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SE COOKE CONSULTING

Critical Thinking for the Initial IC



Presented by Stan Cooke, Battalion Chief (Ret)

Course overview

On a structure fire the initial incident commander is faced with the expectation of making critical decisions in a compressed time frame. **CRITICAL THINKING for the INITIAL IC** uses *Bloom's Taxonomy* and *Costas' Levels of Intellectual Functioning* methodology in addressing Critical Thinking as applied to the Initial IC when dealing with structure fires.

We look at the components and relationship of "Criteria Based Decision Making" with "Recognition Primed Decision Making" as they apply to fire ground decisions. Students will understand which criteria are critical and how to utilize these criteria in making effective decisions. Concepts involving Reading Smoke, Fire Dynamics, and Building Construction are tied together in an effective way that will improve the students' confidence in size-up and action planning.

Subjects that will also be covered include:

- Setting the stage for success in learning critical thinking skills.
- Applying Critical Thinking to Strategic and Tactical Priorities
- Pitfalls in Decision Making

This is a 16-hour class designed for the Initial Incident Commander, whether the student is a fire fighter, Company Officer or Response Chief. The student will see about 100 structure fires in this course. It is highly interactive; the student can expect to develop confidence and demonstrate critical decision-making skills.

LETTER of REFERENCE

Chief Whealan,

My name is William (Bill) Whealan and I have been in fire services for over 32 years. I began my career as a firefighter with Las Vegas Fire and Rescue (LVF&R) and spent over 28 years there. The positions that I held within LVF&R included Firefighter, Paramedic, Engineer, Captain, and Battalion Chief. As a Battalion Chief, I was assigned as the Drillmaster, Special Operations Chief, Training Chief, and Suppression Chief. During my last nine years in Las Vegas I was a suppression Battalion Chief at station #1 in downtown Las Vegas. As a firefighter, I have attended many different training opportunities across the United States and have seen my share of excellent classes and instructors. Recently, I was given the opportunity to attend a class which was taught by Stan Cooke. If I had to describe Stan's class and his instructional techniques in one word, it would be awesome. Stan's class is, without a doubt, one of the best I have ever attended in my lengthy career.

I am sure that everyone has heard the phrase "You can't teach an old dog new tricks," but Stan's class and instructional abilities defies that phrase. I learned so much from Stan's class that it is impossible for me to share it with you in this brief acknowledgment of his abilities. His class also provided me language and techniques to help coach and guide my personnel at all facets of their career in the critical thinking process. I strongly suggest, if you have an opportunity to attend one of his classes, you jump at the chance. I am certain you will not regret it.

Instructor Bio

Stan Cooke started his career with the Spokane Valley FD in Spokane, Washington, in 1981. He has held the positions of Paramedic, Lieutenant, Captain, and was promoted to Battalion Chief in 2000. He has enjoyed retirement since August of 2018 after 37 fulfilling years in the fire service.

He has been qualified as a Type 3 Incident Commander and was an Incident Commander for one of three Incident Management teams for the Spokane County.

He is also co-developer of the Command Competency Clinic as well as Integrated Tactical Accountability System (ITAC). These two programs have been taught by BC Cooke for individual fire departments, and at fire and life safety conferences in Washington, Idaho, Oregon, and Montana since 1998.

COURSE SYLLABUS

This course follows Critical Thinking concepts and methodologies as structured in Bloom's Taxonomy:

Knowledge, Comprehension, Application, Analysis, Synthesis and Evaluation

Day 1 March 30th 2019. 0800 – 1700 Cherry Ln. Station #6 (21880 NW Cherry Ln Hillsboro, OR)

Growth Mindset introduction

Critical Thinking Overview and Course Objectives

Landmines of Critical Thinking

Bloom's Taxonomy and Art Costa's "Levels of Intellectual Functioning"

Critical Thinking as applied to Risk Management

Pitfalls in Decision Making

NIOSH Reviews – Proximate cause and Behavioral Patterns

Fire Dynamics

- Following Bloom's Taxonomy, we review Fire Dynamics building on Knowledge, Comprehension and Application.
- Stage of Fire, Reading Smoke, Hostile Smoke Environments, Hostile Smoke Events, are all covered in this section.

Analysis Exercise:

- Students work in teams as they answer questions in analyzing structure fires.

Day Two April 2nd 0800 – 1700 Cherry Ln. Station #6 (21880 NW Cherry Ln Hillsboro, OR)

- Continue Analysis Exercises
- Students work in teams as they answer questions applying Synthesis to structure fires.
- Recognition Primed Decision Making/ team exercises applying RPD
- Critical Thinking as applied to Strategy and Tactics
- Criteria evaluation and priorities for Fire Suppression, Ventilation, Search/Rescue
- Building/Fire Triage