



Training Reps

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Issue: Introductory



Welcome to our first issue of Training Reps! "T.R.", in short, is ambiguous with the initials of a giant—both literally and figuratively within the realm of training in the Maryland fire service. Tom Rice Sr., or "T.R.", to those who knew him got his start at the Providence Volunteer Fire Company where he served three terms as Captain over the course of his 28 years of service. T.R. followed his dream of becoming a career firefighter in Baltimore County in 1988 as a member of the 73rd Fire Recruit Class. He worked assignments in Essex, Fullerton, Hillendale, Parkville, and Towson. Becoming a FADO of Truck #1 was the assignment he most loved, but he wouldn't bat an eye at riding "the box". He jumped at any opportunity to start an I.V. and never shied away from patient care. T.R. had a passion for training. He loved to teach basic principles to new firefighters and took every opportunity to instill the values, and work ethic that sets the standard for service and sacrifice. T.R. was a well-respected and dedicated instructor at the Fire-Rescue Academy and worked part-time for the Maryland Fire & Rescue Institute (MFRI) where he touched the lives of hundreds, if not thousands, of new firefighters across the state. He knew the inherent risks of our job and made an effort to educate and remind his students and colleagues to take the job seriously. Tom absolutely LOVED to teach. Sadly, after a long, courageous battle, Tom fell victim to occupational cancer in 2009 at the young age of 44. We're lucky to have his legacy live on. PM Becky Rice (15/D), and FADO Tommy Rice Jr. (15/A), emulate their dad's love for the job and carry on in his footsteps-both instructors themselves. Training Reps will include tips, tricks, and topics befitting of the legend himself. We hope that you will share your knowledge, and experiences with us. As the saying goes, "Iron sharpens Iron." -B.C. Scott Ebbert

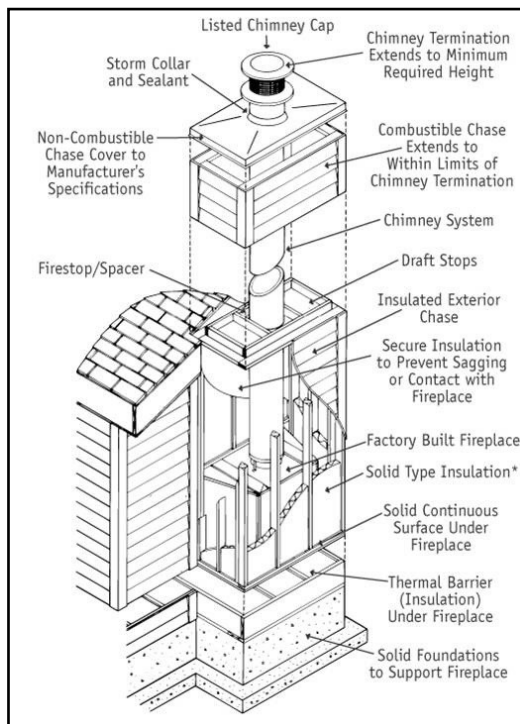


Please send submissions and photos/videos to fireacademytraining@baltimorecountymd.gov, subject: training reps.

Wood-Framed Chimney & Chase Fires

Fires involving a pre-fabricated metal flue within a wood-framed chimney, also known as a chase, can present us with unique challenges when it comes to fire spread and suppression. This type of chimney construction is prevalent throughout Baltimore County in both single family and multiple-dwelling (townhome) structures. Improperly maintained chimney flues can result in dangerous creosote build-up, easily

ignited by a rogue spark or high temperatures. Creosote-fueled fires can reach 2,000°F, and cause damage to the flue, threatening to ignite nearby combustible materials. While annual cleaning and inspection of the flue will prevent these scenarios, this method of chimney construction could still pose a problem. Many of the wooden-framed chases are constructed with insufficient clearance between the metal flue and combustible wood framing. The metal chase cover on top is susceptible to harsh weather and can rot away over time, allowing access to animal nesting and other combustible debris to violate the required clearance around the flue. Separations in the flue will allow embers to escape and ignite the chase. Fires that originate within the chase are often delayed in detection and have the opportunity to develop and rapidly spread throughout the void space. When investigating a chimney flue fire, crews should utilize the T.I.C. and, when necessary, use invasive inspection methods to clear the chase. If fire is suspected within the chase, the I.C. should prioritize inspection of the knee wall and attic spaces for fire extension.



Desire ★ *Determination* ★ *Dedication*