

## NSE firefighters go live training with Fire Blast

By MCSN Lauren Howes

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Firefighters assigned to Naval Station Everett received quarterly training using the mobile Fire Blast trainer on NAVSTA Everett, June 27-30.

The Fire Blast is a 53-foot-long mobile semi-trailer that simulates real-life fire scenarios and is able to provide firefighters with valuable training experience while in a controlled environment.

“The Fire Blast is a good training tool not just because it allows us to refresh our skills and meet our training requirements, but it also allows us to experience the heat factor and actual behavior of a live fire,” said NAVSTA Everett Firefighter and Emergency Medical Technician Kevin Winter.

The Fire Blast meets the mandatory requirements that the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) has set for its annual training that all paid or volunteer fire fighters must complete.

“This unit meets the needs of live fire training through three props: a couch, stove and roll over prop. Each of these props allows the fire fighters to perform their job on an actual fire in a controlled situation,” said NAVSTA Everett Station Capt. Timothy Nold.

Beyond the three requirements that the NFPA has set for annual training the Fire Blast allows the fire fighters to train in different scenarios such as climbing down a scuttle hatch to simulate ship board fire fighting, descending stairs into a basement fire, a ventilation prop which allows the firefighters to practice cutting through a roof and a wall breaching prop that teaches them how to break through sheetrock and make a hole to escape through a wall.

“The Fire Blast rotates not just annually, but quarterly between the different Navy Region Northwest battalions because it is important to keep our training up because we do not get a lot of fires,” said Nold.

The Everett Fire Department was on hand to help perform the live fire training and to ensure all safety regulations were met due to the manning requirements set for live fire training.

“Each time a crew makes entry into the Fire Blast they are required to have two firefighters on a hose line and two more on a backup line, along with one person

operating the Fire Blast, a safety officer and an operations person. Each person has a vital role to ensure that no one gets hurt and that the training is a success," said Nold.



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