



Bakersfield Composite Squadron #121



60-Second Safety Advisor #24

Entering or Re-Entering a Burning Building

Hopefully, you will never have the opportunity to enter or re-enter a burning building. But, if you do, here are some things of which you need to be aware. Once you have made your way out of a burning building you may already be suffering the effects of hypoxia (lack of oxygen). Impairment of judgment is one of the early effects. You may not realize it, but your ability to think clearly and rationally may be compromised. By entering or re-entering a burning building you are exposing yourself to toxic gases, heat - upwards of 1500 degrees Fahrenheit, structural collapse, electrocution hazards, and many other serious hazards. Once you are out of the building, you should go to a safe place far enough away to be clear of collapse or explosion. Do a quick headcount and advise firefighting personnel how many are missing and where they were last seen. Do not try to re-enter the burning building. Identify yourself and others who escaped from the building to the medical personnel so you can be checked for injury (injuries such as smoke inhalation and hypoxia may not be readily apparent). Remember, being aware of your limitations is a critical part of situational awareness.

