



TRAINING REPS



Vent Enter Isolate and Search

EMTFF Steve Hinch & BC Scott Ebbert

Go or no go? The first step in executing a vent, enter, isolate, and search (V.E.I.S.) is to determine the likeliness of a viable victim within the space. What do you consider a “go” situation? What red flags help determine a “no-go” situation? V.E.I.S. is a high-risk tactic with proven results. According to www.firefighterrescuesurvey.com, approximately 21% of victims are rescued by V.E.I.S. and more than 40% of those victims survive. The majority of fire victims are located within a bedroom.

Making the Call

The decision process begins with the time of day and the information gathered by the 9-1-1 operator. The caller often provides definitive information that suggests potential victims vs. an unoccupied structure. While this intel alone does not preclude us from an aggressive, thorough search of the structure (every time), it can play in to where we should begin and how we execute it. Additional 9-1-1 calls and updates provided by fire dispatch may include valuable information we can utilize to make quick, effective decisions once we arrive. What other observations/facts provide valuable clues about potential victims?

- Report of victims from by-standers/owners/occupants
- Vehicles out front or in the driveway
- Time of year- Kids on break from school or school out for summer
- Open windows or doors ajar

TIP: Becoming familiar with the neighborhoods within your first-due provides you with a “one-up” on the floor plan of dwellings and the location of bedrooms. Park the rig, get out and walk streets in your district to discuss the layout of structures!

How to V.E.I.S.

Once the decision is made to V.E.I.S., your actions must be deliberate and rapid. Modern combustibles and lightweight construction characteristics shorten our timeline to effect a successful rescue. Here are the steps:



1. **Communicate.** Let command know you’re going in and where, “Command from T-15 OV, VEIS, side charlie, division 2.” This quick transmission completes the *PAIR check* and let’s everyone know when and where a VEIS is being executed. It’s always a good idea to get another ground ladder positioned nearby for victim removal.
2. **Vent.** Remove the entire window. Remove all glass and the sash to ensure there is no impediment to egress. Use the T.I.C., if equipped, to sweep the room, locate the door, and any heat signature consistent with life.
3. **Enter.** Sweep below the window sill, using a tool if necessary. Victims are often located at or near windows. Sound the floor before committing to entry. Be aware of decorative windows above open foyers, etc. A second FF should advance up the ladder to the window to guide the search when possible.
4. **Isolate.** Get to the door, often located across from the window in bedrooms. If conditions allow, hook your foot on the door frame and sweep the hallway for victims. (11% of victims are located in the hallway). If circumstances lead you to continue the search outside of the room you entered, communicate your intent to the I.C. Close the door and execute your search-closing the door may buy you, and any victims, precious time.
5. **Search.** Remain oriented (left on left, right on right), but don’t focus on the walls-victims aren’t clinging to them. Check on and beneath beds, in closets, behind doors, and in attached bathrooms. Check anywhere the T.I.C. can’t!
6. **Communicate** with the I.C. upon exit. If a victim is located, determine how to best remove them (interior stairs or ladder) and communicate your conditions, actions, and needs (C.A.N. report).



VEIS: The Entry Firefighter - YouTube
m.youtube.com