

Fire Department Participates in Multi-Agency Drills

We all know that the job of a firefighter comes with a great deal of risk and personal sacrifice. Training is an essential component to ensuring our firefighters are prepared when fire strikes. This week over 150 firefighters from Bothell, Northshore and Shoreline will participate in essential training at the vacant building that was formerly Hope Link.

Crews will rotate through three stations. The stations consist of fire ground survival, SCBA confidence and strategy and tactics for center hallway fire attack.

Fire ground survival covers how to safely mitigate entanglement issues, how to maneuver through tight spaces such as through the studs in the wall when the door is not an option and how to straddle a window and hang until help arrives. During the SCBA (Self Contained Breathing Apparatus) confidence simulation, firefighters practiced crawling through tight spaces with debris, wires and other hazards while wearing their breathing apparatus. The final station involved strategy and tactics for center hallway fire attack. There are some unique issues that firefighters face when fighting fire in a multi-family structure that shares an interior hallway. Instructors have created a simulated family living environment and firefighters practice fire suppression techniques.

This vacant building has provided firefighters the opportunity to practice skills that are otherwise difficult to simulate. The training division hopes to utilize the building for a variety of other important drills during the next couple of months.