



## Tactical Consideration 6: Post-Suppression Ventilation 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

If you are searching post-suppression, consider opening previously isolated spaces. You should also start creating additional ventilation openings (exterior doors and windows) to help remove accumulated combustion gases from the structure to improve conditions throughout.

While suppression is effective at reducing temperatures and the production of combustion gases, ventilation is needed to remove lingering combustion gases.

By facilitating the removal of combustion gases as you search, you can help reduce exposures for firefighters and any trapped occupants still in the structure. Ventilation will also improve visibility for searching firefighters, which provides the ability for a quicker and more effective search.

### VIEW THE EVIDENCE

Watch how ventilation further improved conditions during a search that occurred after suppression.





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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 Captain Richard Ray from the Creedmoor Volunteer Fire Department on this tactical consideration.



### REFLECTION QUESTIONS

1. When does your agency start creating ventilation openings to help with search? Do you start as soon as primary suppression has been completed? Or do you wait for search operations to finish first?
2. How do you coordinate with your team on the fireground to make sure ventilation is happening at the right time? How can that coordination be improved? What are your current communication triggers?
3. Captain Ray mentioned that "Sometimes coordination may not be achieved and sometimes we have to [perform tactics] in sequence." With your agency's unique resource and staffing model, how do you decide what tactics can happen simultaneously or be sequenced? When you do need to sequence tactics, how do you decide what happens first? How can you use this tactical consideration to inform your decision on when to ventilate?