

Law Week on CD

—by Rory Olsen

After considerable effort, planning, producing, and validating of the POST Law Week Curriculum on CD—the time has arrived for the next step. We are pleased to announce we are quickly approaching the release date of Law Week on CDs!

I would like to take a few moments and share with you the process we have going through to get to this point. We started by bring together key instructors of the law week material. As you can imagine, it was not an easy task to bring together that many attorneys all at the same time but we finally got it done. Once they established what the objectives needed to be and the content materials, it was time to convert it to computer format. This required scheduling these same instructors to travel to The BackUp Corporation offices in north Idaho so each section of instruction could be videotaped. Once this was accomplished, The BackUp worked at combining the video portions with text sections to complete training sessions. The first drafts then went back to the instructors for review and approval. Once the instructors signed off on the CD, it was on to the next step.

The testing stage was next. We hand picked six people to test the law week CDs for us. We picked individuals with different backgrounds. We had males and females, people with college degrees, with some college but no degree, and with no college. We had people who were challenging for certification in Idaho and people who had never been certified but were scheduled to attend an upcoming academy. Each of these individuals went through all ten of the law week CDs. This entailed answering all of the interactive questions and the entire bank of test questions on each CD. Once they had completed all ten CDs, each participant was given a traditional paper and pencil Law Week examination. After taking the paper test we asked each participant to provide us with feedback about the CDs and any problems they encountered. During this process, we tracked commonly missed test questions and worked with instructors to correct problem test questions.

We are now in the final steps of the Law Week on CD project. We assembled a group of agency heads to advise and guide us on implementing the CD program. This advisory group recommended the material be made available for use for In-Service, Challenge Officers, Reserve Level I training and, of course, Basic Academies—immediately upon the availability of the program. We are currently making contact with each of the instructors again and asking them to check over the CDs they worked on for any changes that may need to be done in light of the last state legislative session. We hope to start distributing Law Week CDs to agencies during the month of August this year.

Because State Laws could change each year...

PLEASE NOTE: Because changes in the law could impact academy curriculum and instruction, basic academy applicants must provide a certificate of completion for the current curriculum version for the academy year whether or not they participated in other prior versions of that curriculum.