

Norfolk Insider

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“Norfolk Firefighters Practice Ventilation Entry Search”



Rapid entry is the key when attempting to save a person from a burning structure. Norfolk firefighters used a home on Pasewalk Avenue slated for demolition last week to practice ventilation entry searches.

“We used a smoke machine to produce artificial smoke in the second story of the home. Firefighters practiced making a rapid entry through the window, using the thermal imaging camera to detect where people might be in the room because the smoke and darkness make it difficult to see what is going on,” said Steve Bettendorf, City of Norfolk Fire Captain of Shift B.

The firefighters, wearing nearly 60 pounds of breathing apparatus and other firefighting equipment, practiced testing the structure for integrity, finding victims and pulling them to safety.

All firefighters and reserve firefighters practiced the drill. Bettendorf said that at least once a month the Fire Division does some type of fire safety or rescue training.