



NEWS RELEASE
City of Chico Fire-Rescue
www.chico.ca.us/fire-department

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*****MEDIA ALERT*****

CITY OF CHICO FIRE DEPARTMENT TO HOLD LIVE FIRE TRAINING AT FIRE TRAINING CENTER

(Chico, CA – February 19, 2021 –) The City of Chico Fire Department will be conducting a Live Fire Training at the Fire Training Center on Tuesday, February 23, 2021.

This is the first live fire training to be conducted at the Fire Training Center. The new Live Fire Training Prop is a burn box designed to conduct fire behavior burns, as well as live firefighting scenario training burns. It is a 40x8x8 Conex box with modifications that were fabricated completely in-house by Chico Fire-Rescue employees, and contains two large sliding steel doors, a sliding steel window, and two means of entrance/egress.

“This burn building will be used to teach fire behavior to our newest employees and serve as an avenue to hone our firefighter’s tactical skills throughout the year,” said Chico Fire Department Deputy Chief Chris Zinko.

In the past, the Chico Fire Department was periodically able to secure houses slated for demolition to be used for live fire training burns. Because of environmental concerns and other factors, the department was unable to continue live fire practices. With the addition of the new burn building at the Fire Training Center, fire personnel are now able to receive regular fire training, which better prepares them for one of their most dangerous incidents.

The burn chamber of the new burn box includes an elevated steel stand, and the floor below is lined with fire bricks. This design eliminates significant heat transfer to the asphalt below the box. In addition, the walls around the burn chamber are lined with replaceable cement board to protect the integrity of the box during the burns. The box also contains a sliding ventilation roof hatch that is operated from the outside. This feature is used to control the fire environment inside the box by controlling the air movement.

All Chico Fire Department live fire training will be conducted using the in-house State Fire Training certified Live Fire Instructor cadre. The training cadre will follow the department’s Live Fire Operational Procedure for all training sessions. Very specific criteria must be met when conducting live fire training to ensure the highest level of safety for all personnel.

“Over the past two years, our training chief, Battalion Chief Wes Metroka, along with numerous fire department personnel, have worked incredibly hard to purchase and construct a burn building,”

said Deputy Chief Zinko. “The more time our personnel are able to engage in live fire training, the better understanding they will have of the many nuances of fire behavior, which will lead to safer mitigation and rescue efforts when serving our community.”

The public is advised not to call 911 if they observe smoke in the area of the Fire Training Center during the training hours.

Media:

- Live Fire Training Exercise, Fire Training Center, 1466 Humboldt Road, Chico
- Please park in the Public Works parking lot outside of the Fire Training Center main gates. A City staff or Fire Department representative will direct the press to the live burn location.
- Setup for interviews begins at 9:00am.

For press inquiries, please contact Chris Zinko, Deputy Fire Chief, at (530) 897-3402; or Lynda Gizzi, Public Information Officer, at (530) 896-7204.

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