S205 (1 of 2) **Forced Entry**

*Policy*

1. *Approval to forcibly enter a locked structure or gate shall be made by the Chief or Senior Officer unless there is a known immediate threat to human life safety and/or conditions exist permitting a significant level of property protection.*
2. *Forced entry into structures will only be used under the following conditions:*
   1. *Appropriate approval has been given*
   2. *Standard Operating Process S205 has been followed*
3. *Access through a locked gate approval will be made by first ESFD personnel on scene following procedures set forth in Standard Operating Process S205*

**SOP – Forced Entry**

1. **Locked Gates where no code/key is available**
   * **Fire Incident**
2. **No Smoke or Flames**
   * + - Confirm the gate is locked
       - Contact Central to see if they have access instructions or owner phone number
       - If no instruction and you can see the structure with no smoke for flames, walk around gate to structure
       - If you cannot see the structure gain access by cutting padlock, chain, accessing electric gate controls, or removing gate arm. Inform Central what you are doing
3. **Smoke or Flames**
   * + - Confirm the gate is locked
       - Contact Central to see if they have access instructions
       - If no instructions gain access by cutting padlock, chain, accessing electric gate controls, or removing gate arm. Inform Central what you are doing
       - Determine proper firefighting techniques and proceed

* **EMS Incident**
* Confirm gate is locked
* Walk around gate if house is visible, otherwise wait for fire personnel and/or law enforcement

S205 (2 of 2) **Forced Entry**

**SOP – Forced Entry (cont.)**

1. **Locked Structure where no one comes to the door**

* **Fire Incident**
  1. Attempt to bring someone to the door
     + - If no one answers, contact Central to see if they have access instructions or owner phone number
       - Confirm you are at the correct address
       - Confirm door is locked
       - Do a 360 size up checking all doors and windows for smoke, fire or other emergency
       - If audible alarm is sounding and no access has been gained, contact law and ask for ETA
       - If forcible entry is deemed necessary, notify Central that you are doing so, enter with another firefighter, call out and identify yourself
* **EMS Incident**
  1. Attempt to bring someone to the door
     + - If no one answers, contact Central to see if they have access instructions or owner phone number
       - Confirm you are at the correct address
  2. Is address posted on house?
     + - If not confirm with Central a description of the structure
  3. If no entry solution, try door to confirm it is locked
  4. If locked, do a 360 of the structure to try to see if a person is inside and needs help, and to try to locate an unlocked entry point
  5. **Confirmation of a life safety issue**
     + - Central tells you they have talked to the patient and the patient cannot give you access
       - Visual of an unresponsive patient
       - With confirmation of life safety issue, only if you feel there is no personal safety issue, notify Central that you will be gaining access, do as little damage as possible, enter with another responder, call out and identify yourself
  6. **With no confirmation of life safety issue**
     + - Ask Central for an ETA of law and communicate with law enforcement whether to wait or gain access

1. **Secure Premises before departure from scene**
   1. Make reasonable efforts to secure the structure prior to leaving. If you are unable to secure the structure, contact LE for assistance.