

# HALLIGAN TOOL

FORCEABLE ENTRY

By [gCaptain.com](http://gCaptain.com)  
Site for Professional Mariners

# HALLIGAN



- Developed by Deputy Chief Hugh Halligan of FDNY
- Mainstay forcible entry tool, the other half of “the irons”
- Range in length from 20-42 inches, with 30 inches being the best for daily use
- Has a fork end, an adze, and a pick

# GALL'S HALLIGAN



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# USES

- Special uses
  - Adze end can cut bolt heads
  - Pick end can break padlocks, lift manhole covers
  - Fork end can cut metal, break padlocks
  - Self-defense during ISPS incidents
  - Self-rescue
  - Can help you “feel your way” out of a fire.
  - Overhaul
  - Moving hot/sharp/dangerous objects
  - Lifting heavy objects off trapped persons

# FLAT HEAD AXE



- 6 pound and 8 pound models
- 8 pound version is much more efficient
- Ability to strike another tool or an object is advantageous

# FLAT HEAD AXE

Uses:

- Drive halligan or similar tool to force entry.
- Breach walls
- Opening floors and walls for overhaul
- Can be replaced with a sledge-hammer during heavy operations.

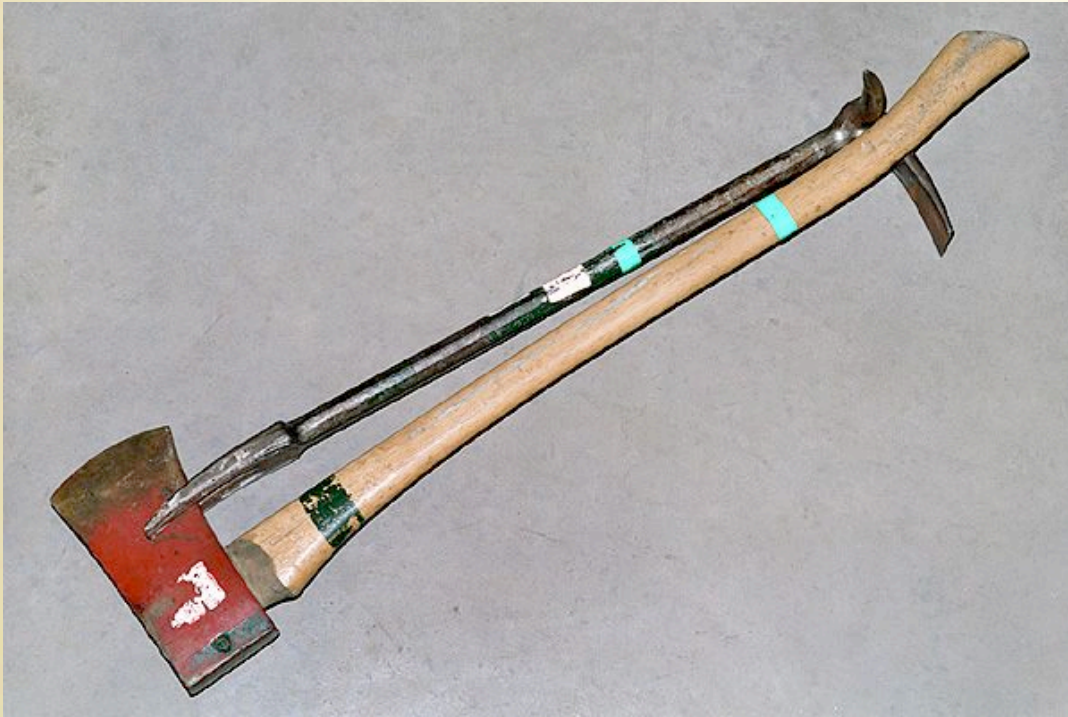
- The flat-head axe serves as both a cutting tool and a striking tool, and has many useful purposes. The flat-head axe can be used to cut holes in walls, doors, floors, roofs and even laminated automotive windshields during extrication operations. As a striking tool, it is commonly used drive the Halligan and other prying tools for forcible entry operations.

# The Irons



- Flathead axe married with a halligan bar
- Preferably an 8 pound axe and a 30" halligan
- The mainstay of every engine and ladder company
- All forms of forcible entry, breaching walls, ventilation, overhaul, search, utility control, salvage, and forcible exit
- Nearly all firefighting operations can be completed with a set of irons

# IRONS



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# USES

- The flat-head axe and the Halligan Bar are undoubtedly the two most-used hand tools in the fire service as they are utilized in a wide-variety of applications. They can be found on most apparatus and are commonly carried paired-together with the fork-end of the Halligan fitted over the head of the axe, and the two handles secured to each other with some kind of fastener. When carried together in this manner they are referred to as "The Irons" and are said to be "married".

# THE ADZE



- The adze is useful for forcing outward swinging doors. The pick can be used for punching the locks out of automobile doors and trunks, and it can be inserted into the shackle opening of a padlock, and then struck with a tool to break the lock.

# PICK



# PICK

- punching the locks out doors and trunks
- lifting manhole covers & deck plates
- making or enlarging purchase points
- can be inserted into the shackle opening of a padlock, and then struck with an axe or sledge hammer to break the shackle free from the lock.

# THE FORK



# FORK

- used to force inward swinging doors
- general pry bar use

The flat-head axe is used to drive the Halligan's adze between the door and frame.



The Halligan is then used to create a "purchase point" so the hydraulic spreaders can be inserted to pry the door from the frame.



# S & R

- Search and rescue teams often take a set of Irons with them because of their many uses. Search and rescue personnel often have to force a door or window to gain entry, and they may later find locked interior doors which will also have to be opened. During a search, a firefighter can use one of the tools for extended reach to probe for victims in closets and under beds, and to check the floor ahead for dangers such as unseen holes in a smoke-filled room. As teams search a structure, it is common for them to remove the glass from the windows to help ventilate the building. An axe or Halligan is a great tool for this application, among many, many others.

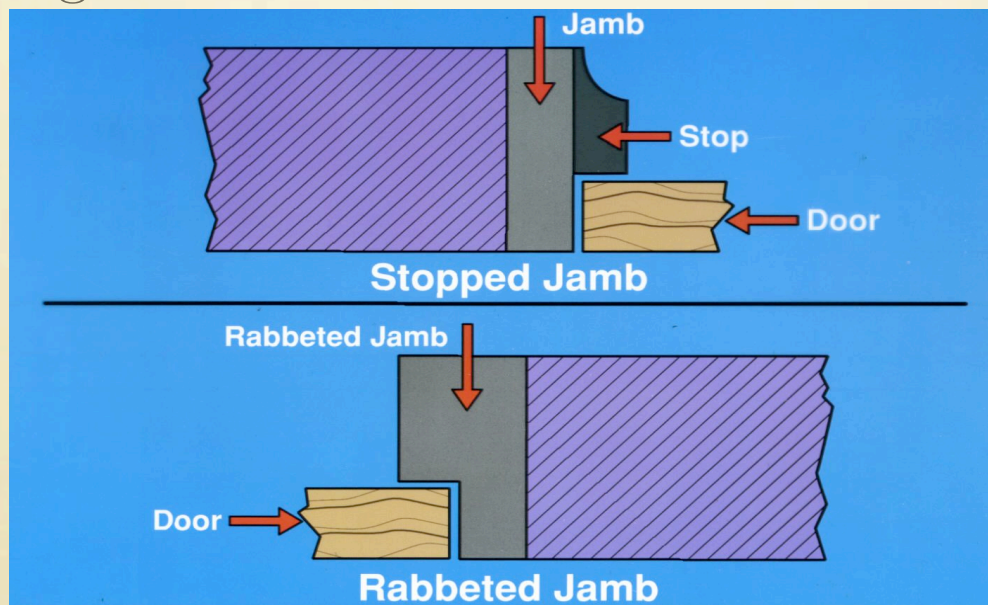
# FORCED ENTRY SAFETY

## General Safety Points

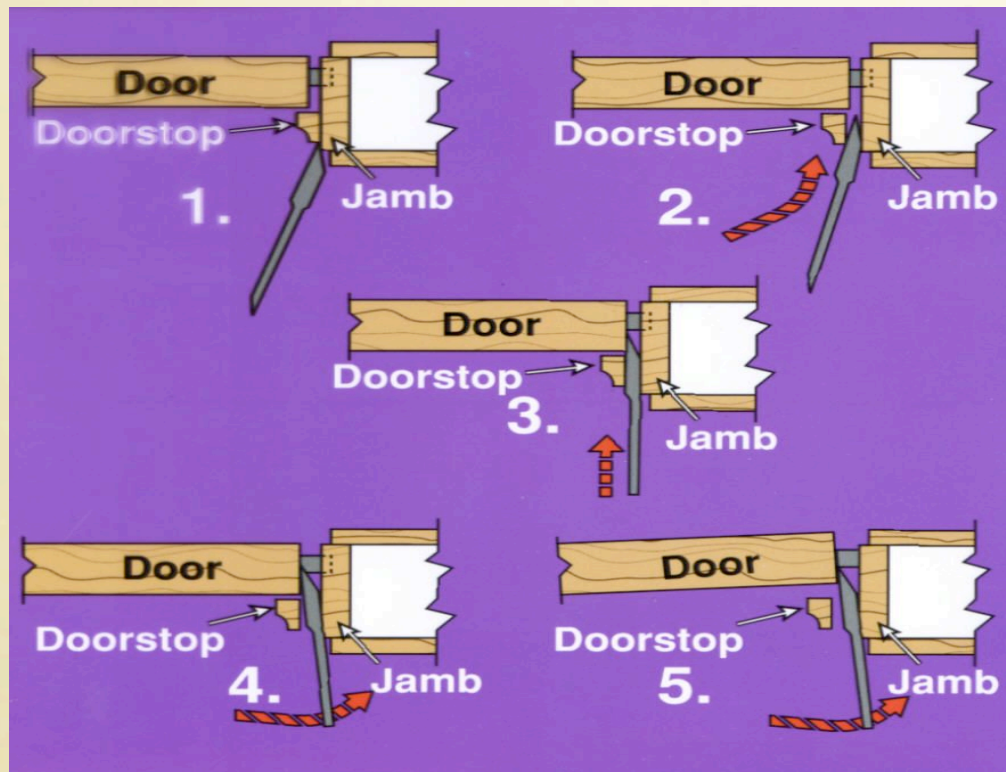
- Positioned away from potential products of combustion
- Appropriate personal protective equipment
- Body mechanics for tool use
- Observe conditions around forcible entry point at all times
- Consider a “softer” entry point if having difficulty making entry
- Wind is a factor in many forcible entry operations, make sure that it doesn’t affect fire operations
- Try before prying (Your cardinal rule of forcible entry operation)
- Control the release of the material (door, window) being forced
- Make sure the area stays open once forced, this may be a retreat area. Use door chocks or clear it out completely

# OPENING DOORS

- Stopped Jamb-Has a piece of molding added to door frame for door to close on.
- Rabbeted Jamb- Is shoulder mill into casing for door to close against.

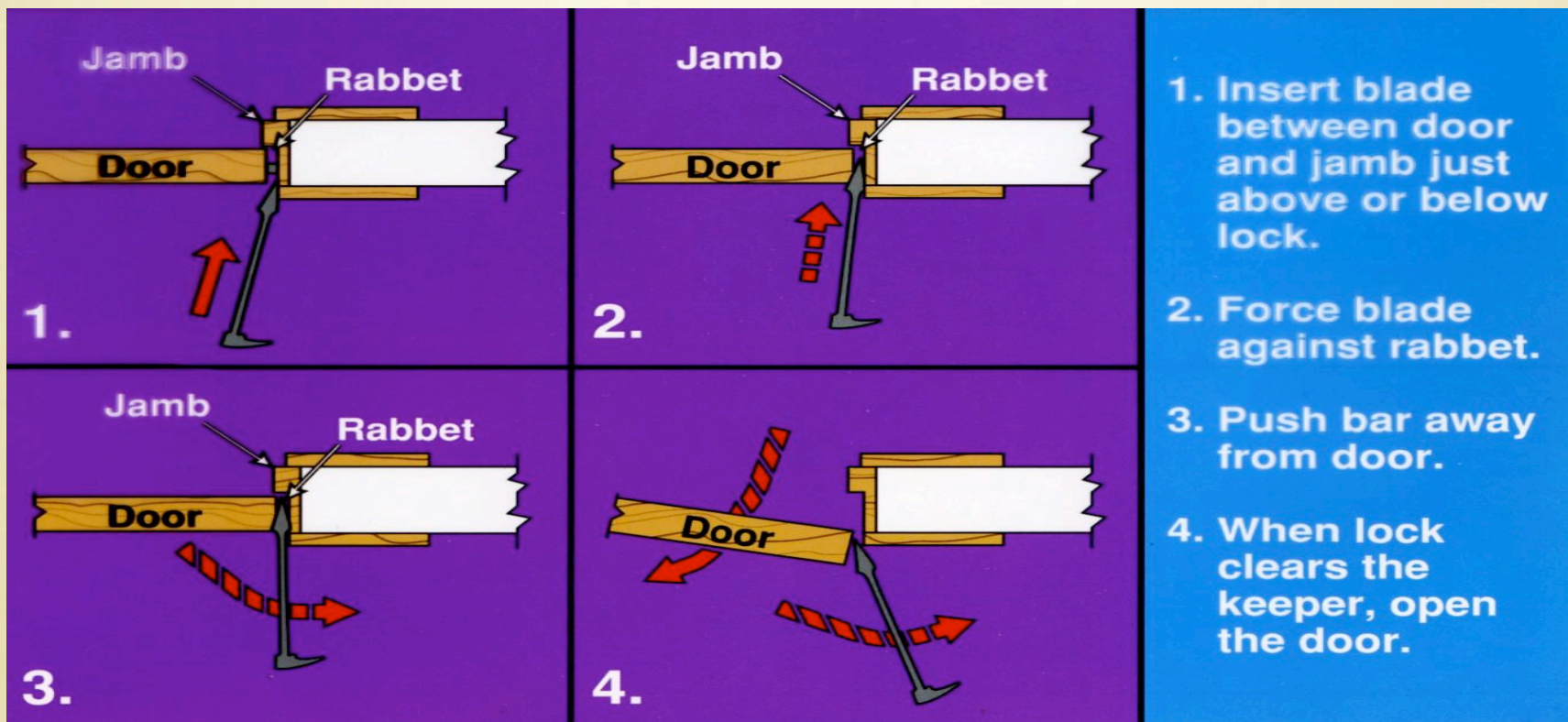


# DOORS SWINGING AWAY



1. Insert blade between doorstop and jamb just above or below lock.
2. Remove or loosen doorstop at the lock.
3. Start the blade between the door and jamb.
4. Make initial pry when blade is halfway in.
5. With full bite, pry until the bolt passes the keeper, and then push the door open.

# DOOR SWINGS TOWARDS



# EMERGENCY ESCAPE



Photo 1: The tool can be placed in several ways to act as a substantial object. One way is when it is placed across the corner of the exit window.

Photo 2: The other way is when it is driven into the floor in the area adjacent to the window.

- Remember: “Failure to prepare is only failing to prepare for failure.” Review this slide again in a week or two to help you remember the key points.

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