Continuing Education for the Fire Fighter

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Forcible Entry

Module 2

Chapter 11

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LEARNING OBJECTIVES

Explain the ways to force entry through various types of doors.

Identify considerations that need to be taken when forcing entry through locks, padlocks, overhead doors, and fire doors.

Describe forcible entry methods used for windows.

Explain considerations firefighters must take when forcing entry through miscellaneous types of windows and covers.

Describe forcible entry methods for breaching walls.

Explain forcible entry methods for breaching floors.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

Indicate methods for forcing fences and gates.

Force entry through an inward-swinging door – Two-firefighter method.

Force entry through an inward-swinging door – Cutting the lock out of the door method.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

Force entry through an outward-swinging door – Removing hinge-pins method.

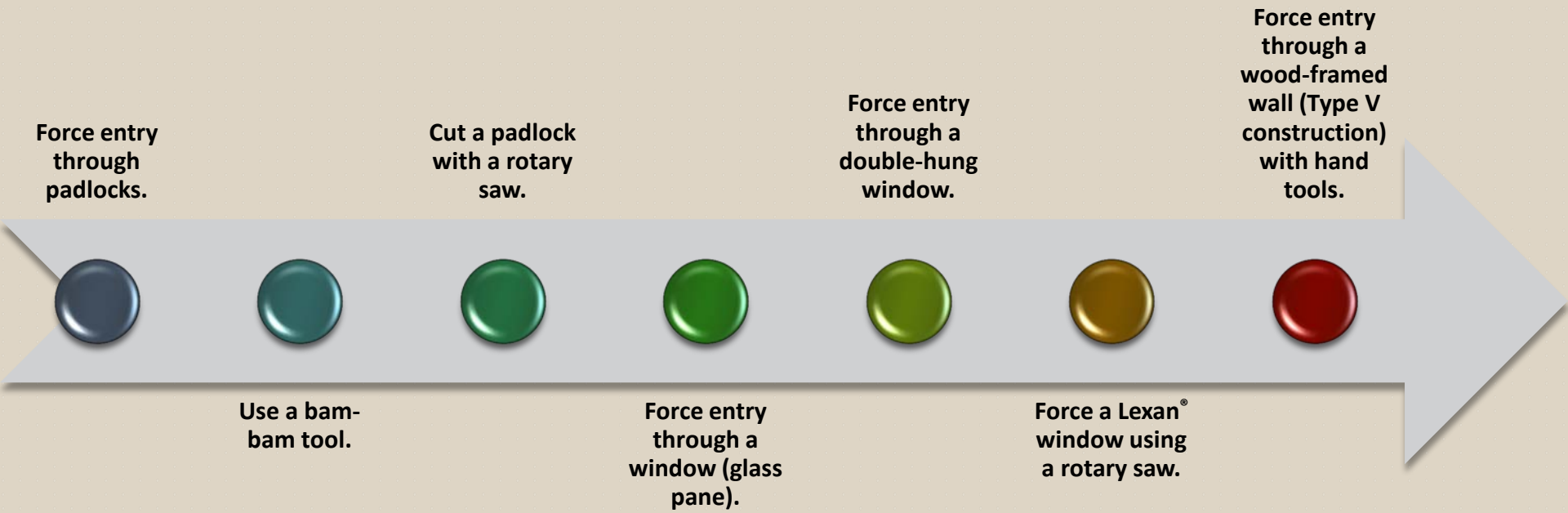
Force entry though an outward-swinging door – Wedge-end method.

Force entry using the through-the-lock method.

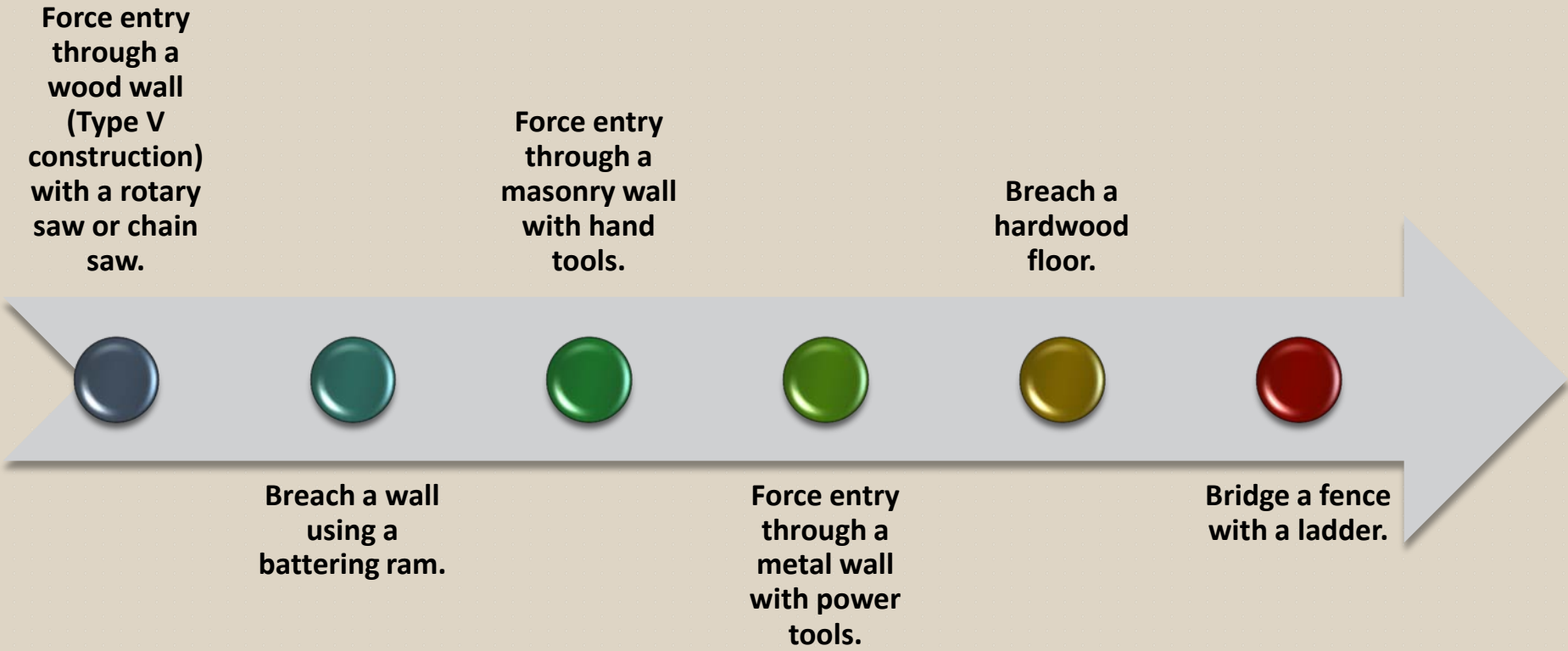
Force entry using the through-the-lock method using the K-tool.

Force entry using the through-the-lock method using the A-tool.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES



LEARNING OBJECTIVES



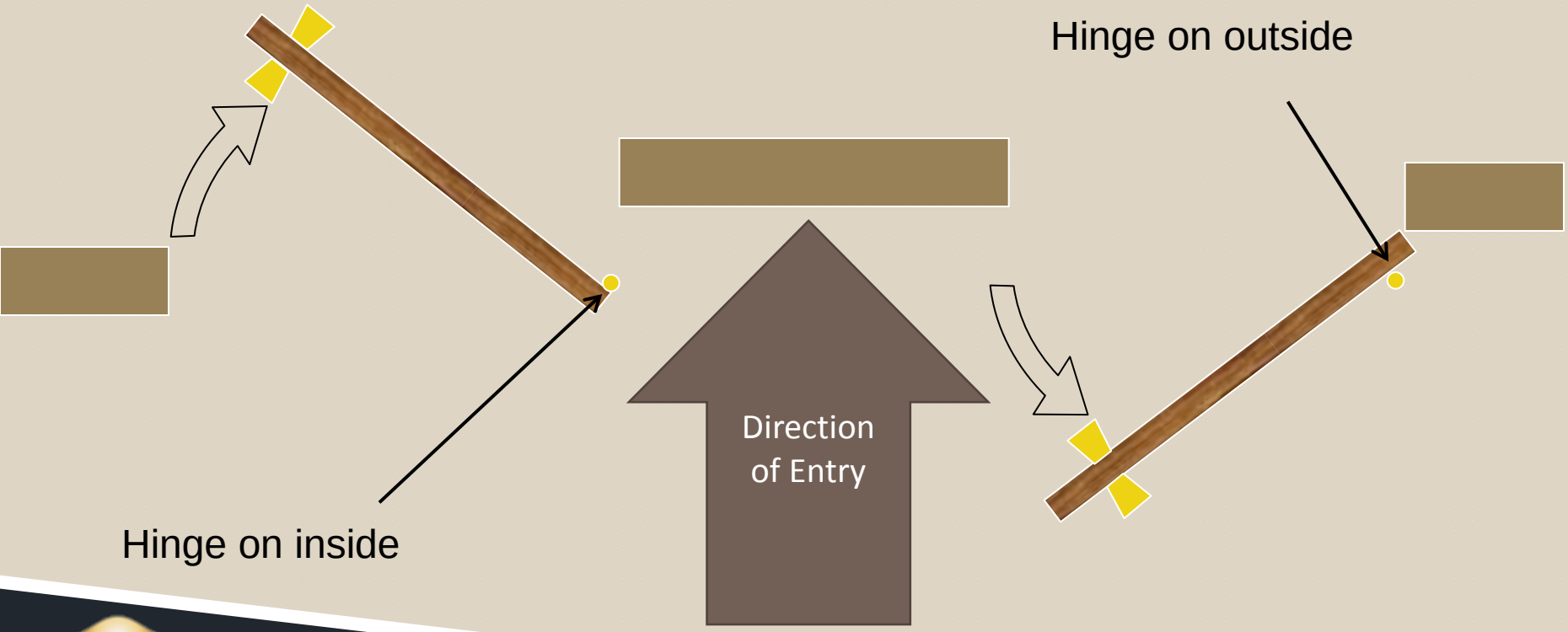
BEGIN FORCED ENTRY THROUGH A DOOR ONLY AFTER SIZE UP AND WITH MINIMUM DAMAGE.

1. Try opening door first
2. If door must be forced, determine quickest method
3. Damage is justified by severity of emergency
4. Rapid-entry lockbox may be available

BREAKING DOOR GLASS IS OFTEN THE BEST OPTION WHEN FORCING ENTRY.

LOOK FOR THE PLACEMENT OF THE HINGES WHEN FORCING SWING DOORS.

Inward-swinging **Outward-swinging**



DOUBLE-SWINGING DOORS AND DOORS WITH DROP BARS PRESENT UNIQUE CHALLENGES DURING FORCIBLE ENTRY.

Double-swinging

Doors with drop bars

FORCING ENTRY THROUGH A TEMPERED PLATE GLASS DOOR HAS MANY DRAWBACKS, BUT MAY BE USED AS A LAST RESORT.

Glass should be shielded when broken

DETERMINE THE METHOD FOR FORCING SLIDING DOORS OR SECURITY DOORS/GATES BY IDENTIFYING THE TYPE.

- **Sliding**
  - Glass paneled
  - Interior pocket door
- **Security door/gate**
  - Rollup doors
  - Open steel bars
  - Multiple slats that form solid panel

THROUGH-THE-LOCK ENTRY REQUIRES GOOD SIZE-UP OF THE DOOR AND LOCK, AND CAN BE ACCOMPLISHED WITH SEVERAL TOOLS.

FORCING PADLOCKS CAN BE ACCOMPLISHED USING SEVERAL METHODS AND TOOLS.

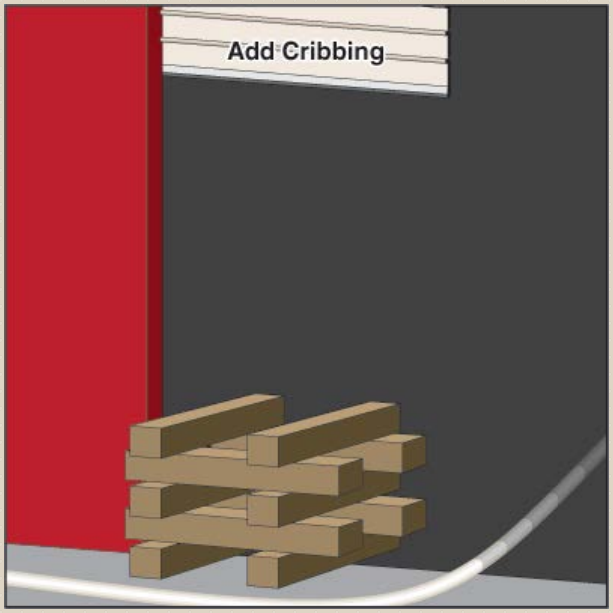
Duck-billed lock breaker

Bam-bam tool

Rotary saw or torch

- Can be very dangerous

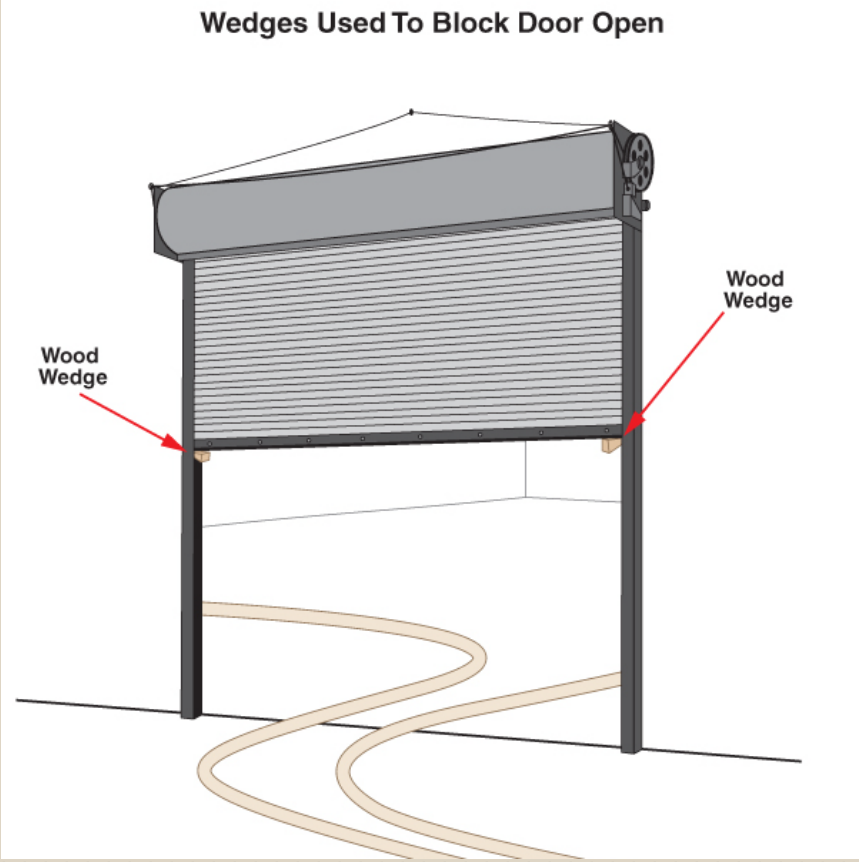
USE A ROTARY SAW TO FORCE ENTRY ON AN OVERHEAD DOOR.



WARNING

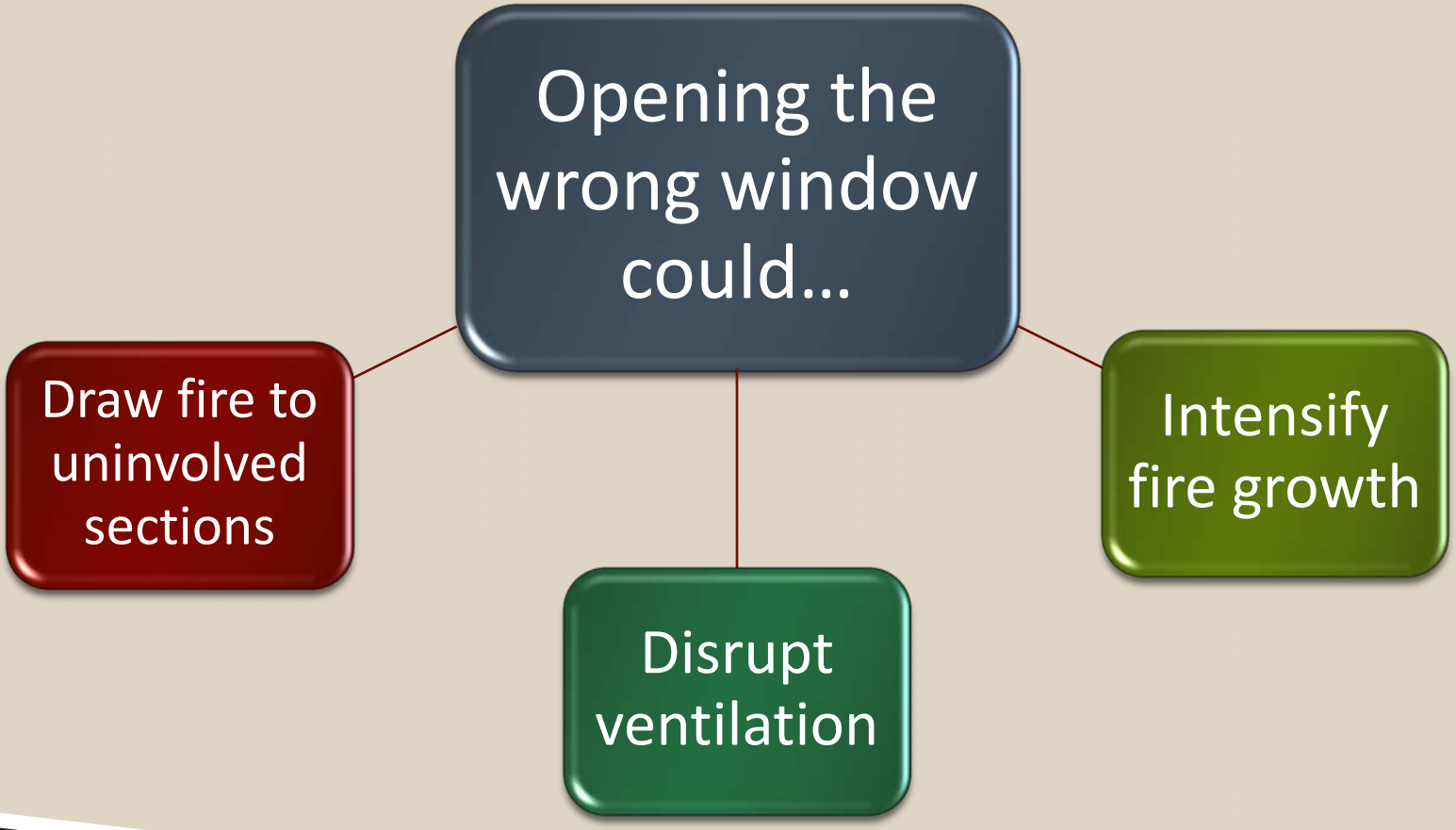
All overhead doors should be blocked in the up or open position to prevent injury to firefighters if the built-in control device fails.

FIRE DOORS ARE USUALLY FOUND INSIDE THE STRUCTURE AND SHOULD BE BLOCKED OPEN AFTER FORCIBLE ENTRY AS A PRECAUTION.



Closed doors can cut off hoselines

FORCIBLE ENTRY THROUGH WINDOWS CAN BE EASY, BUT MAY CREATE FURTHER HAZARDS.



BREAKING WINDOW GLASS IS A COMMON ENTRY METHOD, BUT SEVERAL FACTORS MUST BE CONSIDERED.

- Glass shards are dangerous
- Wire glass is difficult to break
- Several layers of glass are expensive

FORCING ENTRY BY BREAKING FIXED WINDOWS SHOULD BE DONE ONLY AS A LAST RESORT.

DOUBLE-HUNG WINDOWS HAVE TWO SASHES AND A LOCKING MECHANISM ON THE INSIDE.

FORCING ENTRY ON OTHER TYPES OF WINDOWS DEPENDS ON THEIR DESIGN.

Single-hung

Casement

Horizontal Sliding

Awning

FORCING ENTRY ON OTHER TYPES OF WINDOWS DEPENDS ON THEIR DESIGN.

Jalousie

Projecting

Pivoting

FORCING ENTRY ON OTHER TYPES OF WINDOWS DEPENDS ON THEIR DESIGN.

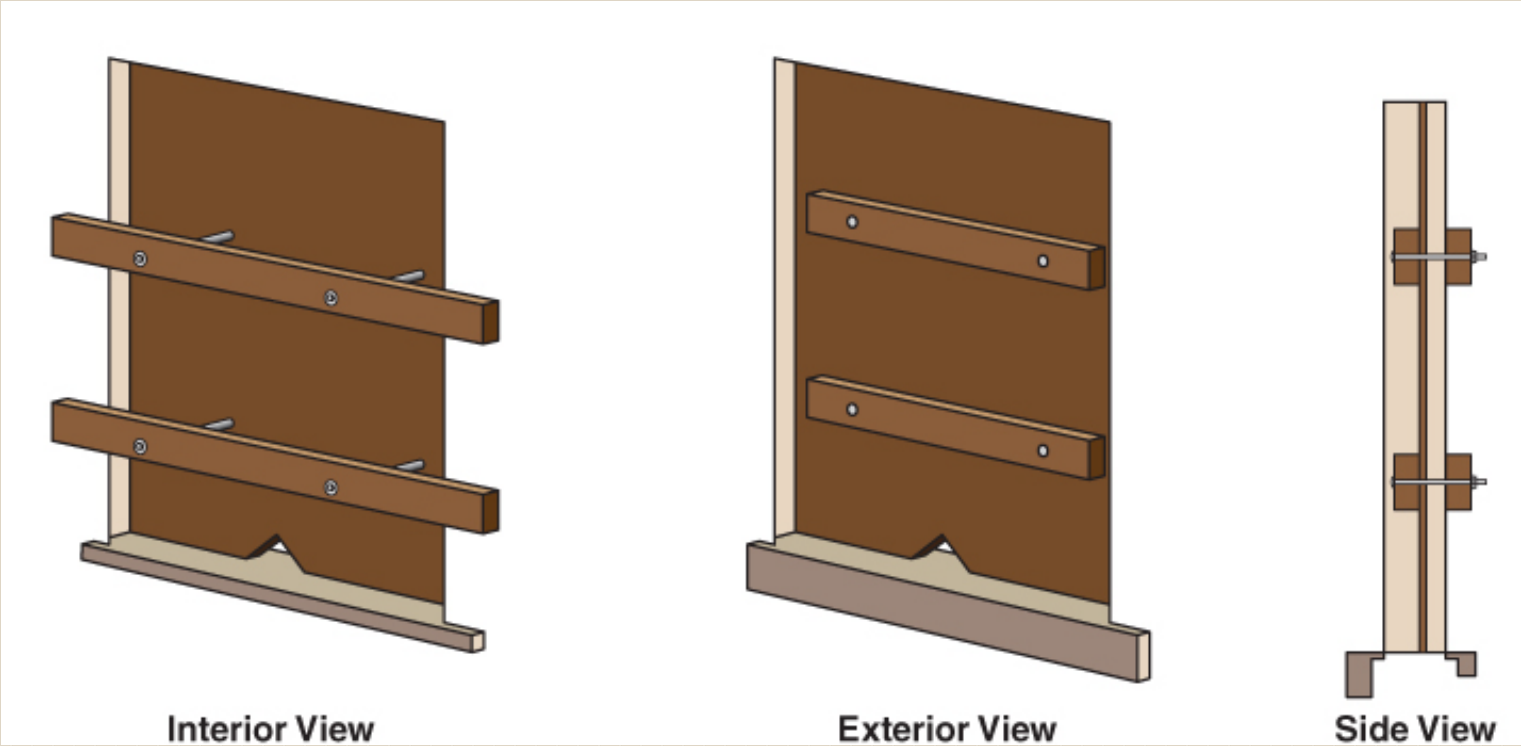
Hurricane

Courtesy of Florida State Fire College

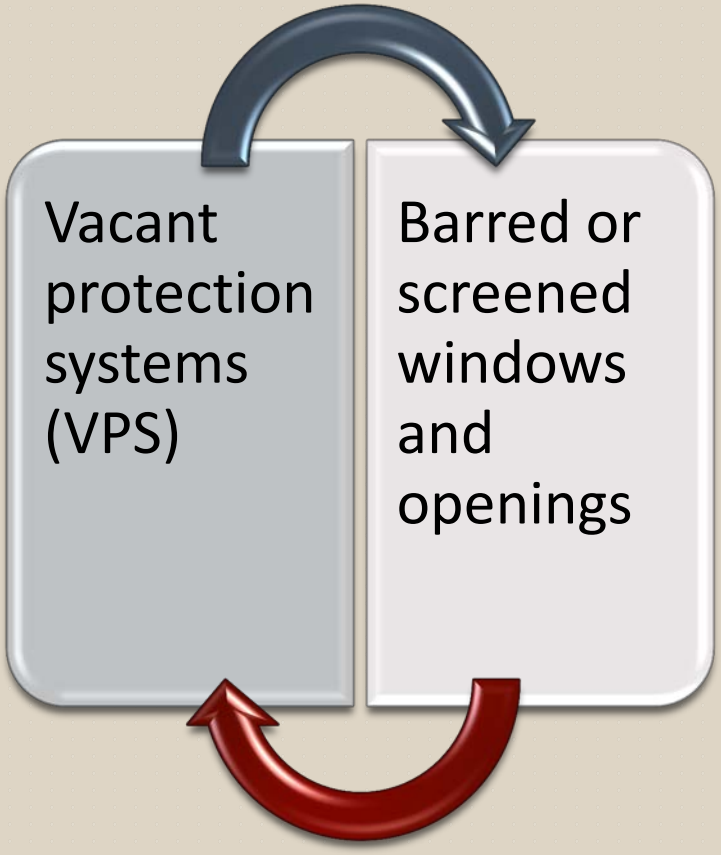
High-security/Lexan®

FORCING ENTRY ON OTHER TYPES OF WINDOWS DEPENDS ON THEIR DESIGN.

Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Windows



FORCING ENTRY ON OTHER TYPES OF WINDOWS DEPENDS ON THEIR DESIGN.



BREACHING WALLS REQUIRES MEETING CERTAIN CRITERIA BEFORE ATTEMPTING.

Requires…

- Knowledge of building construction
- Accurate size-up of situation
- Determination if wall is safe and accomplishes purpose

BREACHING EXTERIOR WALLS POSES HAZARDS SUCH AS STRUCTURAL COLLAPSE AND CONCEALED UTILITIES.

Types of exterior wall

- Wood frame
- Brick or concrete block
- Concrete
- Metal

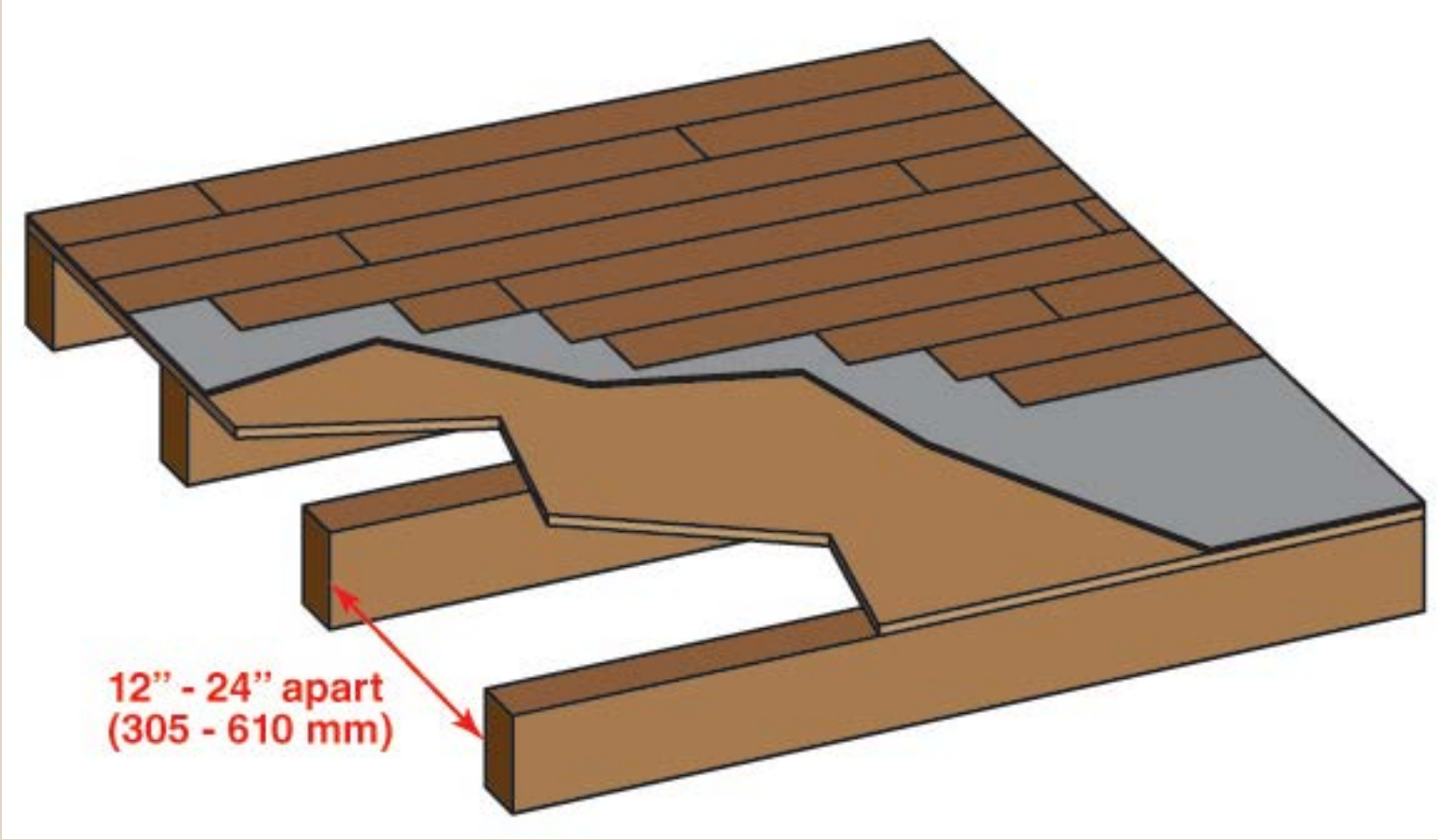
INTERIOR WALLS ALSO CONCEAL UTILITIES AND CAN BE EITHER LOAD-BEARING OR NON-LOAD-BEARING.

- Unique types of interior wall
- Plaster or gypsum partition
- Reinforced gypsum

BREACHING FLOORS MAY BE DONE FOR SEVERAL REASONS AND METHODS VARY BY HOW A FLOOR IS CONSTRUCTED.

- **Purpose**
  - Ventilation
  - Apply water
  - Rescue occupants
- **Subfloor material**
  - Wood
  - Concrete
  - Variety of coverings

A VARIETY OF CUTTING TOOLS ARE USED TO BREACH WOODEN FLOORS.



BREACHING CONCRETE FLOORS PRESENTS MORE DIFFICULTIES AND REQUIRES DIFFERENT CUTTING TOOLS.

Using jackhammers or "stitch drilling" can open floors rapidly

A WIDE VARIETY OF FENCING MATERIALS CAN POSE A NUMBER OF HAZARDS WHEN FORCING.

- Barbed wire or razor ribbon
- Contain animals, including guard dogs
- Rural fences may be electrified
- Stretched material may recoil

WIRE AND OTHER TYPES OF FENCES CAN BE FORCED WITH CUTTING TOOLS.

Bolt cutters

Rotary saw

CAUTION

Cutting electrified fences before deenergizing the fence may result in electric shock.

CAUTION

Wire will recoil in the direction of the next post on the fence when it is cut.

GOING OVER SOME TYPES OF FENCES MAY BE EASIER THAN GOING THROUGH THEM.

SECURITY GATES MAY HAVE LOCK BOXES, ELECTRONIC LOCKS, PADLOCKS, OR THEY MAY BE MONITORED BY STAFF.

SUMMARY

When normal means of entry is locked or blocked, forcible entry techniques are used to gain access into a structure or area.

Forcible entry efforts can do minimal damage to a structure or structural components and provide quick access.

Tools and techniques are used to breach walls and floors to advance hoselines, apply extinguishing agents, access trapped victims, or ventilate an area.