



VENT ENTER SEARCH (1.1)

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- NFPA 1001

TASK SKILL DESCRIPTION AND DETAIL

This heading includes information about the following:

- Vent-Enter-Search

The Basics



- Vent Enter Search (VES) is typically a tactic used when search is needed and the primary means of access/egress is not available. This can be true of any room of a structure, but most training maintains focus on upper story rooms that require access by ladder. Lower story rooms would apply similar tactics without the use of ground ladders. Saws may be used to improve access once the wall under the window has been cleared of victims.



The Basics (cont.)



- VES typically involves the following steps:
 - The company officer determines the location for the VES
 - The firefighter places the initial ground ladder to the location determined by the company officer
 - The driver operator obtains a second ground ladder and stages it for use by the VES personnel (it is important that this ladder matches well with the primary ladder, so for example, if the first ladder is a 24' extension ladder, the second should also be a 24' extension or a 14' roof ladder, so that when placed side by side, the ladders pair well for victim removal)
 - If a second firefighter is available, that firefighter will bring the saws, assist with ground ladder placement, and heels the initial ladder
- **Note:**
 - This is an “extremely” high risk operation where the company officer must determine if there are salvable victims and if this is a go/no go situation.



The Basics (cont.)



- The firefighter clears access into the room by ventilating the window and sounds the floor
- The firefighter does the following:
 - Enters the room
 - Locates the door to the room
 - Checks the door to the room (if closed)
 - Does a quick scan down the hall for victims
 - Secures the door by closing it
 - Searches the room for victims
- The company officer takes a position at the top of the ground ladder, and uses a TIC to scan for victims in the room and monitor the progress of the FF

Communications:

The following communications go from the firefighter to the officer and from the officer to the Rescue Group Supervisor.

- **Door**
 - Announced once the firefighter has secured the door to the room
- **Searching left or right**
 - Provides a frame of reference for the officer who is monitoring the actions of the firefighter
- **All Clear**
 - Announced once the firefighter has completed the search



Notes:

- The search of a room starts at the **door**. The firefighter proceeds from the entry point to the door, shuts the door, and initiates a search (left or right hand) from the door.
- The conditions will dictate what actions the firefighter should take if a victim is located in the hallway.
- The firefighter does not proceed down the hallway to search other rooms.
- This operation requires the firefighter to enter and exit from the same point.

If a victim is located.



- If a victim is located:
 - The driver operator places the second ground ladder next to the first
 - Personnel heel both ground ladders
 - The company officer enters the room to assist the firefighter with packaging the victim. More resources may be required based on the discretion of the company officer.
 - Two personnel proceed to the top of the ground ladder to receive and remove the victim down the ground ladder



Victim removal



- Victim removal is accomplished through coordination between the crew that is packaging the patient and the personnel on the top of the ground ladder. It needs to be clearly communicated, prior to the move, how the victim will be coming out of the building. It is important to know the victim orientation (feet or head first, face up or face down) to assure a safe transition to the ground ladder.
- More advanced tactics may include placing the ground ladder above the window to allow removal of the wall below the window or using the ladder as a high point anchor to allow removal of the victim using a rope system. However, these are advanced tactics and should not be attempted without proper training first.



If no victim is found



- If no victim is found:
 - The company officer directs the driver operator to place the ground ladder at the next window
 - The company officer climbs down the ladder
 - The firefighter exits the room and climbs down the ladder
 - The second firefighter removes the ladder from the room just searched and prepares the ladder to be moved



Progression of VES



- Progression of VES:
 - Using a 4 person crew, a VES operation can search multiple rooms. Two personnel are utilized to 'leapfrog' ladders to windows and two personnel gain access, secure the door, and search the room. Once a victim is located, more personnel are needed to affect a rescue.
 - If additional resources are available, a hoseline should be put into service to help support the VES operation. The company officer of the hoseline crew can supervise the VES operation (Rescue Group Supervisor) and direct the hoseline if needed. At no time should the hoseline interfere with egress on the ladder.



TASK SKILL INSTRUCTIONAL REQUIREMENTS AND IMPLEMENTATION

This heading includes information about the following:

- Vent-Enter-Search should be performed with full structural firefighting PPE
- Initial skill set needs to include basic ladder placement, search, and rescue skills
- Evaluation should be based on appropriate ladder placement for rescue, operation on the ladder, sounding the floor, securing the door to the room, searching the room and appropriate rescue techniques if a victim is located.