

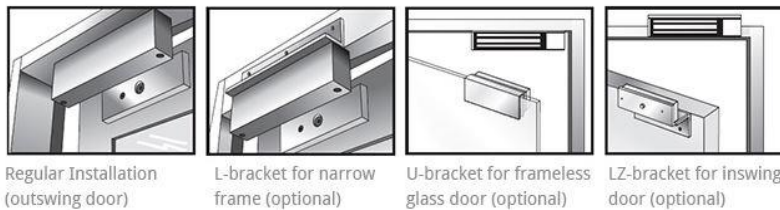


The Hydra-Ram Part II: Magnetic Doors

B.C. Scott Ebbert

Magnetic locks are common on outward swinging doors within access-controlled occupancies including but not limited to detention and hospital facilities, apartments and condominiums. A code, card, or fob issued to the authorized person is used to gain access and allows managers of the system to grant access to structures and/or specific areas. Card readers and keypads suggest that the door is equipped with a magnetic or electronic lock.

- Require anywhere from 600-1650 lbs. of force to overcome the magnet.
- Magnets are usually mounted on the top of the door and door frame, opposite side of the hinges.
- May automatically disable when the fire alarm is activated.
- Some require you to push an “Exit” button to release the magnet when exiting the restricted area.
- Magnetic locks on some doors may be configured to release during a power outage.



Defeating the Magnetic Lock

- The Hydra-Ram is capable of producing 10,000 lbs. of force and is capable of overcoming most electro-magnetic locks.
- Use of the Hydra-Ram on outward swinging doors relies on the presence of a “D-type” door handle.
- Damage to the door and lock can be avoided by using this method of forcible entry.
- A sensor that releases the magnet on the secure side of the door may be triggered by motion.

1. Place the Halligan bar through the D-handle with the adz between you and the door frame.



2. Place the jaw of the Hydra-Ram between the adz end of the Halligan bar and the door frame.



3. Support both tools and spread the Hydra-Ram, pulling the door away from the magnetic lock. Be prepared to control the door when it “pops”. Once open, a nail can be placed on the magnet to prevent it from re-locking.



New Training Props available at the Fire-Rescue Academy

The Fire-Rescue Academy has placed several new props in-service to enhance our ability to provide safety, survival, and R.I.T. training. The wall-breach prop allows FFs to drill on breaching for egress into a safe area, and to increase SCBA confidence.

The [Denver Drill](#) is designed to practice the rescue of a FF within a tight space via a window. In 1992 Denver FF Mark Langvardt died in the line of duty after he became trapped in a storage room on the 2nd floor. Challenged by the tight quarters and high window sill, it took crews nearly two hours to extricate him from the building. Mark succumbed due to smoke inhalation.

The diminished stairwell prop is designed to simulate the stair width commonly found in residential occupancies (36"). This prop provides an opportunity for FFs to work within the narrow stairwell on drags and carries.

These props can be used inside of the burn building with or without fog. Please include your request for these props when submitting the Form 5.

