



## Tactical Consideration 4: Pre-Suppression Isolation of Fire Compartments

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

Explore the main findings from this study and scan the QR code to hear commentary from this project's fire service technical panel members. Then, use the reflection questions on the reverse side to continue the conversation with your crew.

### SUMMARY OF MAIN FINDINGS

When searching, consider isolating the fire compartment from other spaces. Closing the door to a bedroom fire, for example, can help limit the flow of combustion gases and improve conditions in other areas of the structure where trapped occupants may be.

If the fire is in a more open space, consider limiting sources of oxygen supply. By closing the front door during a living room or kitchen fire, searching firefighters can help limit fire growth.

If fire room isolation is not possible, such as in situations where the door has burned completely through, remember you can still isolate then ventilate non-fire rooms to improve conditions.

### 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.





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### REFLECTION QUESTIONS

1. As a searching firefighter, how would you approach this tactical consideration? Have you considered closing the door to a fire compartment when you pass by it? After entering the structure, what are situations where you would first look for the fire compartment to isolate it before moving on to search other spaces?
2. This consideration also mentions closing the front door behind you when searching ahead of suppression to limit the oxygen supply to a kitchen, living room or common space fire. Have you or other members of your crew performed this tactic during incidents before? How did it go?
3. Technician Finelli mentioned that as firefighters “We can’t control the rate of fire growth prior to arrival, but we don’t have to wait for suppression either”. As a searching firefighter, how can you play a role in preventing conditions from deteriorating further in a structure?