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Pentagon Park building goes up in smoke — for a good cause

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[Sam Black](#)

Senior reporter- Minneapolis / St. Paul Business Journal

[Email](#) | [Twitter](#) | [Google+](#)

About a dozen fire departments from around the Twin Cities held a training exercise last week in Edina at the Pentagon Park office complex.

The Edina Fire Department hosted agencies from several western suburbs, the city of Minneapolis and the **Metropolitan Airports Commission** to practice firefighting skills in a 6-story south tower at 4940 W. 77th St. overlooking Highway 100.

The events, which occurred between Nov. 18-20, were concentrated on the third floor of the tower. Fire fighters tried attacking fires they started in parts of the building like they would a regular fire in a high rise. They also did search and rescue training in part of the building that was filled with smoke to make it as dark as possible, according to [a blog post by Edina City Manager Scott Neal](#).

Neal thanked **Hillcrest Development** principal [Scott Tankenoff](#) for letting the fire department use the building.

"It's such a rare occurrence for us to get such an opportunity to train firefighters like this," Neal said. "Not only to use a building to tear down but then to have an actual fire inside the building."

The training took place about a month after [a unique ground-breaking event](#) where local business and government officials [got to spray paint goodbye messages](#) to the building.

Hillcrest is still working on its plans for the site once the building is razed and gets prepped for redevelopment. Some mixture of hotel, office and retail space will replace the existing buildings [as part of Hillcrest's \\$500 million redevelopment](#) of the overall Pentagon Park business campus.

Sam Black covers real estate, manufacturing and economic development.