



## **NEWS RELEASE**

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### **(Rope Drill Builds Firefighters' Skills)**

Hillsboro firefighters are undergoing skill-building drills in rescuing people who are injured and stranded down steep embankments. The drills are useful particularly at motor vehicle accidents where the car has left the road and traveled into a ravine. Fire Department trainers are conducting these low-angle rope rescue drills Tuesday, April 7<sup>th</sup> through Thursday, April 9<sup>th</sup> at SW 231<sup>st</sup> and Baseline. The exercises are designed to give veteran firefighters practice and to provide rookies some additional time actually performing some of the skills they learned in their three-month long firefighter training academy and year-long probationary period.

“Basic components of these drills have been going on inside the fire stations for a number of weeks now,” said Lieutenant Brian Washam, Hillsboro Fire Department’s Training Officer. “We’re taking the accumulated segment skills and putting it all together to perform a complete rescue drill on a 175-pound rescue dummy.”

A three-person team attaches a rescue basket to ropes and the team is lowered down the embankment together to the patient. A paramedic on the rescue team assesses the patient’s injuries. The team immobilizes the patient on a backboard and then lashes the patient into the rescue basket. Meanwhile, additional firefighters above are assembling a rope and pulley hauling system to pull the patient and rescue crew back up the hill.

“Our firefighters assigned to Station 3, which houses our Technical Rescue equipment, have the most practice and skill in this area,” Washam said. “But, it is the first arriving engine company that may have to perform the actual rescue or assist in assembling the rope rescue system and that’s why everyone needs to have these skills,” he added.

The drills are being conducted from 9:00 am to noon each of the three days. Hillsboro Fire Department has 75 firefighters responding from four fire stations in the city. For more information on Hillsboro Fire Department, visit: [www.ci.hillsboro.or.us/fire](http://www.ci.hillsboro.or.us/fire) or call 503-681-6166.

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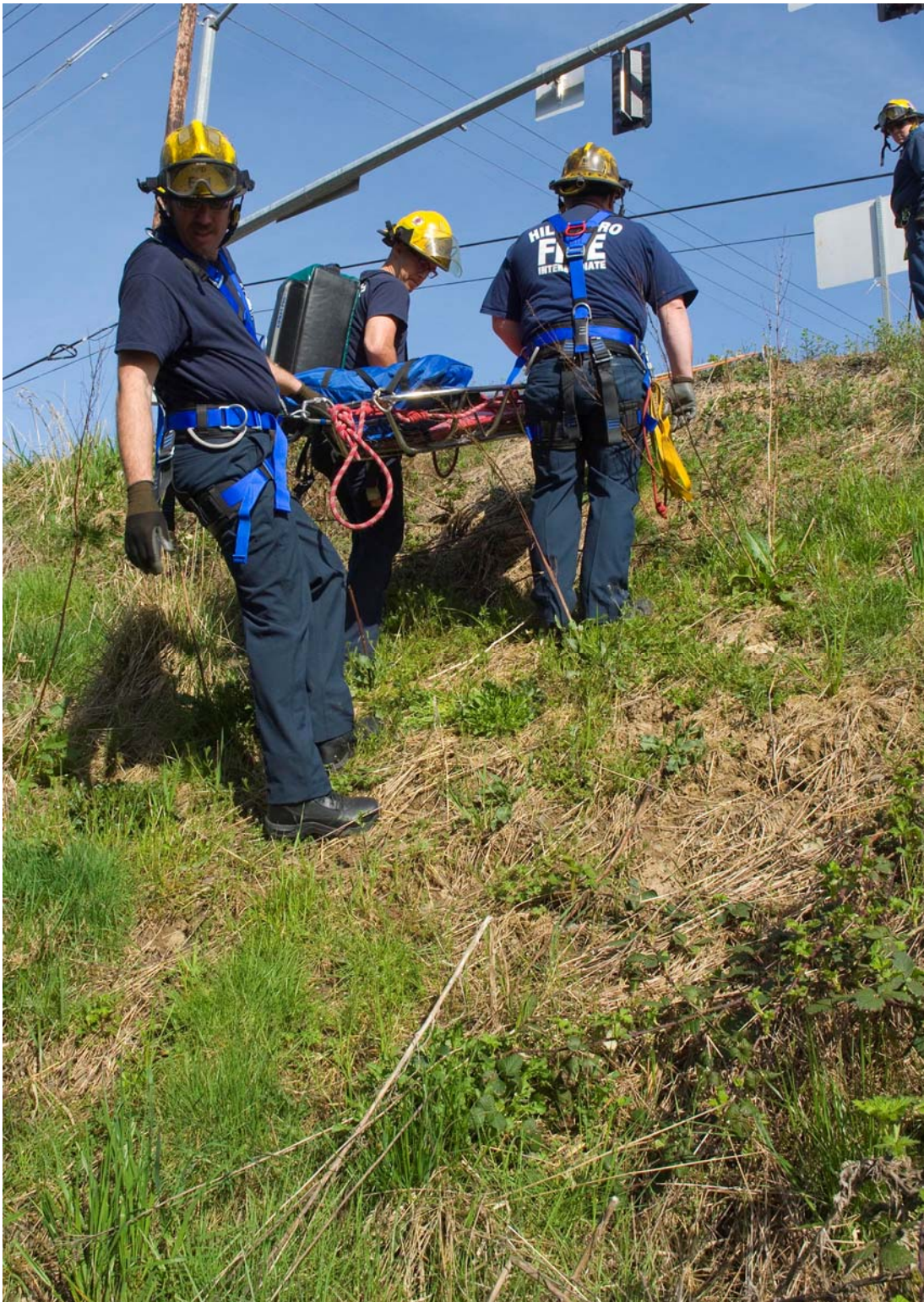


Photo Caption: Rope Drill 5266.jpg

Hillsboro Firefighter Matt Patterson (l) guides Firefighter Justin Finney (c) and Engineer Randy Tegan (r) down a steep embankment toward their patient, a 175-pound practice dummy. They are taking part in three days of rope rescue training at SW 231<sup>st</sup> and Baseline.

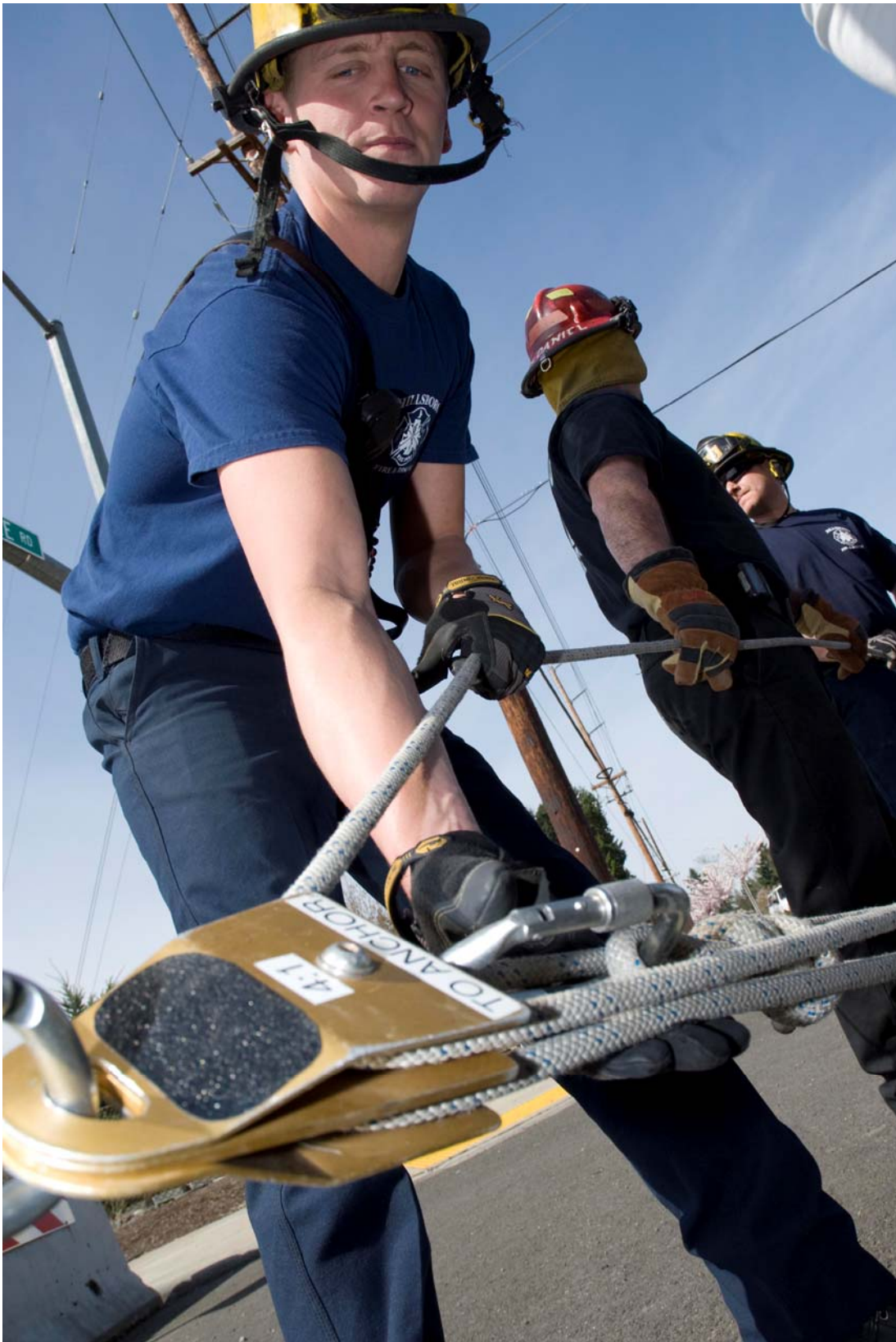


Photo Caption: Rope Drill 5294.jpg

Hillsboro Firefighter Brent Wellington double-checks rope rigging before he and other firefighters begin hauling up a team that had rescued a 175-pound training dummy from a ravine. The exercise is part of three days of rescue training being conducted each morning at SW 231<sup>st</sup> and Baseline in Hillsboro.