# Effective Fire Service Training – S.M.A.R.T #60-02
# Rule Of Air Management (ROAM) - Basic

## S – Statement of Intent / Objectives

**The intent of this drill is to introduce the idea of air management to line firefighters and provide them with the opportunity to practice air management techniques.**

Upon completion of this drill the participant shall demonstrate the ability to:

- Understand the Rule Of Air Management and how air management increases firefighter safety
- Make the proper scene size-up as related to air management
- Make effective decisions regarding work vs. air use
- Demonstrate proper air management for themselves and their crewmembers by exiting the hazard area before the low-pressure alarm activates
- Perform the company officer's role and responsibilities regarding air management
- Make the proper critical decisions for safe fire-fighting efforts including firefighter rescues

## M – Material(s)

- Prop space large enough to incorporate drill elements with zero or near zero visibility.
- 1 – 200' 1 ¾" handline pre-laid (charged) in designated area of prop.
- 1 – Wall breach section and a variety of debris and obstructions.
- 1 – Rescue dummy fitted with SCBA.
- 1 – Hydration station to include water and cups
- 1 –ICS Status board per department standard operation guidelines.
- Portable radios per department standard operating guidelines.
- 4 – Chemical light sticks per day

## A – Actions

- Record time and air pressure at beginning, end, and each radio report.
- Receive briefing from Instructor.
  - ♦ Radio channel, team designator, and who they are reporting to (Division or Sector)
  - ♦ Team briefing includes the following:
    "Firefighter reported trapped at end of hose line. Crew separated when partial collapse occurred and only member still missing was last seen on the pipe when the collapse occurred. Safety Officer has authorized rescue attempt and fire-fighting efforts are underway to prevent extension into area of entrapment. Your team is assigned to locate the downed firefighter. You will see several marker lights as you make your way through the prop. Progress reports will be made at each light with crew status including air supply. Teams are attempting to find alternate means of access to area of trapped firefighter".
  - ♦ Confirm that team leader understands assignment.
- Mask from standby and begin prop.
- Enter the prop and give radio report at each chemlight
- Radio report to include lowest air pressure of lowest member of team.
- Manage air supply effectively in order to complete objectives and exit the structure before low-pressure alarm rings (Rule of Air Management).
- Do not prompt teams once they have passed the fourth chem-light stick.

## R – Review / Recording

- **The Rule Of Air Management or ROAM states:**
  "Know how much air you have in your SCBA and manage that air so that you exit the hazard area BEFORE your low-pressure bell rings."
- Record pressures at start, designated intervals, and end.
- Note if any of the team members low-pressure bell is ringing on exit or if someone runs out of air while in the prop.
- Primary objective is to complete the assigned tasks and to exit before the low pressure bell rings.
- Excellent performance would be for someone to have their bell begin ringing as they cross from the "hazard" area to the fresh air.

## T – Talking Points for Debriefing

***Debriefing should include;***

- Did the team exit before the low-pressure bell sounded?
- If **YES** then how did they make the decision to leave and did they maximize their work time.
- If **NO** then how did they make the decision to leave and how can they improve.
- If someone ran out of air discuss how this happened, the negative impact, and how to avoid the situation in the future.
- Team and personal decision-making process for when to start their egress from the building.
- Were there any difficulties in reading pressure gauges or other equipment issues plus ways to prevent.


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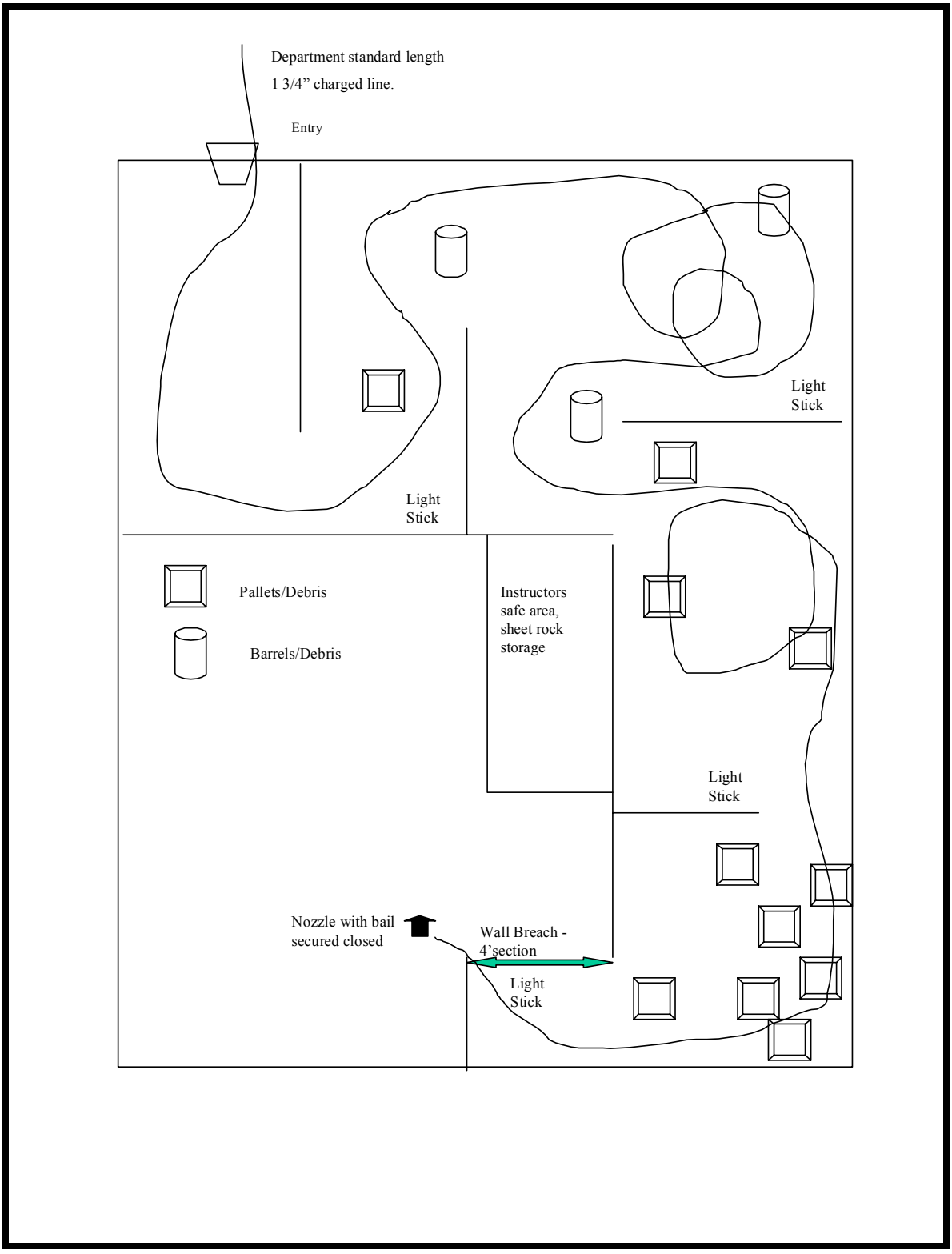
Sample Layout of drill prop includes standard department length 1-3/4" hand line, charged, with bail tied closed. Nozzle should be place on the "collapse area" side of the wall breach section. Debris should be such that teams can access the wall breach area with about ½ of their air volume remaining. Instructor should be close enough to the team to hear the interaction and the decision making that takes place. This information is necessary for good debriefing. Wall breach design should permit 1-8' piece of sheetrock to be cut in half and inserted on each side of a 2x4 or 2x6 constructed wall section 4' high and secured with screws to eliminate nails.





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