



If you take a ride through your district you will notice many security measures implemented on private dwellings. One measuring gaining popularity is enclosing your porch with a steel or iron gate. These porch enclosures can now be found in various parts of the city. When you encounter one of these systems during an EMS or Fire call take the time to see how the system is secured. Typically, we find the gates opened for us. This however may change when arriving for a structure fire in early hours of the morning. It is very important the first due companies have at least 2 plans for gaining entry through these security systems.



**900 Block Robeson St**



**1000 Block of Oley St**



**1200 Block Luzerne St**

Although these cage systems appear formidable, the locking system is usually the weakest point.



The hasp/padlock assembly is very common on steel gates throughout the city. The hasp is simply connected to steel bolt which is slide into a keeper. The padlock is then engaged to complete the lock.



All fire companies are all equipped with a large and small set of bolt cutters. In the example above, the steel provides enough room for the cutters to pass through to be able to attack the padlock. Remember to examine the padlock for the words "**Case Hardened**" those locks are not meant to be cut with standard bolt cutters. Also examine the lock for the "**through-the-lock**" technique if applicable.



If the padlock is not accessible, or the gate is locked with a standard rim lock or deadbolt we must use alternative methods. The gate on the left is locked with a standard deadbolt. Conventional FE techniques may not work depending on the strength of the material. Although I would consider inserting an adz in between the jamb and gate to see if I could spread the sections far enough apart.

Ladder companies could utilize the through-the-lock technique to quickly gain entry. If things aren't working for you, consider the F.E. saw or hydraulic tool.