



Tactical Consideration 2: Pre-Suppression Window Initiated Search Into Isolated Space

Continuing the Conversation:
*Search and Rescue Tactics in Single-Family,
Single-Story Residential Structures*

Explore the main findings from this study and view the associated videos to review this tactical consideration. Then, use the reflection questions on the reverse side to continue the conversation with your crew.

SUMMARY OF MAIN FINDINGS

Let's say you arrive on the fireground and need to commence search, prior to the start of suppression. Your crew has identified an isolated space during size-up. Consider having your crew enter the structure via a window into that isolated space in order to begin searching.

Conditions will not deteriorate by venting into an already isolated space. Since the door is closed, the flow of gases from the fire to the newly created vent will be limited.

If you are able to continue searching beyond that space, remember to close the door behind you. This helps preserve the integrity of the isolated space and also provides a place of refuge if need be.

The protection a closed door offers is not infinite and you still need to work to suppress the fire. However, a closed door can help to reduce exposures to trapped occupants and searching firefighters.

VIEW THE EVIDENCE

Watch how ventilation into an isolated space does not negatively change conditions during search and rescue operations ahead of suppression.



ADDITIONAL RESOURCE

Rooms that are already closed before a fire starts can give firefighters a crucial advantage. The public can play a part in making that happen. To learn more about how the public can potentially save lives in a fire by closing doors, visit closeyourdoor.org to help spread the word.





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Scan the QR codes to hear commentary from this project's fire service technical panel members. Then, use the reflection questions to continue the conversation with your crew.

HEAR FROM THE TECHNICAL PANEL

Scan the QR code to watch commentary from Chief David Wolf of the Estes Valley Fire Protection District on this tactical consideration.



REFLECTION QUESTIONS

1. A closed door limits the flow of combustion gases into a room. How does your agency value these kinds of already isolated spaces during search and rescue operations? Think about how an already isolated compartment can serve as a place of refuge for trapped occupants or firefighters operating on the interior. Discuss what information you can gain about the structure and the fire by conducting an 'interior size-up' from entry into an isolated compartment.
2. Chief Wolf said "We have an opportunity to educate our communities" around the importance of closed doors and how they can lead to better outcomes for trapped occupants and searching firefighters during a fire. How can your agency take advantage of this opportunity and amplify prevention messaging about closed doors within your community?
3. How long does it take for you and your crew members to take a window and enter the structure? How do your times change as the window sill height increases or decreases? How does your time change if you're entering from the ground or via a ladder? Is your company officer aware of the average times of you and your fellow crew members?