



# ONTARIO ASSOCIATION OF FIRE TRAINING OFFICERS

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To: OAFTO Educational Committee

Date: 5/20/20

Re: Recommendations for Training Practices during COVID -19 for Volunteer & Composite Fire Departments

The Ontario Association of Fire Training Officers (OAFTO) appreciates the difficulty of the current health crisis; however, we recommend that training should still be delivered during this pandemic.

Training in today's atmosphere poses challenges and risk. To provide support to our fire service partners, our association presents the following best practices to assist in keeping training initiatives moving forward. As the pandemic evolves, so will these best practices. It is important to stress, these recommendations have been developed for volunteer or composite departments. Of course when conducting these drills, always follow provincial and regional health department directives on physical distancing and disinfection.

- Move training on-line – i.e. learning management software (LMS) that facilitates presentations and assignments to be accessed remotely. A video from the training staff of the department should be shared with their members for implementation, ensuring a demonstration and end-user support system is provided
- Dividing the station into crews. Splitting the crews up over the prescribed training nights. Ideal group ratio is 5:1
- Theory in station, with physical distancing measures; e.g., everyone wears some sort of mask; maintaining two meters apart while sitting
- Temperature checks at the beginning of training
- Upon finishing training, ensuring total disinfection procedures as per departmental procedures
- Limiting SCBA training while on air. Ensure you check with your SCBA manufacturer on cleaning and disinfecting procedures, as it may have changed since COVID-19
- Exercising the minimum distance while performing practical skills. If the skill is to be performed within close proximity (> 2 meters), then each person is to have a mask on
- Limiting practical skills that will not increase the respiration rate of participants

Stay safe and train on!

Adam Rockall

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Adam Rockall".

President of OAFTO