**Chapter 12: Forcible Entry**

**Chief Concepts**

* Forcible entry is required at emergency incidents where time is a critical factor. Company officers usually select both the point of entry and the method to be used. They also ensure that the efforts of different companies are coordinated for safe and effective operations.
* Before beginning forcible entry operations, remember to try before you pry.
* Fire departments use many different types of forcible entry tools—ranging from basic cutting, prying, and striking tools to sophisticated mechanical and hydraulic equipment.
* Four types of forcible entry tools are used:
  + Striking tools—Generate an impact force directly on an object or another tool. They include the flat-head axe, battering ram, and sledgehammer.
  + Prying/spreading tools—Designed for prying and spreading. They include the Halligan tool, pry bar/hux bar/crowbar, pry axe, spreaders, cutters, and rams.
  + Cutting tools—Primarily used for cutting doors, roofs, walls, and floors. They include the axe, bolt cutters, and circular saw.
  + Lock tools and specialty tools—Used to disassemble the locking mechanism on a door. They include the K tool, A tool, J tool, shove knife, duck-billed lock breakers, locking pliers and chain, and bam-bam tool.
* Every door contains four major components:
  + Door—The entryway itself
  + Jamb—The frame
  + Hardware—The handles, hinges, and other components
  + Locking mechanism
* Doors are generally constructed of wood, metal, or glass. Wood and metal doors can be solid-core or hollow-core types.
* Doors are classified by how they open:
  + Inward—Can be made of wood, steel, or glass and can be found in most structures. The locking mechanisms range from standard doorknob locks to deadbolt locks or sliding latches.
  + Outward—Used in commercial occupancies and for most exits. The hinges are often exposed. Several types of locks, including handle-style locks and deadbolts, may be used with these doors.
  + Sliding—Constructed of tempered glass in a wooden or metal frame. A weak latch on the frame of the door secures the movable side.
  + Revolving—Made of four glass panels with metal frames. Generally secured by a standard cylinder lock or slide-latch lock.
  + Overhead—Range from standard residential garage doors to high-security commercial roll-up doors. Made be secured with cylinder-style locks, padlocks, or automatic garage door openers.
* Window construction includes glazed glass, regular or annealed glass, double-pane glass, plate glass, laminated glass, and tempered glass.
* Window frame designs include the following types:
  + Double-hung windows—Made of wood or vinyl and two movable sashes
  + Single-hung windows—Similar to double-hung windows except that the upper sash is fixed and only the lower sash moves
  + Jalousie windows—Made of adjustable sections of tempered glass encased in a metal frame that overlap each other when closed
  + Awning windows—Operate like jalousie windows except that awning windows are one large or two medium-sized glass panels instead of many small panes
  + Horizontal-sliding windows—Similar to sliding doors
  + Casement windows—Have a steel or wood frame, and open away from the building with a crank mechanism
  + Projected windows—Usually found in older warehouses, and project either outward or inward on a hinge
* Locks range in sophistication from the very simple pushbutton locks to complex computer-operated locks.
* There are three major parts of a door lock:
  + Latch—The part of the lock that catches and holds the door frame
  + Operator lever—The handle, doorknob, or keyway that turns the latch to lock it or unlock it
  + Deadbolt—A second, separate latch that locks and reinforces the regular latch
* All padlocks, like all door locks, have similar parts:
  + Shackles—The U-shaped top of the lock that slides through a hasp and locks in the padlock itself
  + Unlocking mechanism—The keyway, combination wheels, or combination dial used to open the padlock
  + Lock body—The main part of the padlock that houses the locking mechanisms and the retention part of the lock
* Locks can be classified into four major categories:
  + Cylindrical locks—Most common fixed lock in use. One side of the door usually has a key-in-the-knob lock; the other side will have a keyway, a button, or some type of locking mechanism.
  + Padlocks—Most common locks on the market. Available with a variety of unlocking mechanisms, including keyways, combination wheels, or combination dials.
  + Mortise locks—Designed to fit in predrilled openings and have both a latch and a bolt into the same mechanism, each of which operates independently of the other
  + Rim locks—Include deadbolts that can be surface mounted on the interior of the door frame. These locks have a bolt that extends at least 2.5 cm (1 in.) into the door frame.
* On occasion, breaching a wall or floor may be necessary. Before breaching a wall, first consider whether the wall is load bearing. Removing or damaging this type of wall could cause the building or wall to collapse.
* The steps in systematic forcible entry are as follows:
  + Think.
  + Look for a lockbox.
  + Evaluate the situation.
  + Make entry with the least amount of damage possible.
  + Recognize that forcible entry operations will require you to take measures to secure the property during salvage operations.