

Homer Volunteer Fire Department Gets New Fire Training Facility



We were awarded a matching grant through FEMA, Homeland Security (95% federal funds and 5% City funds) in 2010 and purchased a live-fire training trailer system from Fire Training Structures, LLC of Phoenix, Arizona.

The “system” is comprised of two 40’ connex-type trailers; one houses the burn chamber/prop and the other houses various training possibilities for conducting confined space rescue, firefighter safety & survival, ventilation, laddering, roof ventilation, ceiling removal, bailouts, etc.

The system was delivered in January 2011; technicians from Fire Training Structures, LLC flew up from Arizona in February to unpack and set up the multi-component structure at the former chip pad on the Spit. The company’s instructor flew up in March to conduct an all-day train-the-trainer session; present were fire officers and fire instructors from Homer VFD, Anchor Point VFD, Ninilchik VFD, and KESA. We lit a series of training fires/exercises and led groups of firefighters through the paces.

We are very excited about this training system; it will afford us and neighboring fire departments ample training opportunities in our own backyard. In past years, we’ve had to drive to Kenai and Soldotna for live-fire training. The acquisition of the system is revolutionary in the standard of fire training for departments on the Lower Peninsula.

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