Trainer specifically for the Firefighter Skills Trainer Course. All the requirements for instructors of this course are listed below:

- Successful completion of a Firefighter Skills Course Train-the-Trainer course
- Fire Fighter I Certification (or equivalent)*
- Fire Service Instructor I certification (or equivalent)*

* Equivalency must be documented to and approved by the Institute prior to attending the Train-the-Trainer. Contact the Institute for detailed information.

Train the Trainer Schedule:
Train-the-Trainers for this course are listed below. If these dates don’t fit within your schedule, contact the KF&RTI (toll free – 866-804-8841) and let us know. We will be scheduling additional Train-the-Trainers as needed.

Preregistration is required for this course. Please contact the Institute to preregister for this course via telephone at: 866-804-8841 (toll free), or email at kufire@ku.edu. Your registration will be confirmed within 2 business days of receipt.
KF&RTI Associate Instructors will be given priority for attendance at these two courses. Fire Department Instructors are encouraged to register. If the classes fill, additional Train-the-Trainers will be scheduled to accommodate those instructors not able to attend these offerings.

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<tr>
<th>Course Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Location</th>
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<tr>
<td>August 3, 2013</td>
<td>9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Lawrence Douglas County Fire/Medical</td>
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<td>19th &amp; Haskell, Lawrence, Kansas</td>
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<tr>
<td>August 12, 2013</td>
<td>9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Wichita FD Regional Training Center</td>
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<td>4780 E. 31 St., Wichita, Kansas</td>
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To Schedule this course:
The Firefighter Skills Trainer course is available for scheduling immediately, with deliveries beginning in mid-August (2013). If you have questions or need additional information, we’re just a phone call (or email) away.

The Institute staff is very excited about our new trainer and the potential good that we can do with it. The Fire Service Training Commission and the Institute have worked very hard to improve the training available to the Kansas fire service. This unit is the next step in improving the available training and the preparation of firefighters for the rigors of your job!

Call 866-804-8841 or send an email to kufire@ku.edu. Ask for Glenn Pribbenow or any program manager.

Have a topic you want to see addressed? Send your idea to kufire@ku.edu!

CONTACT US
Phone: 785-864-4790 or toll-free 866-804-8841 • Fax: 785-864-9044 • Email: kufire@ku.edu
Kansas Fire & Rescue Training Institute, 1515 Saint Andrews Drive, Lawrence, KS 66047-1619 USA

Add kuce2@ku.edu to your address book or safe list to ensure that our messages are delivered properly.
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