

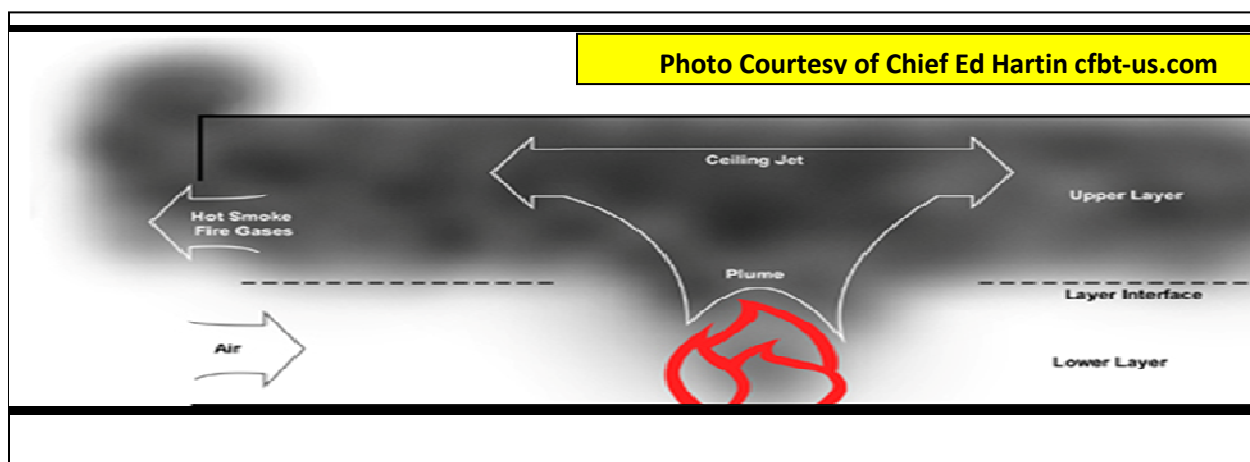
By John Shafer

**Air Track:** Related to smoke, air track is the movement of both smoke (generally out from the fire area) and air (generally in towards the fire area).

### Air Track Observations:

- Start from exterior during Size-Up
- Pay close attention to air track after forcing the door.
- Even though you will be in the air in- take after making entry still pay attention to the air flow and location of neutral plane.

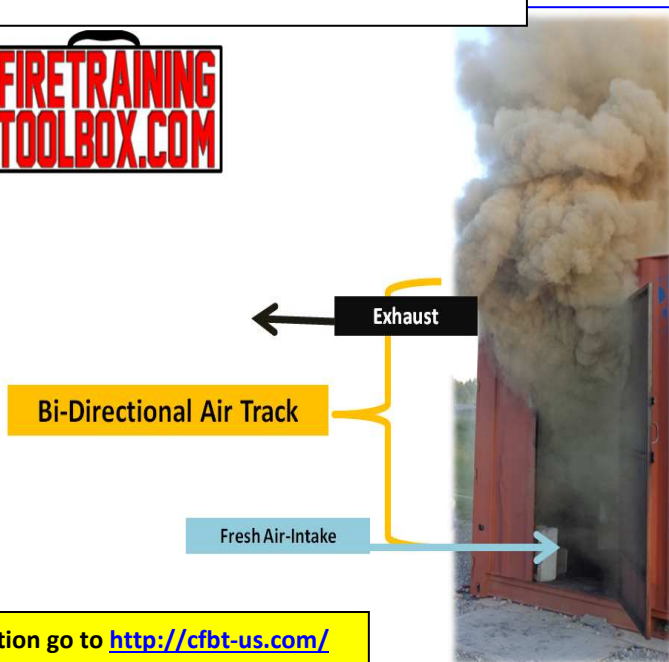
Photo Courtesy of Chief Ed Hartin cfbt-us.com



### Air Track Factors:

- **Direction:** What direction is the smoke and air moving at specific openings? Is it moving in, out, both directions (bi-directional), or is it pulsing in and out?
- **Wind:** What is the wind direction and velocity? Wind is a critical indicator as it can mask other smoke and air track indicators as well as serving as a potentially hazardous influence on fire behavior
- **Velocity & Flow:** High velocity, turbulent smoke discharge is indicative of high temperature. However, it is essential to consider the size of the opening as velocity is determined by the area of the discharge opening and the pressure. Velocity of air is also an important indicator.

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**BEWARE of no visible air track indicators upon arrival this could possibly indicate that the fire is ventilation controlled in the early Decay Stage!**