



PEA RIDGE FIRE DEPARTMENT

CORE COMPETENCY DRILL



Vehicle Operations—Airbag Lifts

DESCRIPTION AND EXPECTED PERFORMANCE: To perform lifting techniques with airbags and reviewing what types of scenarios airbags could be utilized for. Crews will each, setup and operate the airbags individually and then working in teams to accomplish objectives set by the company officer.

Length: 2 HOURS

REFERENCE: NFPA 1001 Standards. Fire-fighting Essentials, current ed. IFSTA. PRFD SOPs and Guidelines related to use of airbags.

Equipment, Props, Information or Other Resources Needed: Appropriate PPE and airbag equipment for use in an exercise designed and led by the company officer.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR THIS CORE COMPETENCY DRILL

The Use of Airbags are Important; Especially for Quick, Controlled, Lifting of Heavy Objects.

The Baker's Dozen of Lifting Airbags

1. Lift an inch, crib an inch.
2. Cribbing should be continually monitored during the entire lifting operations.
3. Use cribbing to maximize the lift.
4. Rigid airbag pads should only be used on the bottom. Pliable pads should be used on top of the bag to protect it from any sharp material.
5. A maximum of two airbags can be used with the largest on the bottom. Airbags are flat to start, but once air is applied the bags resemble balls. Keep in mind how unstable any object is resting on a rigid round object.
6. The lift bag controller should listen carefully for a "Freeze" command. This can be from an unsafe shift in the load.
7. Hoses are color coded for a reason. When lifting, stopping, and lowering, commands should be given with commands like "Up on Yellow" and "Down on Red".
8. The rescuer giving the commands to the airbag controller needs to step away from the vehicle or object to get a complete picture.
9. Watch for side to side movement of the object shifting.
10. Airbags should not be considered stable
11. Stabilize the opposite side from the airbag with cribbing to prevent downward or lateral movement.
12. Know the lifting capacity of each bag you have.



Lift an Inch, Crib an Inch.

Always Capture the Upward Movement

