



TACTICAL TABLE TOPS



13-003

Primary Search Options—Chief Forest Reeder

Discussion Questions

1. What factors should be considered when sizing-up for search? How should a building be evaluated for search potential?
2. Name examples of situations that may require the use of the VES concept.
3. Where should primary searches on the fire floor begin? What about the floor above?
4. What personal equipment **must** be taken in for the search of a residential building? A commercial building?
5. See practical on back of page, assume fire in kitchen. What is your search pattern? Discuss as a shift.

Oriented Search

The oriented search is an alternative to the “traditional” (the daisy chain or the you go left, I go right and we meet in the middle) type of search. The oriented search is designed for standard residential buildings—houses, apartments, town homes, or in other words the majority of buildings we search. **It is also designed for the reality of 2 person search teams.**

The key concepts of oriented search are FOCUS and CREW SAFETY. Other key points are:

- The officer remains in a central area (top of stairs, hallway, door to room) while the other searchers conduct the search.
- The oriented person (officer) is responsible for watching conditions, searching the immediate area, communicating with command, and keeping track of the location of the searchers.
- The “**3 in—3 out**” method is used by searchers to cover the center of the room.

Vent-Enter-Search (VES)

Vent-Enter-Search is a search method used when the situation demands that a rapid entry to the building be accomplished by other than the normal means and prior to the initiation of fire attack.

- VES is a conscious effort to **vent** a selected area,
- **enter** through the vent point, and **search** for trapped occupants.
- VES is intended to place searchers in the areas where victims will most likely be located.
- VES **is not** a suitable tactic for every situation, but when there is a reliable report of possible trapped occupants, it is often the fastest, most efficient, and safest means of reaching those victims.

VES is indicated when conditions do not permit waiting for an attack line to be in place to begin the search—it is decided upon after weighing the risk to firefighters vs. the anticipated benefit (saving victims)



