12-month fire department drill calendar

A schedule of topics, not a lesson plan. Teach each drill to your state's training standards and your own procedures. The ISO items are Verisk's, from its ISO Mitigation Training page, read November 21, 2026; Verisk decides what it credits.

MONTH	THEME	DRILLS	RELATED ISO TRAINING ITEM
January	**Air packs**	• Don and doff against the clock • Air management: work to the low-air alarm and get out • Mask and pack inspection, written down	Company training
February	**Search and firefighter rescue**	• Oriented search of the station with masks blacked out • Calling a mayday and what the crew does next • Moving a downed firefighter	Company training
March	**Hose and streams**	• Stretch the first line from each engine • Advance a charged line up stairs • Nozzle patterns and flow	Company training
April	**Water supply**	• Hydrant hookup, forward and reverse lay • Drafting from a pond or a portable tank • Tanker shuttle, timed	Company training
May	**Driving and pumping**	• Cone course for every driver • Pump from tank, then switch to hydrant without losing the line • Truck check, done the long way	Driver and operator training
June	**Ladders and ventilation**	• Ground ladder carries and raises • Roof ladder placement • Horizontal and vertical ventilation, on a prop	Company training
July	**Hazardous materials**	• The annual refresher session • Reading placards and the guidebook • Isolate and deny entry: where to park	Hazardous materials training (6 hours a member a year)
August	**Know your buildings**	• Walk two commercial buildings and update their pre-plans • Find the sprinkler and standpipe connections • Utility shut-offs	Building familiarization for pre-fire planning
September	**Live fire and the training ground**	• Live fire evolutions at a training facility • Search and attack together • Rehab and accountability	Use of training facilities (18 hours a firefighter a year)
October	**Command and officers**	• Size-up and the first radio report, from photos • Run a tabletop structure fire • Fire Prevention Week school visits	Classes for officers (12 hours an officer a year)
November	**Salvage, overhaul and cold weather**	• Salvage covers and water chutes • Overhaul and finding hidden fire • Pumping in freezing weather	Company training
December	**Close the year**	• Annual hose test, recorded by length • Total every member's hours against the ISO figures • Plan next year's calendar	Records

Sources: ISO Mitigation: Training; ISO Mitigation: Fire Department Survey.

WatchRoom, fire department records software. getwatchroom.com/guides. Free to copy and hand out.