



International **Firefighters Assistance, Inc.**

A Global Mission to Protect the Public

Emergency Preparedness Training Project Report Compagnie Des Tabacs Comme Il Faut *Port-au-Prince, Haiti*

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This report is an assessment of the Emergency Preparedness Workshop given by International Firefighters Assistance, Inc. (IFA) to the staff of **Compagnie Des Tabacs Comme Il Faut**, an international tobacco manufacturer based in Port au Prince, Haiti with approximately 300 employees.

Our service was requested to train selected members of Comme Il Faut with the basic knowledge of fire safety and medical emergencies. The course was held in Port-au-

Prince, Haiti from February 21st -22nd, 2011 and given by several IFA instructors: Nate Lasseur, Gayl Nye, Edrace Petit-Jeune, and Antoinier Thimote. A total of 62 staff members participated in this two day (16 hours) workshop. The training included: lecture, skill stations, hands on practice and a live fire scenario. It was delivered in a *“Train-the-Trainer”* format so the students can pass on the new skills to their colleagues, family and friends. All participants received a *Certificate of Training* at the completion of this workshop. This training serves as a major step in implementing a plan to better prepare the people of Haiti for emergencies and disasters.

IFA also performed a Fire & Life Safety assessment of the facility in January 2011. Our team was able to identify many potential fire hazards throughout the complex. A report of the observations and recommendations was given and discussed with management of Comme Il Faut.



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IFA instructors arrived each day at the training site at 0700 to review situational and classroom areas and set up for the day's lectures. The participants were evenly divided into two groups. Each group rotated through four (4) training stations which consisted of the following modules: **Medical Disaster Operations, CPR & Basic Medical emergencies, Fire Safety in the workplace and Fire Extinguisher Operation.**

Day 1: Monday, February 21st, 2011

Medical Disaster Operations: Basic first aid emergencies, Triage

Instructors: *Gayl Nye & Lt. Edrace Petit-Jeune*

Instructors Gayl Nye, of Florida Heart CPR in Vero Beach Florida and Edrace Petit-Jeune an EMS Lieutenant and paramedic with Pembroke Pines Fire Rescue delivered a presentation on basic medical operations. The training was intended to teach the students to prioritize what to do in an emergency. Topics included recognizing emergencies, introducing themselves as rescuers that could help, and learning the basics of medical and injury emergencies. Many thoughtful questions were asked by the staff and we felt that the staff was actively engaged in this training. The staff practiced bleeding control and bandaging on each other during the practical portion of the class. Also beneficial was learning to triage a large number of victims in a mass casualty incident. It was explained to the students that in the event of a building collapse or fire at the facility, they could coordinate to assist as many people as possible.



CPR Training: Adult, child and infant CPR and choking.

Instructors: *Nate Lasseur & Antoinier Thimote*



This component of the training which reviewed the steps of CPR for adults, children, and infants, and choking for all age groups, was presented by instructors Nate Lasseur, an operations lieutenant and paramedic with West Palm Beach Fire Rescue and firefighter/paramedic Antoine Thimote from Miami-Dade Fire Rescue. Many of the staff had not had any previous CPR training, and were excited and very willing to learn this basic lifesaving skill.

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Day 2: Tuesday, February 22nd, 2011

Fire Safety in the Workplace & Fire Extinguisher Operations

Instructors: Nate Lasseur, Edrace Petit-Jeune and Antonine Thimote



Lt. Nate Lasseur delivered a presentation on fire safety in the workplace, which included a power point lecture with extensive examples of common fire hazards found throughout the facility. Students were familiarized with situations that increased the risk of fires, the classes of fire, fire hazards, and obstructions to fire safety and means of egress (escape) as well as evacuation procedures. The students asked pertinent questions relating to their environment.

The class then moved to an outside location to actually extinguish live fires with Lt. Edrace Petit-Jeune and firefighter Antonine Thimote. The students seemed pleased with this portion of the training and said they felt much more comfortable with using the extinguishers after the training.

Summary

After hearing feedback from staff, we felt that the training was successful and relevant to the environment and needs of the staff. We were prepared for the expected number of people, our subject matter met and exceeded the expectations of the students, and the hands-on training was well suited to the needs of the staff.

Note: *During the training, we learned that the facility is not in possession of a defibrillator. In the event of a cardiac arrest at the factory, an automated external defibrillator (AED) may be the only chance of surviving the event. IFA strongly urges you to consider placement of an AED in the clinic area and conduct training of the staff to use it.*

On behalf of the staff at IFA, we thank Comme Il Faut for allowing us the opportunity to train this invaluable group of individuals. There is no doubt the students will take their newfound skills and make a significant difference in their communities.

Thanks,

Nate

Nathaniel Lasseur

Founder & President

International Firefighters Assistance, Inc.

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International Firefighters Assistance, Inc. (IFA) is a non- profit organization 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.

For more information on our initiatives, please visit our website:

www.IFArelief.org