



Julie Slack/Metroland

From left, Colin Widdis, Jeff Dowler and acting captain Martin Yates of the Milton Fire Department, take part in training exercises at the Richardson Chevrolet building at the corner of Regional Road 25 and Derry Road.

Real-life environment allows crews to further skill sets

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had to ventilate the building.

It also lets other crews practise search and rescue with simulated smoke conditions.

"If this was in a real situation, we would have a crew on the inside doing either fire attack and search, and the other crews going to the roof to cut the holes to allow the smoke to leave the building so then they would have better visibili-

ty," he explained.

"Even though we are training in two separate topics, when you put it all together, it is a co-ordinated effort: ventilation sector on the roof, fire one would be looking for the fire, then the search one, they'd be searching for people."

Hose-line advancement is very important as well, he noted, since the crews have to be able to guide the hoses up stairs and around corners in the case of a real fire.

Last week, crews were using saws to cut holes into the roof - sometimes it was the first time a firefighter had an opportunity to do such an entry.

"So, it's kind of a big deal for the guys to get their hands on the tools and cut a flat roof," he said.

Those skills are key in real-life situations such as the recent house fire that crews were able to knock down quickly due to training like MFD continually takes part in.

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