

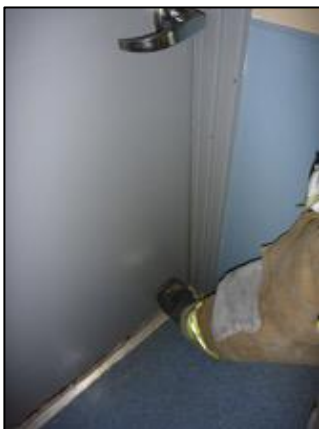


The Hydra-Ram Part I: Inward Swinging Doors

B.C. Scott Ebbert

Dust off the Hydra-Ram, despite those devoted to the marriage of the “irons”, the Hydra-Ram has its place in forcible entry. Developed and tested by members of the F.D.N.Y. in 1990, the Hydra-Ram is a low-maintenance, single firefighter hydraulic tool capable of producing 10,000lbs. of force. Here’s what else we need to know, along with a review of how to use the Hydra-Ram on inward swinging doors:

- It weighs 12 lbs.-about the weight of a Halligan bar
- Single unit-No hoses (unlike the “Rabbit Tool”)
- Saves time & minimizes property damage.
- Takes between 8 and 12 pumps to reach full extension (depending on the model)
- Contains propylene glycol fluid. It won’t freeze and poses no skin hazard.
- 4” or 6” of spread (Hydra-Ram I & Hydra-Ram II)
- 138 lbs. of pressure on the handle = 10,000 lbs. of spreading force.
- Can be used in any position-There is no top, bottom, etc.
- Good in close-quarters where conventional methods may not be an option.
- Generally not effective on wooden doors – great on metal skinned doors commonly used in apartments
- Not a substitute for the Irons. They should ALWAYS accompany the Hydra-Ram!
- It requires exercise to keep the seals in good shape...Stretch it under load during Sunday checks.



1. **Gap** the door. Shock the door as you would normally to size up the door and identify additional locks. Push your foot on the bottom of the door to create a gap for the Hydra-Ram. Use a Halligan if necessary.

2. **Set**. Insert the Hydra-Ram between the door and jam close to the lock. Don’t place the ram between locks - go above or below. Drive the ram in if necessary with a mallet.



3. **Spread**. Begin with small pumps to maintain your bite. Use the axe or a wedge to capture your progress and be prepared to control the door. Reposition and repeat if necessary.

