

June 20, 2008

Advanced Fire Training Specialists
21 Indian Ridge Drive
Biddeford, Maine 04005

Dear David,

On behalf of the Brattleboro Fire Department, I would like to express my gratitude to you and your staff at Advanced Fire Training Specialists for your commitment towards training our Firefighters. The twenty hour Firefighter Survival and Rapid Intervention Teams class held in Brattleboro was an enormous step for our department.

I found the cognitive section of the training to be informative. Prior to the class you had researched our town's commercial, business and residential layouts, as well as the fire departments operational guidelines. This preparation allowed you to speak specifically to issues facing the Brattleboro Fire Department. The information was clear and concise. I am impressed with the ability of the Advanced Fire Training Specialists staff to immediately gain rapport with our firefighters. Because of this, when you challenged individual firefighters to think openly about problems, they did so eagerly and with no animosities. The content of the classroom carried over to the training ground, supporting the overall message.

During the psychomotor skills section of the class, all of the instructors displayed a depth of knowledge appropriate for the training. The skills learned by all of our firefighters and officers will be used on the fire ground. Your staff coordinated small group work stations that allowed all of your staff to be working all of the time. Most importantly, you were able to create a safe environment for us to realistically train on dangerous live saving techniques. During these exercises, your staff's attitude was positive and energetic. While the message was clear "we are going to continue to work at this until everyone has achieved competency", at no time was any firefighter belittled or made to feel inadequate. Your final evolutions both fit the objectives of learning and the time schedule.

It is nice to meet all of the objectives of a class in the time frame allotted without having to rush through or omit a section. At no time did I feel that there were shortcuts and believe that the "lessons learned" round table was valuable to all. Because of Advanced Fire Training Specialists, our firefighters and officers are now more prepared to handle a situation where a firefighter needs assistance.

Sincerely,

Peter Lynch
Assistant Fire Chief
Brattleboro Fire Department