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Exerpts from FDNY Forcible Entry Manual

MISCELLANIOUS SECURITY PROBLEMS

WINDOW BARS

As a rule, bars are fixed and permanent. Gates are designed to open, but may be fixed.

Window Bars

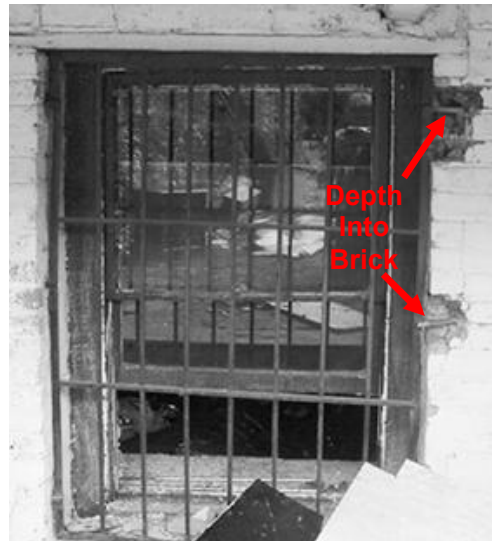
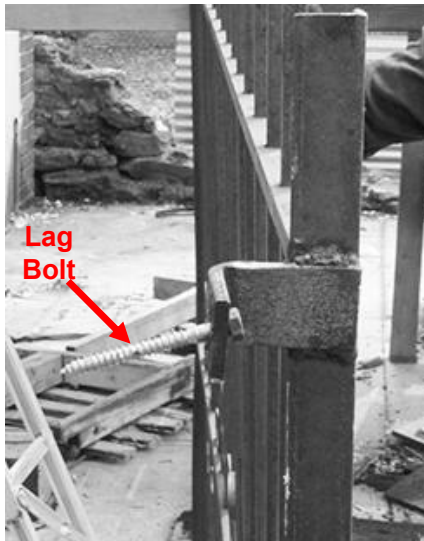
These obstacles come in a variety of sizes, shapes and strengths. They may be mounted to the window frame with screws or bolts, or set into the mortar. Bars and gates are used primarily for security and leave very little room for error in the case of fire.


Attacking and removing these obstacles during a fire situation takes time. If fire is being vented through the window being worked on, it becomes more of a challenge. Anyone trapped behind them has little chance of survival.



Forcing Window Bars

Bars are usually secured to a window at four points. The mounting point may be a lag bolt into the mortar or brick, or the mounting point may be part of the brickwork.

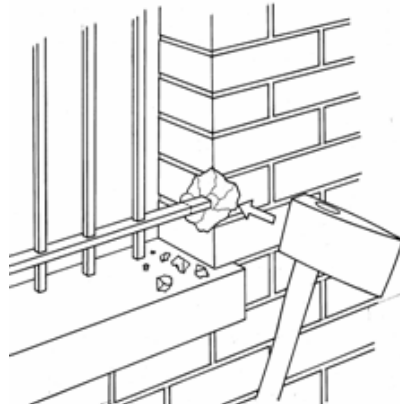
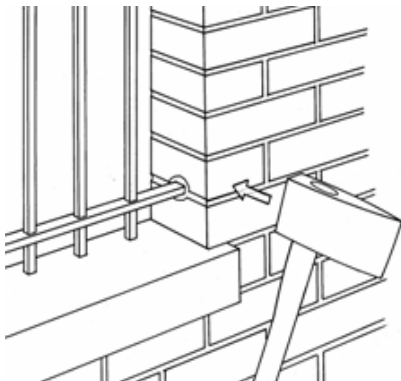


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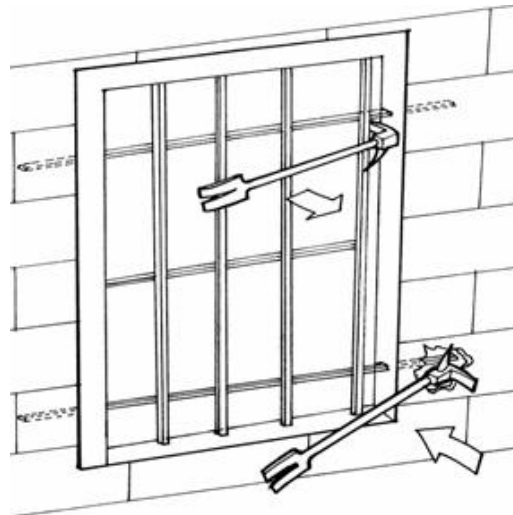
WINDOW BARS

Forcing Window Bars

Bars are attacked at the weakest point. Striking the mortar or brick work where the bar is mounted, may dislodge the anchor point. Dislodge two and bend the bars away, or pry out using the Halligan.




Using a Halligan Tool you may be able to pry the bar from its mount.



Using a power saw, cut the mounting bracket and remove the entire bar assembly, or cut two sides and bend the bars away.



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WINDOW BARS

Forcing Window Bars

Place the Hydra-Ram between the angle iron outer edge of the window bar and the exterior of the building, as close as possible to the lag bolt, and spread.

If the spread is not sufficient, the tool can be repositioned directly at the point of attachment.



After forcing the attachment points on one side, push the gate to the side (while still attached with a hook), allowing an unobstructed opening.

Pushing the gate to the side still attached will cause the gate to break free, dropping it to the ground.


Keep this area clear to prevent any one from getting hit by the falling gate.



Note: Start this operation from the bottom and work up to stay out of the path of the gate if it should fall.

Window Bars: Various Types and Mountings



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WINDOW BARS

Window Bars: Various Types and Mountings




WINDOW GATES

Gates come in a variety of types. They vary in size and strength. From the “Scissor” type to the more formidable “Jail-House” type gates.

Gates are usually attacked at the hinge side, since the swing side is usually secured with a padlock. Using the Halligan Tool, the frame of the gate is pulled away from the window frame. The window gate is usually held in place with screws.

In doing this, **the window must be broken**. This will complicate the action because we have “vented” the area we want to access. In gaining access, the entire gate should be removed, as well as the window sash and any window decorations (curtains, verticals, etc.).

Note: When entering via a window with a gate, you have to ensure your way out. Other windows may be similarly fortified.

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WINDOW GATES

Approved Type Window Gate

Most people are very concerned about their security and will use any method it takes to guarantee it.

In many municipalities, approved gates may be used. This is to eliminate the need for padlocks or other entrapment devices. These “approved” gates usually have a locking device that is in the form of a lever enclosed behind a small door, thereby eliminating the need for a padlock.

There is no “one way” to remove these obstacles. Like everything else in fighting fires, you have to take what is given you and make the best of it.

Using the correct tool and common sense should get the job done.



Outside View



Release Mechanism

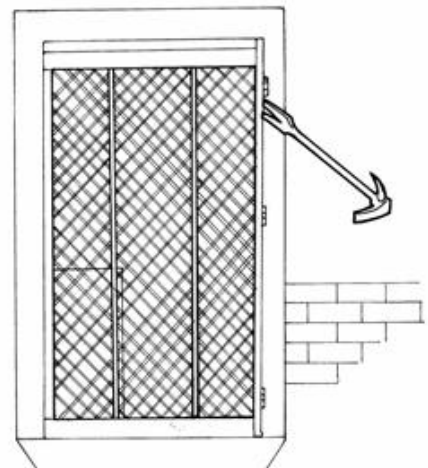



Inside View

Forcing Approved Type Window Gates

The following are suggested methods:

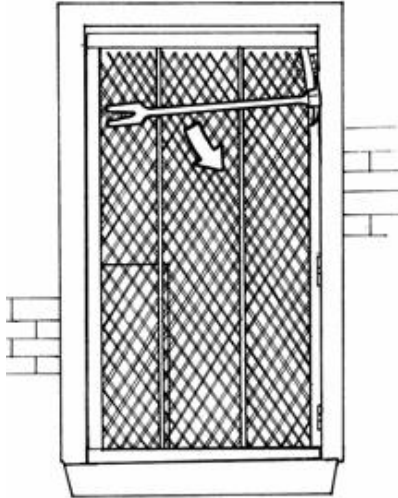
Using the **FORK** end to pry the hinge away from the frame. You will get more leverage this way, but you may be restricted due to a fire escape.



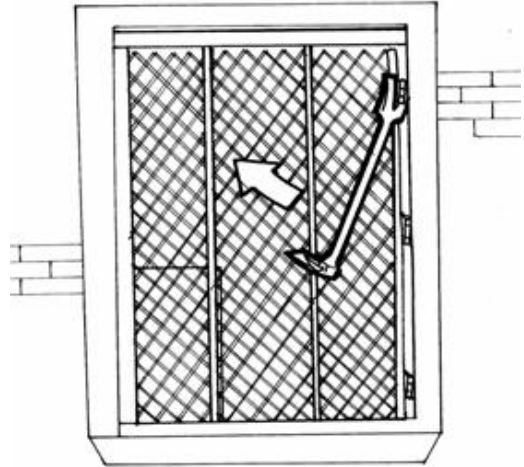
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WINDOW GATES

Forcing Approved Type Window Gates



Use the **ADZ** end if there is no room to use the fork end.



Pry off the hinge using the **FORK** end.

Swing Bar Gate (Jail-House Type)

This type of gate is more formidable as it is made of heavy gauge iron bars.

The locking devices are part of the problem as this is not an approved type gate. There is no way to prepare yourself for what may be securing these devices.


Swing Bar Gate



Inside View Closed

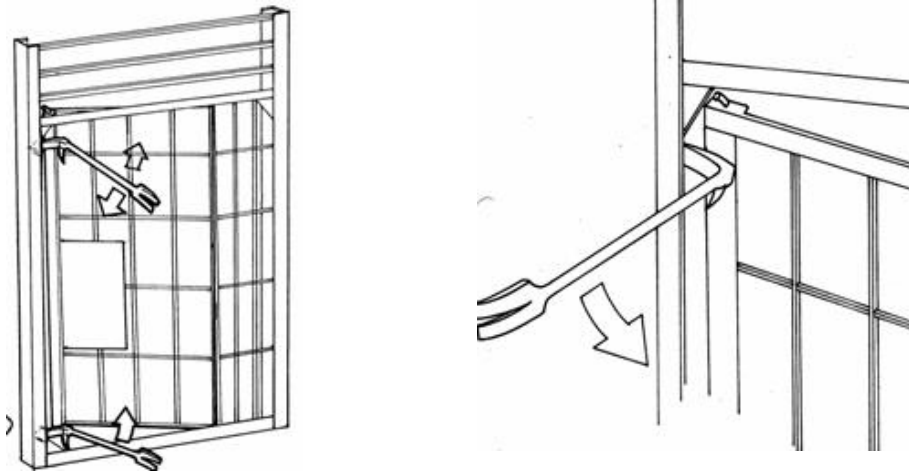


Inside View Open

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WINDOW GATES

Forcing Swing Bar Gate



Outside View Forcing Gate


IRON GATES

Usually found at the main entrance. They are mounted like a standard door with hinges on one side and a lock on the other. What makes them formidable is the inability to spread the jamb. They are generally mounted in a metal frame.

If used on a secondary entrance, they are usually more fortified than a simple locking device.

Attacking the lock side in a conventional manner is usually sufficient to gain entry.



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CHILD GUARD GATES

Child guard gates come in a variety of weights and sizes. There usually are three to four horizontal bars, which inter-lock and slide to the prescribed opening. The device is secured across the lower sash of the window to prevent children from falling out.

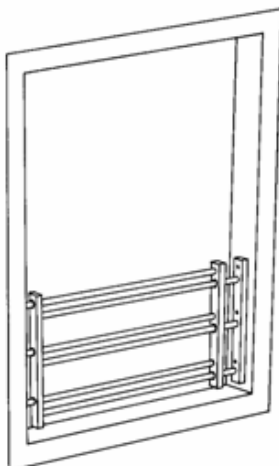
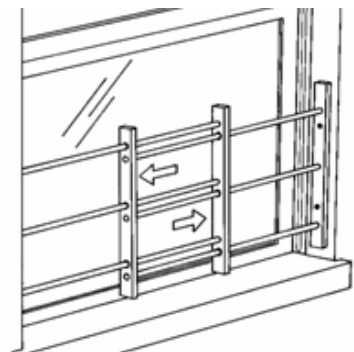
They are usually secured on the outside of the sash to the window frame. They can also be mounted to the inside of the window.

In most cases, screws are used to secure them.




Removing Child Guard Gates

Removing them under **non-fire situations** is usually not a problem. Striking the vertical frame away from the mounting screw will generally be sufficient. In a fire situation, with heat and possible flames, the member may not be able to stand up and swing the tool.



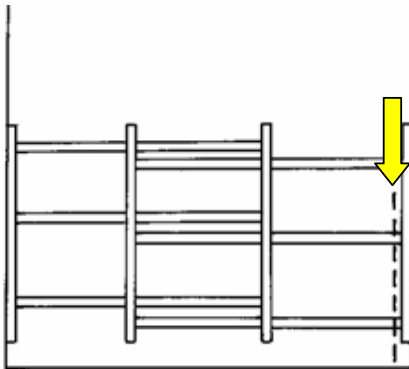
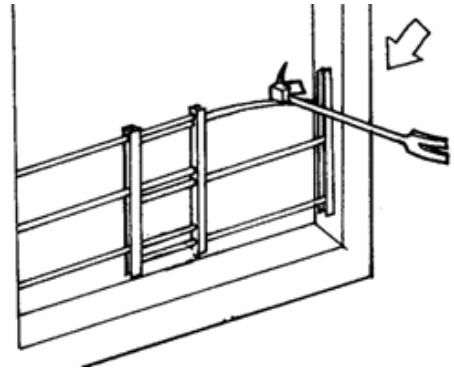
If the gate is larger than the window it was designed for, the vertical frames will be too close to the side of the window frame, preventing placement of the prying tool.

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CHILD GUARD GATES

Removing Child Guard Gates

Metal frame windows will be more difficult to force than wood frame windows. Another method of forcing them open would be to strike the horizontal bar where it joins the upright that is screwed into the frame.




Cutting the horizontal bars is another option, but that calls for a different tool such as a power saw or Sawzall. Bolt cutters may not work.

WINDOW/DOOR BARRIERS

HUD WINDOWS/DOORS

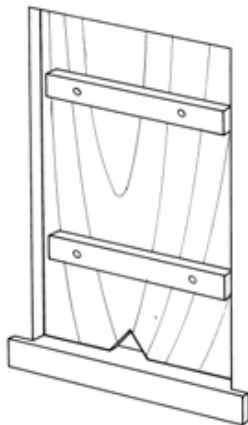
These security devices are relatively new to the fire service. When buildings and in some cases occupancies become vacant, the owner will secure the premises pending further renovation, or re-occupancy.



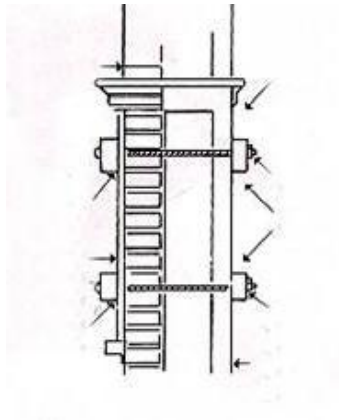
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HUD WINDOWS/DOORS

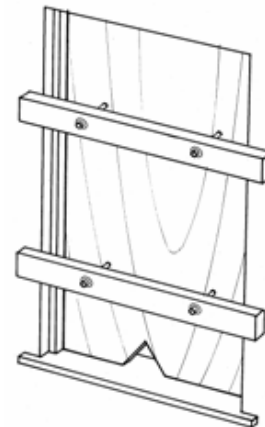
One or two sheets of plywood over a window opening secured with two or four, 2 x 4's. The 2x4's are wider than the window opening and hold the plywood in place. One or two bolts go through the 2x4's and secure the plywood in place.



Outside View



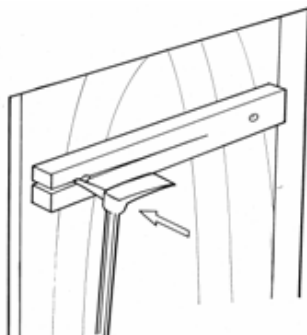
Side View



Inside View


Forcing A HUD Window

To remove this obstacle, using the **PIKE** of the Halligan Tool, strike and split the 2x4 at the bolt. Splitting one side and rotating the other is usually sufficient. This would have to be done to both of the 2x4's.



Another method to remove these would be using the forcible entry saw (aluminum oxide blade). In this method, the bolt head that is securing the 2x4 would be cut at a slight angle. Once the bolt heads are removed, you can drive the bolt through using the **PIKE** end of the Halligan.

Note: This method should be used from the tower ladder basket.

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HUD WINDOWS/DOORS

Forcing A HUD Window



Note: The danger is in controlling them. If you can not pull the plywood into the occupancy, they may “sail” and anyone in front of the building could be struck.

PLYWOOD COVERING WINDOW/DOOR

When the plywood is secured to the inside of the window frame only, just pry the window trim away and the plywood covering comes with it. If attached on the exterior, this removal is more involved and the same problem exists with the potential for the sheathing “sailing.”




Secured Inside

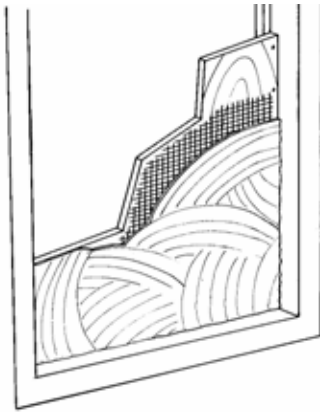


Secured Outside

A variation to the plywood covering is nailing wire lath to the sheet of plywood, followed by a “scratch coat” of mortar. This makes an effective seal and offers no point of reference as to where the opening actually is. This method of sealing will usually provide three layers of covering, plywood, wire mesh and mortar, forming an effective seal.

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PLYWOOD COVERING WINDOW/DOOR



Three Layers Forming an Effective Seal

Forcing Entry

This type is best removed using the power saw (carbide tip blade). Using one of the following methods will work in most situations:


- ☐ Cut an "X" opening in the plywood and peel it back.
- ☐ Cut an opening into the plywood, creating another door.
- ☐ With a window, cut a triangle for immediate access.

WAREHOUSING

Another method of securing a building or space is called, "**warehousing**." It is very simple and effective, since the contractor may use scrap wood to secure the premises. A piece of plywood is cut to size and secured with screws or nails around the perimeter of the window frame. Then a 2x4 is nailed across the inside of the frame (approximately at the middle of the plywood) with another piece of 2x4 nailed at an angle to the floor, bracing the plywood in position. This effectively creates a right angle.

You will be unable to determine from the outside if the opening is covered in this manner or if it is covered with a piece of plywood secured only to the inside of the opening, until you begin your operation.

The warehousing method of securing an opening is quite difficult to force from the outside.

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WAREHOUSING



Outside View



Inside View

Forcing Entry


Once again, the saw is the tool of choice. In this case, a chain saw is very effective.

Note: When using the chain saw be aware of the depth that you put the bar through when cutting. There may be members inside in the vicinity that could be struck by the rotating chain.

The door to the apartment may also be secured in a similar manner being covered with a sheet of plywood.

In order to gain entry, the plywood would have to be removed first. Then, whatever is securing the door would have to be forced.



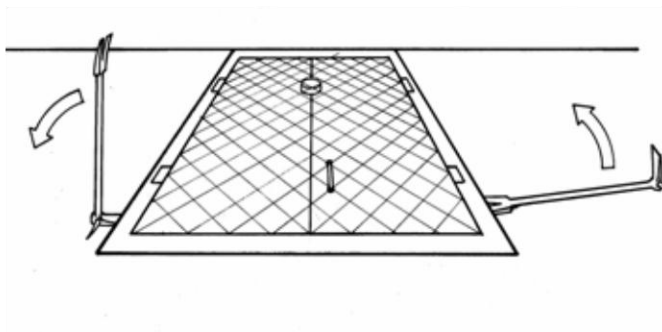
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SIDEWALK CELLAR DOORS

This outside entrance into the occupancy may be secured with padlocks. Generally removing the padlock(s) and opening the doors is not a problem.

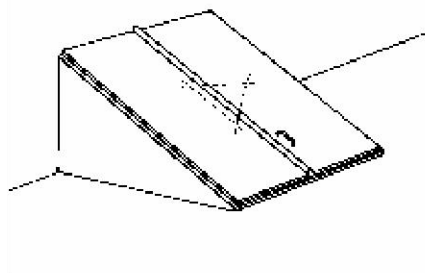
When the door is secured from inside or there are no visible locks, the entire door/hatch should be removed. Strike the mortar around the frame, breaking it away from the frame. Place the Halligan Tools under the frame, lift and then slide the entire door over.


Once the situation is mitigated, slide the door back over the opening and the area is once again secured until repairs to the mortar are completed.



ANGLED CELLAR DOORS (BILKO)

These outside entrances are usually angled from the foundation to the ground. They are generally two hinged steel doors opening from the center. Once open, they give access to a stairway which leads to the cellar or basement. They are secured by a sliding bolt from the underside. They may also have exterior padlocks.



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ANGLED CELLAR DOORS (BILKO)

Forcible Entry

- ☐ Locate the locking slide bolt, usually near the center of the connecting doors.
- ☐ Cut through the door just to the side where the two doors meet.
- ☐ Pry up the cut piece.
- ☐ Locate the sliding bolt and remove it.

