

Harden The Exit

Make It Safe to Exit

Background: During your size-up of an incident where crews are working on the interior of a building, an essential skill for the RIT is to make sure that paths of egress are open and stay open for crews who may have to make an hasty exit. This also makes RIT entry quicker and more efficient. Harden the exit means that RIT should identify ways out of a structure and make sure they are ready for crews to exit. These points must be communicated to all interior crews operating and also must be coordinated to ensure that your operations don't have an adverse effect on the operation. This must be a coordinated operation.

RIT TIP

- **Identify Exits that are LOCKED and UNLOCK them**
- **Identify Exits that are BLOCKED and UNBLOCK them**
- **Identify Exits that are NON-EXISTENT and make a plan to make an exit**

Remember: LOCKED-BLOCKED-NON EXISTENT

Priority 1 Doors	Priority 2 Windows	Priority 3 Walls
Identify security devices, locks other hardware	Remove all glass, identify any security or high performance glass	Identify the softest way through (wall construction)
Remove door from frame	Remove window treatments	Consider storage on the interior side of the wall
Use blocks or chocks to hold open	Clear frame and opening or locking hardware if necessary	Attempt to find alternatives if this is a time consuming operation
Wedge open	Evaluate exit strategies from elevations—place ladders	Remove debris

Any Openings Made or Secured Should Be Reported to IC and Relayed to Crews