The goal of today’s lesson is to get local Fire Brigades excited about setting up regular drills to enhance firefighter readiness and to be able to meet the challenges faced in their local area. Firefighters will learn how to set up a schedule, choose topics, and conduct a Brigade Level Drill.
Introduction

• How many of you that attended last weeks training went back to your brigade and taught others what you learned?

• AFM is working hard to give firefighters the tools necessary to improve their own departments. They want to train, empower, support, and encourage you.
Introduction

- The empower portion of that list is what these training sessions are all about. You receive training so you can go back to your brigades and train others.
- We were given a gift by last week by Patrick who taught us about ropes and knots.
AFM wanted you to receive that gift, take ownership of those newly acquired skills, and then distribute it to others.

That is how we will improve the fire departments throughout all of Africa if we help others to learn.

Missionary Story
Definition of Brigade Level Drills

What did you think of when I introduced the topic of Brigade Level Drills?
Brigade Level Drills (BLD’s) are not the pomp and circumstance evolutions that are conducted at fire academies.

BLD’s are small mostly hands on training that are conducted at the brigade to ensure firefighters are proficient in their assigned tasks.
Definition of Brigade Level Drills

BLD’s are simply a proactive approach to training firefighters so that they will be equipped to solve challenges, improve fireground performance, and ensures the safety and security of local citizens and firefighters alike.
What Do BLD’s Look Like

• BLD’s look different for each area. What we call company level drills in my department would not work in your department.

• The most basic BLD should be a small group of firefighters who are being taught by another firefighter.
What Do BLD’s Look Like

• The instructor can be an officer, or it could be a firefighter. Having firefighters conduct a training class helps them to improve their skills.

• BLD’s should be hands on. If you can’t tie the knots, you did not learn anything.

• Start Small and work toward more difficult drills (crawl, walk, run)
What Do BLD’s Look Like

• Bld’s can be at the station, in the community, at a local business.
• How do you prepare for a marathon?
Making A Schedule

• What Challenges does your fire department face today?
• I am not talking about lack of equipment and resources or lack of personnel. I am talking about things like water supply, angry citizens, ladders not working, etc.
Making A Schedule

• It is mission critical that your Brigade make a schedule of drills that you want to accomplish this year.
• How often you conduct those drills is up to you.
• If your department currently does none or very little drills start small and work your way to having more regular drills.
Making a schedule involves writing it down on paper.
Making A Schedule

• Make sure your schedule is well rounded. Some important topics to include are
  - Fire Prevention
  - Inspections
  - Community Outreach
  - Driver Training
  - Water Supply
  - First Aid
Making A Schedule

• When writing a schedule it is a good idea to involve the chief to see what they want their firefighters to learn.

• You can even get everyone’s opinion, so they have buy in for the program.
Choosing Topics

• Evaluate your brigade. Drills can be designed to meet the needs of your local brigades.

• Remember our definition of BLD? BLD’s are simply a proactive approach to training firefighters so that they will be equipped to solve challenges, improve fireground performance, and ensures the safety and security of local citizens and firefighters alike.
Choosing Topics

• The K.I.S.S. principle (keep it simple silly)
• Look at the internet for help.
• Utilize any training materials available (books, AFM website, experienced firefighters).
• Be creative.
Choosing Topics

- What are some topics that you could use in your brigade?
• Remember, we are only as good as our training.

• If you want to fulfill your mission and become the best brigade in the world you must train your people on a brigade level.

• Receive training, take ownership of the training, and share it with others.
Wrapping it up

Any Questions?