



Training Bulletin #2 (5/10/10)

Padlocks

In sticking with the forcible entry theme, I thought I would write about padlocks. The tips are nothing new, just a refresher for anyone who cares to take a look. The locks encountered throughout the city range from inexpensive light-duty to the heavy duty “puck” style. Typically you will find them securing garage doors, fence gates, and vacant properties. In most cases, it's usually easier to attack the fastener, hasp, or chain unless otherwise noted.



These smaller “dollar store” type locks are light gauge and easily defeated with standard techniques.

Medium gauge locks such as those from *Master & American* are more secure, but will also fail with standard techniques.



These larger chromed locks are heavy duty and appear very formidable. They are tough to defeat, depending on the manufacturer.

The most heavy duty locks are known as puck locks. The name is given due to its appearance similar to a hockey puck. The shackle is hidden inside the lock making it difficult to force with standard techniques.





Disc locks are another variation of padlock, these locks can be made heavy or light duty. The shackle has minimal exposure, and therefore is not defeated using standard techniques. It was designed primarily to prevent attacks by bolt cutters.



Techniques for Removal

Duck-Bill Lock Breaker



This “one use” tool is simply driven in between the lock and shackle causing failure. The tool is carried on Tower 1 in the driver’s side forcible entry compartment.

Halligan Bar

Place the pick in between the shackle & lock and have your partner use an axe or sledge hammer to drive the tool down. The halligan can also be used by placing the shackle of the lock in the forks and twisting. This method will defeat poorly fastened hasp assemblies.



Bolt-Cutters



All companies carry standard and large size bolt cutters. Many firefighters will go for this tool first out of instinct, however this is not always the best choice. Most medium/heavy duty locks are “case hardened” steel. The blades on the bolt cutter are not designed to cut such steel for more than one time. Consider bolt cutters only the light-gauge locks. Both sides of the hasp will need to be cut, as some locks feature heel/toe engagement.



Power Saw(K12) Aluminum Oxide Blade

There are 2 methods for using the power saw in cutting padlocks. If the the lock is on something stationary you can pin the lock to the wall with the blade while you cut. If the lock is connected with a chain or is not stationary enough, you will need an additional person to grip the lock with a pair of vice grips or section of rope/webbing. All Ladder companies & the Rescue carry a set of vice-grips with chain.

Puck Lock Removal Techniques



36" Pipe Wrench, Section Cheater Pipe

If you happen to find the lock without the side guards you may be able to twist the lock and break the staple/hasp system it's connected to. You may also be able to get the adz of a halligan in behind the lock and pry the staple/hasp system off as well. Typically if you see this lock, it will be accompanied with the surrounding guard system shown below.





Power Saw(K12), Aluminum Oxide Blade

First identify the keyway on the lock, then make a cut 2/3 up from the keyway. Remember, when cutting metal it's important to run the saw at less than full RPM to get a groove cut into the metal. After achieving the groove you may then accelerate to full RPM to finish the cut.



Through The Lock

Although both locks appear similar, they are constructed very different. Both are stamped with "hardened" on the shackle, and are chromed. The writing on the body reads "American Series 700" on the right, and "US General made in china" on the left. The american lock is very heavy duty and will not work for this method. The other lock, although similar is cheaply constructed.



The bottom of both locks will present one major difference. The cheap lock on the right, has a separate plate that can be pried off with a screw-driver.



Once the plate has been pried off, the keyway can be shaken out of the body.

Once the keyway has been removed, the same screwdriver can be used to rotate the mechanism inside the lock to release the shackle

