



Firefighter Search and Rescue Maze

Revised 07/2017

Purpose: To encourage public service students to develop the physical and sensory skills to conduct a successful search of an area under simulated zero visibility conditions.

Description of Event: Competitors will conduct a primary search of a prepared maze area to rescue a baby as fast as they can. Time starts when the competitor is given orders to begin the rescue and stops when the baby is successfully rescued from the maze area. Additional seconds can be deducted from their time by correctly identifying equipment encountered while in the maze.

Limit: 4 competitors per First Responder chapter unless allowed by judges and competitors present at the competition.

Dress Code: Appropriate dress to include; business attire, chapter uniform or other attire appropriate for the competition, or as directed by your chapter advisor.

Rules and Procedures: Each competitor will don a set of firefighting protective gear, including pants, coat, helmet, gloves and SCBA face piece to wear during the event. A complete SCBA tank/harness may be used if available; the competitor will not be "on-air". During a pre-competition briefing, competitors will be shown items on-hand that are carried and used by firefighters. A minimum of 5 items are then randomly placed into maze without knowledge of which items are chosen:

1. pick head axe
2. flat head axe
3. Haligan bar
4. hydrant wrench
5. spanner wrench
6. flashlight
7. portable radio
8. thermal imaging camera
9. sprinkler wedge
10. rope or webbing

The maze: will consist of a prepared space with the baby, obstacles and equipment spread throughout. It may be as simple or complex as desired by the judges and consistent with firefighting training. Walls may consist of tables, placed onto their sides, forming a path with a clear entrance and exit. If available, a SAR trailer may be used. It is the discretion of the judges to make and maintain the maze prior to the event. At no point may the maze or items placed be modified after competition starts. All competitors must experience the identical conditions.



Rules and procedures: Competitors will don all protective firefighting gear and black-out mask/SCBA. Time starts when the judge gives the order to begin the search. The firefighter must feel the door (or simulated door) and state, “checking the door for heat conditions.” The firefighter then enters the maze and begins searching for the victim. Any and all equipment should be identified and verbalized by the firefighter throughout the maze while searching for the baby. Upon identifying any found equipment and finding the baby, the firefighter exits the maze. Time stops when firefighter exits the maze with or without the baby.

After completing the maze, the firefighter will be given 2 minutes to list all the items found while in the maze. At the end of the 2 minutes, or when all the items are successfully identified, time will be deducted from the contest’s time in the maze to determine the total time for the contestant. Failure to find the baby constitutes a disqualification. Contestants may be sequestered after their competition to maintain maze security.

Awards will be given to the contestants with the lowest time in the maze.

Required Personnel:

1. Chairperson
2. Proctor
3. Recorder
4. Participants

Facilities and Equipment:

1. Firefighting personal equipment
2. Firefighting tools listed
3. A baby doll
4. 18 @ 8’ tables or equivalent
5. Door props or duct tape to mark entrance and exit
6. 2 Stop watches
7. Score sheets



Firefighter Search and Rescue Maze Judge's Winner Sheet

1st Place School

Student

2nd Place School

Student

3rd Place School

Student

4th Place School

Student

5th Place School

Student