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

Fire Engineering

Key In Knob Through-the-Lock

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The knowledge and skill of attacking a locking mechanism by going through-the-lock is often lost when training and discussing force entry options. Manipulating locking mechanisms utilizing this option will gain you access with little or no damage done to the door or frame itself. This method of entry can be used in many different situations (non-emergency or when entry is not time critical) and can be quicker than other force entry options. Like any other skill, mastering through-the-lock is based on knowledge of types of locks, doors, and how they operate. This quick drill will focus on the key in knob lock.



1. Size up door and identify how to access the inner workings of lock. **[Photo 1]** Different key in knob locks may have an independent inset cylinder within the knob housing held together with a couple of spring clips, while other knobs may have to be completely removed to access the lock mechanism.
2. Place your axe, flat head portion, flush against the door behind the knob. **[Photo 2]** This particular key in knob does not have the cylinder independent of the knob housing that can be pried out.
3. Use the fork end of your Halligan to pry the knob using your axe as leverage. **[Photo 3]**
4. Determine if stem remains or is pulled with cylinder. **[Photo 4]**
5. If stem remains, use pliers to turn stem and unlock door. **[Photo 5 & 6]** If stem is pulled, use flat head screw driver or modified tool to activate the mechanism.