



BUILDING BETTER FIREFIGHTERS

THE 5 MINUTE TRUCK CLINIC™

BY BRYAN T SMITH

FORCIBLE ENTRY SIZE-UP

Now that we're familiar with the tools and steps to perform conventional forcible entry we will discuss how to perform a proper size-up.

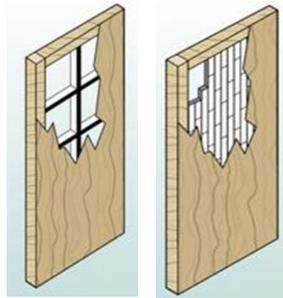
We will need to Determine; The need for forcible entry Before we start forcing make sure the door isn't unlocked!

The door swing
Inward swinging doors open into the occupancy



Outward swinging doors open toward the outside of the occupancy.

The doors construction
Doors are constructed of primarily wood or metal and are either hollow on a frame or of solid material.



Hollow Solid

The number of locks



The more locks you encounter the more difficult and time consuming forcible entry will be.

Conditions behind the door
You need to consider what the fire and smoke conditions will be once you force the door. You may need a charged hand line or a water extinguisher in place before you start and you will need to be able to control the door!



TYPES of LOCKS

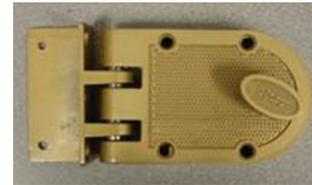
Key in Knob Lock



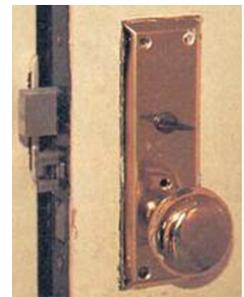
Tubular Dead Bolt



Rim Lock



Mortise Lock



GET IT RIGHT THE FIRST TIME

The time to find out about unusual forcible entry challenges in your response district is not when you arrive at a fire. You need to pay attention to the different type doors and locks you will encounter when responding to gas leaks, automatic alarms, medical calls or out doing inspections or shopping for the meal.

Carry a digital camera and take pictures of the things you see and share it with the members of your company. Conduct training and talk about the best way to force these doors. You can preload a lot of information ahead of time that can enhance your ability to conduct a good size-up and make good forcible entry decisions on the fire ground.

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