



Division 06 **Fire and Rescue Operations**

Chapter 19 – Forcible Entry into Buildings

March 2009

POLICY

This General Order shall establish a procedure for forcible entry into buildings under non-emergency situations.

DEFINITIONS

Probable Cause – In the judgment of a reasonably prudent person after weighing the facts

PROCEDURES

1. General Guidelines

Forcible entry into buildings under non-emergency situations shall be limited to the following conditions:

- Probable cause exists that a person or persons incapable of caring for themselves are inside and unable to open the entrance door.
- Probable cause exists that a hazardous condition exists, i.e., food on the stove, a gas leak, fuel spill, etc.

In either case, the owner/resident shall assume all liability for damage caused by the entry procedure.

Requests for assistance to gain entry for conditions other than those enumerated above must be denied and referred to the property management or building supervisor in the cases of rented properties, or to a locksmith in the case of single family dwellings.

Public Safety Communications shall request police assistance on all calls for forced entry to which Fire/EMS Department units are dispatched. Fire service personnel shall await the arrival of the police department prior to gaining entry unless, in the judgment of the officer-in-charge, conditions warrant otherwise.

REFERENCES

N/A

FORMS/ATTACHMENTS

N/A