

Pittsburgh Fire Department
Pittsburgh, PA

I was asked along with a group of instructors that I teach with to test the Ryan Escape Bar. We were all apprehensive at first because it just seemed to a heavier Haligan Bar with some additions that would be a hindrance during forcible entry. We decided to put it thru the paces. We first tried it out on approximately 50 steel doors with steel frames with half being outward opening and half inward. An 8 lb flat-headed axe was used as the striking tool, all the doors were forced successfully but with more energy than the Haligan Bar. It was recommended that the adze end needed to be beveled at more of an angle and was too thick. The additional ring and running fork on the tool did not cause any problems with forcing the doors. We also tested the tool for taking windows from the roof; the hole near the fork of the tool easily accepted a carabiner attached to a 50'3/8" rope. The Ryan Bar worked very well with venting the windows. The last thing tested was how the bar was going to perform with emergency bail-outs. We tested it during 9 firefighter survival classes with approximately 30-35 students in each. All the students performed a minimum of three bails using the state of Pennsylvanian bail-out technique. Four of the classes were taught at various local training academies with either concrete or metal walls. The bar was placed at one of the lower corners of the window and did not move as long as the firefighter held pressure with his right hand on the rope going across the windowsill. As a safety, an instructor assured that the bar did not slip and go out the window,. All bailing firefighters were also attached to a safety rope. The other five classes were done in acquired structures with either drywall or plaster and wood lathe on the walls. The Ryan Bar performed very well in these structures. It was very easy to get the bar to stay wherever it was sunk into the walls. The bar performed best during multiple bails where 34 firefighters bailed right after each other. The bar never moved during any of the bails.

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