



## A Different Approach To Rescue

March 2014

Article Two

### Vent Enter Search

#### VES Considerations

#### \*\*\*Known Location of Civilian

- Entry Points
- Accessibility
- Fire/Smoke Conditions  
(Volume, velocity, density, and color)

#### OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

Do not delay fire suppression activities

Reduce BTU's of fire

Provide protection for targeted area

Remove victim from fire

Or

Remove fire from victim

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Our mission in the Fire Service is to protect lives and property. All firefighters know this especially Company Officers/Chiefs as they use *Rescue* as top priority before formulating a strategic plan. For CVFD, new tactics are being introduced as an expansion of our toolboxes. VES is one of those tools. It is a rescue tactic which gains access from an exterior position to carry out a *targeted* search. It is a High Risk/High Reward tactic performed without the protection of a handline and usually away from the fire. This tactic can be used in conjunction with fire attack or interior operations. The difference between VES and a normal search operation is credible information that there is a known rescue and location.

There are considerations for VES before beginning this operation. Once credible information is received, the location and equipment needs must be evaluated. For instance, do we need ladders and if so what size? Are the security bars around windows? What is the topography, which is important for areas in 66's, 62's, and 64's area. Do we know the size and special needs of the victim ( infants, elderly, etc.).

Before breaking the window, take a quick look inside to see what room conditions are like.

- 1) Break the window by means of striking tool or ladder and remember this will draw the air track toward you.
- 2) Let the room neutralize for approx. 5-10 seconds (More info on page 2).
- 3) Clear all glass and sweep the inside under window-feeling for victims
- 4) Sound floor if on second story or basement below
- 5) Enter room by head or feet first method

\*\*\*Second firefighter climbs ladder and puts hook on window sill and controls the TIC

\*\*\*If entry firefighter comes in contact with a victim first, continue with door control then come back for rescue

- 6) Find and control interior door, look outside of door for fire conditions and victims
- 7) CLOSE DOOR to protect yourself and victim from the air track/fire
- 8) Perform a quick search looking for victims
- 9) If victim found, communicate to the firefighter on ladder and depending on size may enter to assist
- 10) Next Firefighter will climb and receive the victim





# CHINO VALLEY FIRE TRAINING DIVISION

## A Different Approach To Rescue

### BLACK FIRE

- “Black Fire” is the term we give to High Volume, High Velocity, Extremely Dense, Black Smoke.
- It is the sure sign of impending flashover
- Only option is Vent and Cool



### RADIO TRAFFIC

Radio location and operational task “ME61 VES second story C side making entry”

### VES TEAMS

4 Personnel Preferred (2 Minimum)

**Searcher**– Entry, Interior door control

**Ladder**– Monitors Searcher (using TIC), receives victim, may be required to enter and assist searcher

**Support**– Foots ladder, assists with tools, may be required to move up and assume victim from the two rescuers

**Captain**– Assists with manpower, coordinates with I.C. for additional resources



### Is The Compartment Survivable



A compartment is defined as an area within a structure that can be sectioned off with a door. An example of these might be a bedroom, laundry room, bathroom, garage, etc. During VES operations especially after the initial breaking of the window, wait about 5-10 seconds and examine what the conditions inside the compartment does. The flow path or air track is now coming your way. If a flashover occurs, the fire was near the rescue area and the victim did not survive. Entry into this area is not possible and move onto the next task. The Vent portion of VES is critical and studying smoke conditions can assist in a “GO” vs. “NO GO” scenario. The highly pressurized, black, superheated smoke is just as dangerous as actual fire itself. This is condition is known as “Black Fire”. When reading smoke, pay attention to the volume, velocity, density, and color.



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## Minimum Tools Needed for VES



## CHOOSE THE RIGHT LADDER



Choose the right ladder for reach and angle. Remember the climbing angle during VES operations will not be the typical 75 degree angle. NFPA 1932 states that a maximum load of 750lbs for the extension ladders is optimum between 70-76 degrees. This is something to consider when bringing a victim down a ladder who weighs more than 200lbs. Another caution when placing ladders at angles less the 70 degrees is the heel/butt may be more likely to slip. At 60 degrees, rating of the ladder is cut in half (375lbs). The reality is that each ladder has a 2 to 1 safety factor (750lb rating means failure at 1500). In the case for VES, if a victim needs to be rescued, DO WHAT YOU HAVE TO DO!

## Incident Rules of Engagement

There are many considerations all personnel constantly evaluate during emergency incidents. On medical aids, the primary concern before any treatment should be the safety of all personnel –SCENE SAFETY. When it comes to other emergency's such as fires, Haz Mat's, or USAR calls we should consider a good size up that leads to a risk/gain analysis. These decisions require the Company Officer to **O**bserve, **O**rient, **D**ecide, and **A**ct (**OODA LOOP**). Using the three **CORE VALUES** relating to the **RULES OF ENGAGEMENT** can determine successful outcomes: [SOP# 201.02 Incident Rules of Engagement](#)

- We will not risk the lives of Firefighters for lost lives or lost/abandoned property
- We may take moderate risk to protect property
- We may assume high risk to save lives