

## **Bremen Rushcreek Fire Department: Training Report from the Former Superior Fibers Manufacturing Building 3/21/15**

The training at the former Superior Fibers manufacturing building was accomplished by the combined efforts of Lt. Tanner Kline, Lt. Jordan Irwin, and FF Mike Smith. After Lt. Kline obtained the permission from the owner to train in the building before demolition, we collectively planned out the best use of resources and time to train fellow firefighters from Bremen Rushcreek Fire Dept. and Hocking Township Fire Dept.

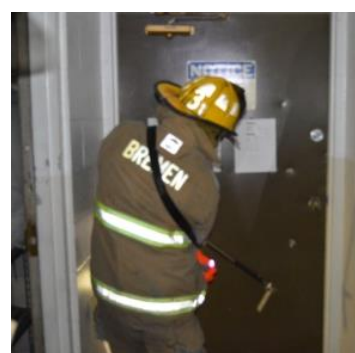
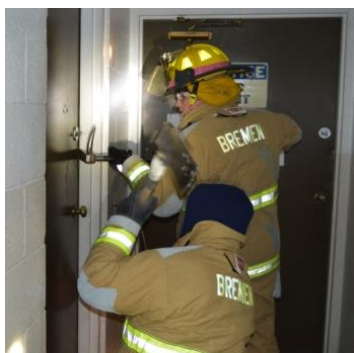
Many of the training activities performed at the site were those that we do not regularly have the opportunity to do. Trainings like forcible entry require having disposable doors and other resources that are hard to come by. There are companies that manufacture training doors made of steel that cost thousands of dollars, but they still don't compare to going out in your district and working on the actual doors that you will face.

### **Forcible Entry Training**

Using the "irons," consisting of a halligan and either a flathead axe or sledgehammer, firefighters forced their way through locked, metal doors. The idea behind this training is that not all houses we come to for an emergency, whether fire or EMS, are going to be unlocked. We need to be able to quickly gain access into any structure by whatever means necessary when a potential emergency exists. The training building provided an abundance of metal doors that could be locked and then forced open. Metal doors tend to be more challenging than wooden doors due to their strength in structure.

Doors are not always our only way in. Other routes of entry are through a window, waiting for another key holder, or carefully taking the time to get through the locking mechanism itself while minimizing damage to the door. The nature of the emergency may help firefighters decide how they will gain entry. If the call was for a fire alarm and upon arrival there is nothing showing that would indicate a fire present inside the building, we will use the least destructive means necessary to get inside to locate the problem. If there is smoke or fire showing, or we see an apparently unconscious patient on the floor, we will use whatever means is quickest to execute.

Other tools used in forcing entry include a sledgehammer, K12 gas-powered rotary saw, chainsaw, or a hydraulic "rabbit" tool if available. The "rabbit" tool fits in the gap between the door and door jamb of a metal door and then uses hydraulic power to force the door past the lock.



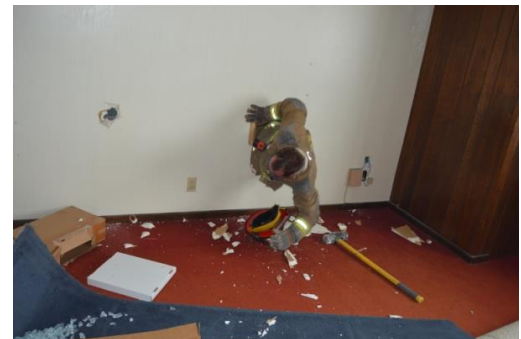


## Firefighter Survival and Saving Our Own

**Calling a MAYDAY-** Firefighters were put through an entanglement hazard of a narrowing space into falling drop-ceiling and wires, and made to have to call a MAYDAY. This indicates to the incident commander that the firefighter is in some sort of trouble and requires help. Members were trained to use the acronym LUNAR- last known location, unit #, name, air supply, and resources needed to get out.



**Breaching Walls-** In this training, firefighters were shown how to break through a concrete wall as though trapped and that was their only way out. This sort of thing does not happen often, but it is a good skill to have. Firefighters would use the tool that they carried into the building to hammer through the blocks enough to make a hole to crawl through to an adjacent room or outside. This was one of the more physically challenging tasks.



**Climbing Drywall-** Firefighters were trained in the art of climbing drywall by punching holes in the wall with a tool for hand placement, and then kicking their feet into the wall for foot placement. This skill would be utilized in escaping a finished basement through a window after falling through the floor. It would be done if it were quicker to find a basement window than the stairs.



**Columbus “Nance” Drill-** This drill is to simulate the operation of bringing a firefighter up through a hole in the floor that he has fallen through. This can be done with rope or hose line. With rope, 2 loops are lowered to the downed firefighter to loop through the harness of his self-contained breathing apparatus, or two carabiners on the loops of rope are fastened to his SCBA straps and he is hoisted up through the floor by several firefighters. With hose, the nozzle is given to the firefighter in the basement to put out whatever fire he can, then it’s taken back up and a loop is lowered into the hole and under the firefighter to be hoisted up.

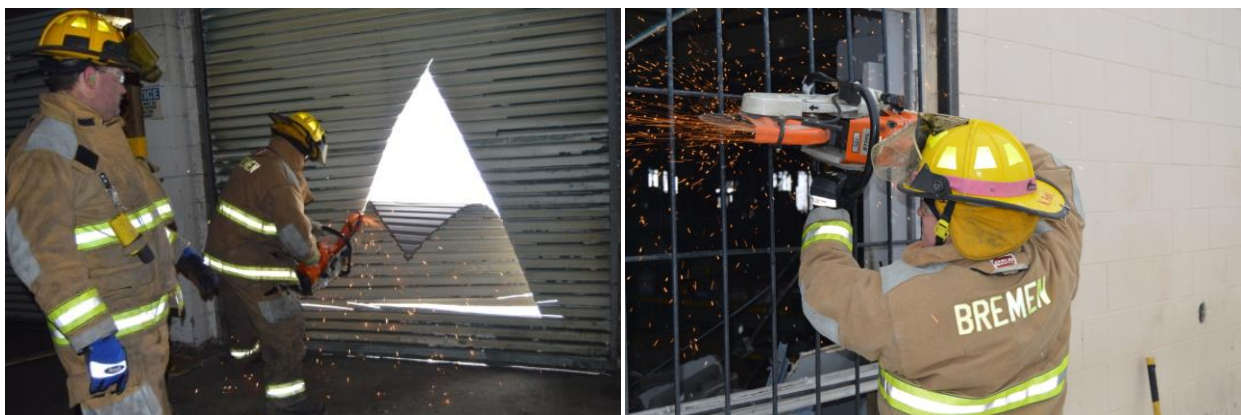


**Denver Drill-** This is another firefighter saving drill when a firefighter has collapsed in a narrow space with a window nearby. Two firefighters crawl in through the window or come from another way and maneuver the downed firefighter up and out of the window.



## **Stihl K12 Circular Saw Operations**

Firefighters trained in how to start the saw, cut the heads off of bolts to simulate forcible entry of a door with a panic bar on the inside, cut roll down doors for fire attack, and cut the bars off of fortified windows to allow for firefighters to exit in an emergency.





## Vent-Enter-Isolate-Search

VEIS is an operation where a firefighter raises a ground ladder to a window, first or second story, breaks the glass and clears the window, sounds the floor for stability, crawls into the room to the door and shuts it, and then searches for victims. This operation is only done under certain circumstances, like when there is a known or probable victim in a room not touched by fire yet, and the firefighter can safely perform a rescue while others attack the fire with a hoseline. The firefighter must get the interior door closed as soon as he enters so that the fire is not drawn or fueled more by the opening in the broken window.



In conclusion, we are very grateful to the company who had bought the property to allow us to train on the premises. A lot of valuable, and rare, training opportunities were taken advantage of, and every firefighter and training leader came away with some new knowledge and confidence. Every attempt will be made to continue training in our district so that we may be prepared for whatever emergency we are faced with.



In attendance were:

- Capt. Todd Beery, BRFD
- Lt. Jordan Irwin, BRFD
- Lt. Tanner Kline, BRFD
- Lt. Ryan Gard, BRFD
- Mike Smith, BRFD
- Kristen Krile, BRFD
- Zach Irwin, BRFD
- Kristen Fetty, BRFD
- Scott Fetty, BRFD
- Rob Theado, BRFD
- Joe Walton, BRFD
- Brian McQueary, BRFD
- Lt. Amber Flint, HTFD, BRFD
- Ryan Lytle, HTFD
- Brandon Hawk, HTFD
- Nate Bigham, RTFD