



DEPARTMENT OF FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICES
MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MD.

DIRECTIVE

NUMBER: 97-12

July 9, 1997

TO: All DFRS Personnel

FROM: Chief Jon C. Grover, Director
Department of Fire and Rescue Services

SUBJECT: Firefighting Exercises

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jon C. Grover", written over the "FROM:" field of the directive.

Live firefighting exercises are an important component of the training conducted by the fire and rescue services. These activities are designed to provide us the opportunity to conduct actual operations under controlled conditions so that we will be more prepared when a true emergency occurs. It is our goal to support these activities when they are conducted in accordance with accepted safety practices and when such activity is environmentally sound.

Throughout the summer months the Washington, D.C. area is subject to air pollution episodes which threatens everyone's health and safety. These days are identified by the "CODE RED" (unhealthy) and "CODE ORANGE" (just below unhealthy) days in accordance with Council of Governments air quality forecasts. These forecasts are available for the next day by 15:30 hours of the prior day, and can be obtained by telephone at 202-962-3299. They are also readily available through the local news media weather forecasts. Fire rescue service training activities should support good air quality as a part of being environmentally sound.

Effective immediately, DFRS will not sponsor, and DFRS employees must not participate in, any live firefighting activity if there is an existing "CODE RED or CODE ORANGE" air quality condition. The DFRS Shift Chief is authorized to permit continued training during either "CODE RED" or "CODE ORANGE" when cancellation would cause severe hardship, or economic loss to the Department.

JCG/RAJ/lk:\direct5.wpd