



Fire Protection Training

Procedures Handbook 4300

FORCIBLE ENTRY

TOPIC: Opening Sheetrock Ceilings

TIME FRAME: 15 Minutes

LEVEL OF INSTRUCTION:

BEHAVIORAL OBJECTIVE:

Condition: A written quiz

Behavior: The student will list and describe methods for opening a ceiling.

Standard: With a minimum of 70% accuracy

MATERIALS NEEDED:

- Pike pole
- Closet hook
- Sheetrock hook or plaster hook
- Simulated sheet rocked ceiling to be opened
- Appropriate visual aids
- Audio visual equipment

REFERENCES:

- IFSTA, Essentials of Fire Fighting, 2nd Edition, Chapter 12
- IFSTA, Forcible Entry, 6th Edition

PREPARATION:

Sometimes the only way to determine whether or not fire has extended into the attic space is to pull the ceiling. It is important to be able to pull the ceiling quickly to enter the attic area for purposes of inspection and water application to stop a fire's spread.



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OPENING SHEETROCK CEILINGS

PRESENTATION	APPLICATION
<p>I. THE MOST COMMON REASON FOR OPENING A CEILING IS TO CHECK FOR FIRE EXTENSION IN THE ATTIC.</p> <p>A. Tools Which Can be Used Include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Pike pole2. Closet hook3. Sheetrock hook4. Plaster hook5. Multi-hook6. Clemens hook7. Quick hook8. Rubbish hook <p>B. Procedure for Opening Ceiling</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Wear full protective clothing<ol style="list-style-type: none">a. S.C.B.A.b. Faceshield down2. Time permitting protect furniture and valuables with salvage covers or runners3. Determine which area to pull<ol style="list-style-type: none">a. Look for:<ol style="list-style-type: none">(1) Blistering(2) Paint discoloration	<p>Information sheets #1 and #2</p>



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PRESENTATION	APPLICATION
<ul style="list-style-type: none">(3) Smoke emitting from cracks(4) Cracked plasterb. Feel for heat concentrationsc. Listen for<ul style="list-style-type: none">(1) Popping or cracking sounds(2) Hissing of steamd. Locate with heat sensing equipment4. Pull ceiling safely<ul style="list-style-type: none">a. Do not stand directly below area to be opened:<ul style="list-style-type: none">(1) Water(2) Debris(3) Embersb. Work area farthest from body firstc. Pull manageable size sections of the ceilingd. Watch for electrical wires, plumbing (especially hot water pipes)e. Pull only as much ceiling as necessary to accomplish taskf. Maintain good balanceg. Stop if integrity of roof or ceiling is questionable<ul style="list-style-type: none">(1) Water application in attic area will cause sheet rocked ceiling to fail quickly	



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OPENING SHEETROCK CEILINGS

SUMMARY:

Pulling ceilings to access overhead fires is a necessary component of aggressive firefighting. Ceilings should be pulled in a correct, safe and effective manner and the fire fighter should always allow for a way out of a building. If personnel and time allow consider salvaging interior furnishings prior to pulling the ceiling.

EVALUATION:

A written quiz.

ASSIGNMENT:

To be determined by instructor(s).