Tactical Consideration 7: Impact of Elevation and Speed During Egress

Continuing the Conversation:
Search and Rescue Tactics in Single-Family, Single-Story Residential Structures

Explore the main findings from this study and view the associated videos to review this tactical consideration. Then, use the reflection questions on the reverse side to continue the conversation with your crew.

SUMMARY OF MAIN FINDINGS

During a rescue, consider how you might remove an occupant. By using a method that you can perform as fast as possible and that keeps the occupant's head at the lowest functional elevation, you can reduce their thermal and toxic exposure.

Even when performing a rescue after suppression, it is still important to keep the occupant's head low. This is because the smoke layer still remains in the structure immediately after suppression until ventilation is complete.

TRAINING RESOURCE

Use the Time to Task Drill Sheets to evaluate how fast you as an individual, or your department as a whole, can remove a trapped occupant.

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Scan the QR codes to hear commentary from this project's fire service technical panel members. Then, use the reflection questions to continue the conversation with your crew.

HEAR FROM THE TECHNICAL PANEL

Scan the QR code to watch commentary from Captain Richard Ray of the Creedmoor Volunteer Fire Department on this tactical consideration.

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

1. How do you and your department currently approach victim removal?

2. Do you emphasize speed or elevation more during victim removal? Do you aim for a balance of these two factors?

3. Captain Ray said that "We need to train for the environment in which we're going to be operating". What strategies can you or your agency use to making training experiences as realistic as possible? Do you know how fast you're able to remove a trapped occupant? How do you currently train for faster victim removal?