

FIREHOUSE®

Weekly Drill

DRILL #67: FORCIBLE ENTRY PART III

Introduction

In Part 3 of this series, we will look at the outward-swinging door and what tactics we are going to use to make a forcible entry. In general, outward-swinging doors are found on commercial establishments, where building codes require them. The principles for forcing them are basically the same as for forcing inward-swinging doors.

The forks of the irons are tapped between the door and jamb, just above or below the lock. Once in place, the Halligan is pushed in the direction of the jamb. There may be some instances when the forks will not be able to be used (such as doors that sit in a cove or recessed area). In this particular situation, the adz end of the Halligan should be used by tapping it between the door and jamb. This places the Halligan parallel with the door. Once in position, pull on the tool, which will force the door.

Cylinder Locks

As mentioned, most outward-swinging doors are found on commercial establishments. These commercial-style doors usually have a cylinder-lock assembly. Another method for gaining access into structures using these cylinder locks is known as through-the-lock. In many instances, this method is much faster and causes less damage than the conventional use of the irons to force entry.

The through-the-lock method is going to require some additional tools. There are several commercially sold tools on the market, such as the K-tool, the A-tool and the lock-pulling tool or slide hammer. There is also a large assortment of personally fabricated devices made by individual firefighters. The general principle is to pull the lock cylinder out of its housing. Once this has been accomplished, a special “key tool” is inserted into the cylinder housing on the cam, duplicating the action of the key to unlock the door.

Rim Locks

Another style of lock that we occasionally come into contact with is the rim lock, generally found on apartment doors in high-crime areas. Many of these locks are being designed with an added security feature, a spring-loaded plate that will fall into place covering



the slot we want to slip our key tool in. Should you be confronted with this style lock, don't worry. Use the pick head on the Halligan and insert it into the cylinder and strike it with the flat-headed axe. It may take several blows, but in no time at all the whole assembly will become disengaged from the door, swinging out of the way allowing us access.

We have looked at several methods for forcing entry into many of the commonly found locks used for securing doors. But there are many more locking systems being used out in the real world. Become familiar with those being used in your jurisdictions and practice the techniques you will use on them.

Remember what we discussed about size-up and using the tools to their greatest advantages. Allow the tools to do the bulk of the work.

—Prepared by Russell Merrick