



## Tactical Consideration 3: Pre-Suppression Isolation of Spaces

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 search crew has entered the structure, either through the front door or window. As you begin your search, consider compartmentalizing spaces that you come across. Closing the door to these rooms isolates them from the flow of combustion gases.

Once the room is isolated, you can open exterior vents (doors and windows) to remove accumulated combustion gases. The open exterior doors and windows in these isolated spaces will improve conditions and increase tenability for any occupants since the interior door is closed.

### VIEW THE EVIDENCE

Watch how conditions improved in a room that was isolated after entry and ahead of suppression.



Watch how conditions improved in bedrooms that were isolated and then ventilated during a door-initiated search for a kitchen fire.





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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 Technician Chris Finelli of the DC Fire and EMS Department on this tactical consideration.



### REFLECTION QUESTIONS

1. How does your agency use ventilation as a tool? Is it a tactic that only happens during or after suppression has started? Have you performed ventilation ahead of suppression before?
2. Technician Finelli said that compartmentalization is “key to preventing the flow of toxic gas, heat, and pressure throughout a structure and keeping it away from survivable space.” How does your agency currently value isolation as a tactic?
3. This tactical consideration is asking you to coordinate isolation and ventilation during search and rescue operations. Does your agency currently perform these two tactics in conjunction? When conducting search training, how do you communicate which tactic is being performed with your officer or with your crew? How can you train to improve that coordination?