

By Lt. John Shafer

VENTILATION OF V.E.S

Definition:

Vent-Enter-Search (VES) is when firefighters either create openings, or break windows to gain access from an exterior position to carry out a primary search in a high-risk area of a structure.

The Ventilation occurs when we break the window to make entry.

Many teach that the window can be taken from the ground by throwing the ladder through the window. This however can be dangerous to the firefighter and will also increase the chances of the fire flashing over and killing the occupants because of modern fuel loads and ventilation controlled fires.

Recent UL tests show that the average time from ventilation "to the point where conditions become untenable for firefighters, even in full PPE, 100 seconds for the one-story house and 200 seconds for the two-story house.

Considering this information the time from ventilation until the room lights up is a VERY SMALL window of time therefore it is important to not take the window until you have the ladder in place at the window sill and are ready to make entry and isolate that room by closing the door!

Also keep in mind that by breaking the glass from the ladder will put you higher up in the air and allow you to better assess if there is a strong wind and a chance of a wind-driven event!!

The Vent & Enter part of V.E.S is making a new ventilation opening for the fire. Therefore it is extremely important to be aware that you are adding air to the environment and creating a new flow path.

This flow path MUST BE isolated immediately by closing the door inside the room!

Flow Path Definition:

- ✘ The movement of heat and smoke from the higher air pressure within the fire area to all other lower air pressure areas both inside and outside of a fire building.

Ladder used to break window from the ground



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Breaking the glass on the ladder after everyone is geared and ready to enter!

This could allow you thirty seconds to a minute of more time to make it inside to the door to isolate the room before hostile fire event!!!



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