

FF Survival Tips #2

Tips to Keep Firefighters Alive-Ventilation Safety

- If it's not safe to be on, it's not safe to be under.
- Once the ventilation job is complete, exit the roof immediately.
- Use natural openings when possible, skylights work well to open occupied space but may not always open the confined spaces between dropped or finished ceilings and roof.
- When it is not possible to vent the rear or roof of a burning store quickly and signs of backdraft or explosion are visible, vent front plate-glass windows and doors, stand to one side and let the superheated combustible gases ignite temporarily and then advance the hoseline for attack.
- Peaked roofs are designed to carry the weight of the roofing material only, not firefighters. Use roof ladders to distribute weight, make sure roof ladder goes from peak to roof line. Make your cuts working back to ladder.
- Make inspection holes from roof line to peak using tip of pick-head axe. Keep an eye on the smoke/fire from them. If fire shows, especially down low, you are now working on what's burning.
- If fire is showing through the roof, most likely you do not need to be on that roof.
- Have an emergency exit plan figured out. You need another way off if things rapidly change.
- Axes always start, chainsaw and circular saws sometimes don't or stop. Be proficient with your hand tools.



*This near miss was avoidable.
Fire was through the roof.
Luckily the firefighter was using
all protective clothing.*



Adapted in part from Vincent Dunn:

www.vincentdunn.com
July-Sept 2005 Newsletter
60 Ways Firefighters Live