

International Firefighters Assistance, Inc.

A Global Mission to Protect the Public

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Report of Public Safety Workshop

At Hotel Villa Creole in Petion-ville, Haiti

Sponsored by FAVACA



DATE: October 14th, 2009

ATTENTION: **Chris Beyer**, FAVACA program coordinator, CC: **Mr. Roger Dunwell**, Owner & Executive Director of Hotel Villa Creole

WRITTEN & PREPARED By: **Lt. Nathan Lasseur** and **Gayl Nye**, IFA Instructors

This report is an assessment of the Public Safety Workshop given by International Firefighters Assistance, Inc. (IFA). This training was presented from October 5th - 7th at Hotel Villa Creole in Petion-ville, Haiti and was given by two IFA instructors: Lieutenant Nathan Lasseur, a firefighter/paramedic and CPR instructor from West Palm Beach Fire Rescue and Gayl Nye, a retired firefighter/paramedic and Advance Cardiac Life Support (ACLS) instructor with Florida Heart CPR in Vero Beach, Florida. The course was given to three (3) groups over a three (3) days period. A total of 48 participants received "Certificate of Training" from this workshop.

The report will include:

1. Walk through of entire facility, listing observations of fire & medical safety concerns.
2. Recognition of hazards, extinguisher and fire safety classroom training.
3. Practical scenarios using live fire for training staff how to use fire extinguishers.
4. Hands on Basic first-aid and CPR training.
5. Practical scenarios using poolside water rescue techniques.
6. All agendas and power point presentations will be attached.
7. Written evaluations and verbal feedback provided by students.
8. Cumulative list of observations and recommendations to be left with staff.



Hotel Villa Creole, Petion-ville, Haiti

Day 1

IFA members Lt. Nate Lasseur and Instructor Gayl Nye met with Mr. Roger Dunwell, owner & executive director of Hotel Villa Creole, and were welcomed very graciously to Villa Creole in Petion-ville, Haiti. Our goal was to discuss what Mr. Dunwell's expectations of training were, where the training room was located, what the audio visual equipment set up was, and what the hours of training were.

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Mr. Dunwell took us on a tour of the hotel grounds and buildings so we could get a general feel for the goals of safety training. We collectively decided to make a list of observations of hazards and needs, and make recommendations to Mr. Dunwell to address these needs. Our goal was to create a list that the staff could easily accomplish after we departed. We discussed some safety concerns that we observed during the tour with Mr. Dunwell. We also met with staff members from different departments whom would be attending the workshop.

After the tour we worked on our presentations and agenda for the next three training days and decided what each instructor would cover for the classroom portion.

Lt. Lasseur was to cover Fire Safety in Hotel Facilities, smoke detectors and fire extinguishers and proceed to the hands on portion of extinguishing fires in the morning session. Instructor Nye would follow up in the subsequent afternoon sessions to teach Basic First Aid, CPR, choking and proceed to the pool to work together with Lt. Lasseur on water safety and basic (dry) rescue techniques.

Training Days: October 5th, 6th, and 7th (0800-1200 and 1300-1730 hrs.)



We arrived at the training room each day by 0745. The staff seemed eager to learn and was actively engaged in the lecture portion of the course. Many relevant questions were discussed during this time period. The staff related that they could think of many hazards in their workplace that could be easily remedied by taking immediate action. The training days were broken into Groups 1, 2, and 3. Each group came for only four hours each day; one morning session and one afternoon session, but not on the same day. This kept the groups fresh and interested.



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HOTEL FIRE SAFETY Presentation: Emergency action plan, evacuation of guest, alarm systems & smoke detectors, fire hazard recognition, fire prevention.

FIRE EXTINGUISHER Training: fire extinguishers: ABC class fires, PASS method, handling fire extinguishers, safety demonstration and student participation in extinguishing fires.

Lt.Lasseur's presentation on fire extinguishers was, according to staff, very important and relevant. There were many extinguishers installed throughout the facility but the staff had not been trained on how to use them. The fire extinguisher lecture was supplemented by the Haitian National fire chief, Commander Donald Gregory William who graciously volunteered his expertise during the entire three days of training. The class then moved to an outside location to actually extinguish live fires. The staff seemed really pleased with this portion of the training and said they felt much more comfortable with the extinguishers after the training.



Commander Donald Gregory William, - Haitian National Fire Chief



IFA Instructor Gayl Nye,
Florida Heart CPR

Basics of First Aid: bandaging, seizures, shock, bleeding.

Instructor Nye's presentation on First Aid was relevant to prioritizing what to do in an emergency, including recognizing emergencies, introducing themselves as staff that could help, and learning the basics of medical and injury emergencies. Again, many thoughtful questions were answered and we felt the staff was actively engaged in this training.

CPR Training: for adults, children, and demonstration of CPR for infants.

CPR followed the first aid lecture, and the staff was very pleased to find out how easy it was to help in an emergency. One student told us the following day that he had gone home and immediately taught his wife and neighbor how to help a person who is choking.



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Water Safety Training: poolside water rescue without entry, using buoys and rescue aids, removing victims safely from the water and positioning for CPR.



Perhaps the most fun training of the sessions was the water safety and rescue. Students who had no confidence in or around the pool learned how to rescue a struggling guest or bring an unconscious person to the side of the pool and position them for removal and possibly CPR.

The students, mostly non-swimmers, practiced poolside rescue scenarios using equipment that were donated by IFA. We felt the staff really enjoyed this training which was also very beneficial to the hotel.



Summary

After talking to some of the staff from the individual groups we feel this training was as successful as we could make it. We were prepared for the expected number of people, our subject matter was very relevant to the expectations of the staff, and the hands-on training was exceptionally well suited to the needs of the hotel. Other considerations:

- The staff approached us individually and repeatedly told us how relevant this training would be for the staff and their families.
- The staff was willing to adopt a training committee to continue with our recommendations on future training, recognizing hazards and training new staff.
- We only trained a portion of the staff (48 students), and Mr. Dunwell expressed interest in training more staff and even opening his facility to outside training if other groups were interested.
- Written evaluations were gathered randomly to get a feel for what was important in this training.

International Firefighters Assistance, Inc. (IFA) is a registered 501(c)3 non-profit organization in Florida that provides humanitarian assistance, support, education and training to firefighters and emergency rescue workers in underprivileged countries. Through our relief programs, we hope to strengthen local communities by assisting its citizens to better prepare for emergencies and disasters. Please visit www.IFArelief.org for more information.

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PHOTOS *Public Safety Workshop at Hotel Villa Creole – Petion-ville, Haiti.*

