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Members of the Carlisle Barracks Fire Department respond to an alarm at the “Old Mill” on Route 11 as part of their monthly training program. Training at the mill is valuable because it allows the crews to experience working in small and dark areas.

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Sometimes firefighters have to do more than just put out the fire – that was the lesson of a recent Carlisle Barracks fire department training at the “Old Mill” on post.

As part of their regular training program, the post firefighters responded to a simulated fire at the mill, located on Route 11. Once they arrived they not only had to contend with the fire, but search for survivors and deal with an out-of-control “resident” of the building, (played by another member of the DES team.)

“We train for a variety of different scenarios during our weekly and monthly exercises,” said Chief Jim O’Connell, Carlisle Barracks Fire Chief. “We make sure that each member of our crew gets regular training on each of the scenarios.” The trainings usually occur over a two day period.

Training at the mill is valuable because it allows the crews to experience working in small and dark areas.

“You never know what the call coming in is going to be for,” said O’Connell. “The mill allows us to gain value experience in the event we have to respond to an incident where there is little to no light.”

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