



TRADITIONS TRAINING, LLC.

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

Fire Engineering™



Vertical Fire Travel



Dumbwaiter Shafts

The presence of a dumbwaiter shaft, once noted, must be announced early in fire operation and checked for fire in short order. Whether the notification comes from a firefighter on the roof, a member checking the basement or a member inside the fire apartment, unchecked fire in these shaftways have led to many, many multiple alarm fires. Dumbwaiter Shafts provide a vertical conduit for fire travel. These shaftway's can be found primarily in larger older homes and apartment buildings, most not currently in use as originally designed. They create a path of direct travel from the basement straight to the roof. They then had smaller doorways along the shaftway which were openable for access, either in the public hall or directly within each apartment. Fire in this space can drop down to floors below, gain access to apartments above and may enter the cockloft space at the rood level. In many instances owners have utilized the shaft to run additional electrical, plumbing and cable wiring. If fire is found to have involved or even exposed an area near a dumbwaiter shaft, ALL floors (including those below) in the area of that shaft must be checked early in the operation for extension.