



TRADITIONS TRAINING, LLC.

“COMBAT READY” FIREFIGHTING
FIREGROUND PROVEN TIPS, TECHNIQUES & DRILLS

Fire Engineering

Forcing HUD Windows with Hand Tools

By: EVD Kyle Stephens, Baltimore City Fire Department/Assistant Chief, Ashburn Volunteer Fire

HUD windows are an easy and low-cost method for property owners to secure window openings from vandals or squatters. There are 2 types of HUD configurations, standard or reinforced. Standard HUD windows are simply an outer sheet of plywood or other piece of material (Lexan or Plexiglass) held in place by (2) inner pieces of 2x4 and 4 carriage bolts [**Photo 1, 2, 3 & 4**]. Reinforced HUD windows are the same setup as the standard HUD window with the addition of (2) outer 2x4's that protect the carriage bolt heads.



1. Size-up HUD window (standard or reinforced) [**Photo 5**].
2. Using a sledgehammer, strike the head or slightly below the head of the carriage bolt, creating a hole in the plywood that will allow manipulation of the carriage bolt and inner 2x4 [**Photo 6 and Photo 7**].
3. If only attacking one side of the window (upper and lower carriage bolts) insert handle of tool to maneuver the inner 2x4 in an upward or downward direction. Your goal is to pivot the inner 2x4 off the inner frame of the window [**Photo 8**]. Another option is to attack all (4) carriage bolts if accessible.
4. Once the inner 2x4's are released from the inner window frame, pull the plywood sheeting from the window opening [**Photo 9**]. If the border of the plywood sheet contains screws, use the adz end of the Haligan to pry the plywood sheet from the outer frame of the window.