

THE PITTSBURGH DRILL



www.rapidintervention.com

Prop Shop: 2004-02

Drill Description: The Pittsburgh Drill was developed by the staff of Rapid Intervention Training Associates (RITA) to teach RIT team members to work as a team.

The obstacle course is 50 feet in length with three (3) separate obstacles (under/over/through). The first obstacle is a low profile opening, the second is an A-frame, and the third is a 10-12 foot tube. A section of 1 1/2" hose is stretched from the entrance of the course through all 3 obstacles to the firefighter (victim) at the end. The victim is a simulated downed firefighter (preferably a 150 lb dummy in full gear, SCBA, and facepiece).

Drill Guidelines:

Each team is made up of 3 - 4 members.

Each team is limited to 20 minutes to complete the exercise.

Participant's face pieces are covered with wax paper to simulate limited visibility.

Each team must maneuver through all three (3) obstacles to access the victim then work to bring the victim back through the obstacle course while on air.

At the entrance to the third obstacle (the tube), two team members will low profile crawl through the tube to the victim while the remaining crewmember(s) wait in place at the entrance of the tube.

Once through the tube, the victim is assumed to have a good air supply but is unconscious.

Team members must prepare the victim for a low profile drag back through the tube using a handcuff knot or similar such rescue technique.

Once everyone is back through the third obstacle the team works together to maneuver the victim over the second obstacle (A-frame), then on to the first obstacle (wall breach/narrow opening).

The team must send two members through the breach first to pull from the opposite side. The remaining team members position the victim into the breach and push the victim through as the team members on the opposite side pull the victim through. The rest of the team must get themselves through the breach and assist getting the victim to the starting point where the time will stop.

Special Notes:

The victim's facepiece must remain in place throughout obstacle course. If it dislodges, the team is stopped and given instructions to reposition the facepiece.

If a team member's low air alarm sounds, another team member must escort them to the spare cylinder (outside) to change out before being allowed back in to assist with the extraction.

Prop Specifications:

- 1 - Sheet of 4' x 8' Plywood - 16" x 20" opening / passage way.
- 2 - 2" x 4" x 8' supports with 24" framing between the top and bottom plates.



Supplies:

- 1 - Sheet of 4' x 8' Plywood (1/2" CDX or OSB)
- 6 - 2" x 4" x 8' (Used for support / legs)

Prop Specifications:

- 3 - Shipping pallets configured into a triangle formation.
- 2 - 55' Gallon drums (welded together) with both the top and bottom removed.



Supplies:

- 3 - Standard size shipping pallets
- 2 - 55 Gallon drums
- 2 - 2" x 30" inch flat plate stabilizers w/ 6" uprights



The drill is terminated after 20 minutes regardless of where the victim is in the course.

The average time is 18 to 20 minutes. The importance of the Pittsburgh Drill is not in completing the course 20 minutes or less, but rather to make the team work together while in an effort to enhance / sharpen their RIT rescue skills. While not an easy exercise, it's not impossible.

For Additional Information:

Contact Firefighter James Crawford (Pittsburgh Bureau of Fire) at www.Rapidintervention.com