

**Event 5 Property Crimes**  
**LD23- Crimes in Progress**  
**Session 18– Building Search**

**Date Revised:** 11/26/19

**Course Goal:** To teach recruit officers to respond to a crime in progress.

**Module Goal:** To teach recruit officers tactical concepts to safely conduct a building search.

**Learning Objectives:**

- Demonstrate appropriate actions when conducting a search for suspects, including: preparing to enter the area to be searched, initiating owner contact, if applicable, communicating (e.g., announcement to potential suspects, contact with other units), using lighting, using canines/special units, using cover officers, making a tactically sound entry, conducting a systematic search, confronting a suspect during the search, using proper arrest techniques. [23.II.C.1-10]
- Explain the primary purposes for establishing crime scene perimeters. [23.II.B]
- Demonstrate effective officer actions for the safe and tactical response involving Officer down calls. [23.IV.A.5]
- The students will successfully use all three search methods, mirror, quick peek, and slice the pie.
- Demonstrate effective officer actions for the safe and tactical response to crime in progress involving burglaries. [23.III.A.2]

**Module Time:** 14 hours (6 Sessions)

<p><b>Resources:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Classroom with tables</li> <li>• Dry-erase markers</li> <li>• Inert handgun for each recruit</li> <li>• Mirror</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Module Summary:</b> The students will begin with a facilitated discussion in the classroom. The instructors will then demonstrate the concepts and techniques of building search. The students will demonstrate a safe and tactical building search.</p>	
Outline	Instructor Notes
<p>I. EQUIPMENT</p> <p>A. Officers are required to have flashlights, and ballistic body armor. <b>[1]</b></p> <p>B. Other equipment possibly needed.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Door Stops</li> <li>2. Tie-Off line (Rip Hobble can work)</li> <li>3. Knee pads</li> </ol>	<p><b>Session 1 (2hrs)</b>  Facilitated discussion in the classroom  (Approximately 1.5hrs)</p> <p><i>Ask students what is the Penal Code Section for Burglary-459PC</i></p>

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<p>4. Ballistic helmet 5. Mirrors</p> <p>II. Containment (Perimeter)</p> <p>A. Containment: quality containment around the location, that will be searched, is essential for officer <u>safety</u>, <u>the containment of a possible suspect inside the location</u>, and to prevent <u>escape</u>. Officers in a containment position should exploit afforded cover and concealment. [2] <b>[23.II.B]</b></p> <p>1. Officers should deploy themselves in a position that is not too close to the search location, but not so far away that they would be ineffective. <u>Additionally, officers should attempt to observe windows, doors, or other areas within their containment responsibility, where a suspect could potentially exit the location and escape.</u></p> <p>2. Considerations for perimeters are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>a. Complete containment around the perimeter of the location</li><li>b. No diagonal deployment, unless there are two A-cars present. [3]</li><li>c. Proper sequential numbering of a location, (Clockwise).</li><li>d. Establishing a tactical frequency for all involved units.</li><li>e. Deployment of an Air Unit</li><li>f. Keeping a constant uninterrupted view of the location. [4]</li></ul> <p>B. Architecture and Information of the Location:</p>	<p><i>What is the definition of Burglary-Entering a specified structure with the intent to commit any theft or felony.</i></p> <p><b>[1] Ask-</b> What may be some equipment needed while doing a building search?</p> <p><b>[2] Ask-</b> Why is it important to set up containment around the location to be searched?</p> <p><i>Reinforce the 4 C's</i></p> <p><b>[3] Ask-</b> Can we diagonal deploy?</p> <p><b>[4] Ask-</b> What is the advantage of having the Air Unit?</p> <p><b>[5] Ask-</b> What can you learn from the architecture of the location?</p>
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<p>1. The outside architecture of a building can reveal valuable information, regarding the inside layout of the search location. <b>[5]</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>a. Door locations, which way do they open, in or out (Hinges).</li><li>b. Window locations / Levels - Floors</li><li>c. Natural flow of the location (To the right, left or straight back)</li><li>d. Attic Vents / Crawl Spaces</li><li>e. Obtaining interior room configuration of a location can be immensely valuable.</li><li>f. Find someone who can give information about the inside of the location.</li><li>g. Attempt to have a diagram drawn showing the room locations.</li><li>h. For searches, when time is available (i.e. search warrants, open door, 459 investigation, parole/probation searches, long stand - off, etc.) Find a similar location and perform a walk-through to familiarize yourself with the layout of the location to be searched.</li></ul> <p>C. Search Teams: (Basic concepts)</p> <p>1. Two officers may enter but three officers are needed to conduct a search. The fourth officer will take the role of Team Leader <b>[6]</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>a. The basis for a minimum of four officer teams conducting the search is,</li><li>b. Should one officer become injured during a search, it will</li></ul>	<p><b>[6] Ask-</b> What is the minimum number of officers to search a building?</p> <p><b>[7] Ask-</b> Why is the minimum for a search 4 Officers?</p> <p>• 4<sup>th</sup> Officer can take the role of team leader for Command and Control purposes.</p>
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<p>take at least 2 officers to effectively execute an officer rescue. <b>[7]</b></p> <p>c. Officer rescues are proven as an effective manner of extracting an injured officer from a hostile location.</p> <p>d. Four officer teams are standard when performing building searches.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>1) Primary Cover Officer</li><li>2) Searching Officer</li><li>3) Team Leader</li><li>4) Trailer</li></ul> <p>e. Primary Cover Officer is responsible for providing cover for a Searching Officer and covering - Areas of Concern. Additionally, the Primary Cover is also responsible for assisting with the search of a location and locating potential suspects. <b>NOTE:</b> Roles may change between the initial Search Officer, Trailer and Primary Cover Officer. <b>BE FLEXIBLE.</b></p> <p>f. The Searching Officer is responsible for conducting a search of the location to locate potential suspects.</p> <p>g. Team Leader is responsible for forming the team, providing guidance and Command and Control during the search. Additionally, the Team Leader will make sure that all areas of concern/areas of responsibility are covered and searched, while ensuring that no areas are left unsearched. <b>[8]</b></p>	<p><b>[8] Ask-</b> What are the Team Leaders responsibilities?</p>
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<p>1. The systematic use of proper searching techniques will enable officers to locate a suspect inside of a location, without giving the suspect an opportunity to injure them. <b>[14]</b></p> <p>2. Officers should always employ the basic concepts. <b>[15]</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>a. Look and listen first</li><li>b. Mirror (If available – strongly encouraged)</li><li>c. Slice the angle (Pie) wherever feasible</li><li>d. Quick Peek (If warranted)</li></ul> <p>E. During a systematic search, the officer shall stop and listen outside a room/door for any suspect movement. This is done before performing the search techniques.</p> <p>F. Officers should Mirror a point of entry prior to exposing themselves and attempt to observe any suspects (i.e. suspect(s) lying in wait to ambush officers), when feasible. <u>Use the full length of the mirror when starting a search at each search point – when feasible.</u></p> <p>G. Slice the angle (Pie) on any door where the technique is feasible</p> <p>H. After slicing the angle (no more than 90 degrees - approximately) the officer can return to the door frame and Mirror and/or Quick Peek before making entry. <b>[16]</b></p> <p>IV. ANGLES</p> <p>A. Officers need to be aware of not placing themselves into an exposed/vulnerable area by disregarding the angles that come into play during a stealth search.</p>	<p><b>[14] Ask-</b> What is the importance of a systematic search?</p> <p><b>[15] Ask-</b> What are some searching techniques?</p> <p><b>[16] Ask-</b> How far should we slice the “pie?”</p> <p><b>[16] Ask-</b> Why do we Mirror before slicing the pie or quick peek, when feasible?</p>
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<p>1. Adjusting movements of the search, officers must be in sequence with areas being covered by other officers.</p> <p>2. This will keep officers from moving into an area where a suspect would be able to attack the officer.</p> <p>B. One of the greatest dangers while searching is not being cognizant of an angle working against an officer, and to the suspect’s advantage.</p> <p>V. ENTRIES</p> <p>A. The entry into a location can be a very dangerous time for officers. Doorways have long been referred to as “The Fatal Funnel.” Officers need to make entries using several techniques. <b>[17]</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Crisscross <b>[18]</b></li><li>2. Button Hook</li><li>3. Linear (hallways or narrow areas)</li></ol> <p>B. Room entries shall be completed by a minimum of two officers. <b>[19]</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Never allow less than two officers to enter a room.</li><li>2. Flexibility is a must always.</li><li>3. If a room were so small that two officers would cause congestion inside the area, then one officer enters while the other covers from the doorway.</li><li>4. Although two officers may be the minimum, most larger rooms will require 3 or more to adequately cover and clear all areas of concern.</li></ol>	<p><b>[17] Ask-</b> Why is it important to quickly get through a doorway?</p> <p><b>[18] Ask-</b> What are the three types of entries?</p> <p><b>[19] Ask-</b> How many officers to enter a room?</p> <p><b>[20] Ask-</b> Why is it tactically unsafe to use two or more points of entry?</p>
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<p>C. It is imperative that only one entrance point is utilized during the search.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. It is recommended for teams to have an alternate entry point planned, should the first point of entry fail.</li><li>2. It is tactically unsafe to use two or more points of entry, simultaneously on the same floor.</li><li>3. Officers can mistakenly come into contact with each other during the search. <b>[20]</b></li></ol> <p>D. Officers need to visually sweep an area upon entering.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. The visual sweep should always be:<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>a. Corner</li><li>b. Center</li><li>c. Up and Down</li><li>d. These rules are in place to ensure that an officer does a complete visual sweep of the entered room.</li><li>e. While conducting these maneuvers, officers should remember to keep their head up and muzzle down, to avoid blocking their full field of view. <b>[21]</b></li></ol></li></ol> <p>VI. COMMUNICATIONS INSIDE THE LOCATION</p> <p>A. Communications between officers conducting a building search is a key element in the successful conclusion of the search.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Officers need to communicate by use of hand signals if possible and verbally if necessary. <b>[22]</b></li><li>2. Hand signals need to be established and understood by all Officers involved in the search.</li></ol>	<p><b>[21] Ask-</b> Why is it important to visually sweep the corner first upon entering the location?</p> <p><b>[22] Ask-</b> What are some ways to communicate inside the location?</p> <p><i>The instructor will demonstrate the hand signals.</i></p>
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- a. Suspect - Support hand open wide flaring all fingers pointed in direction of suspect.
- b. Cover - Sweeping of the support hand over the head in a back and forth manner followed by the pointing of a finger in the direction, or at the object needed to be covered.
- c. Stop - A closed fist (support hand) held up near the face.
- d. To gain the attention of the team - Snapping of the fingers (support hand).
- e. Follow – Support hand - Open palm, arm moved in a circular motion at the elbow.

*The instructor will review the drawing and exhibiting policy with the class.*

**VII. WEAPON POSITIONING**

- A. It should be clearly understood that building searches are a high-risk situation.
  - 1. Officers will normally have their firearm drawn from their holsters since a search for the suspect has the possibility of escalating into a use of deadly force situation.
  - 2. Proper weapons handling during the search is paramount to officer safety. For example, the Searching Officer may, briefly, conduct a search with his/her firearm holstered while the Primary Cover Officer covers the Searching Officer, i.e. mirroring, lifting bed, moving furniture, opening doors.
  - 3. Officers should remember to keep their head up and muzzle down, to avoid blocking their full field of view, as suspects often hide in low places.

**[23] Ask-** What are the four firearms Basic Safety Rules?

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<p>4. Several key elements to safe and proper weapons handling include <b>[23]</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>a. <b>All guns are always loaded</b></li><li>b. <b>Never allow the muzzle to cover anything you are not willing to shoot.</b></li><li>c. <b>Keep your finger off the trigger until your sights are aligned on the target and you intend to shoot</b></li><li>d. <b>Be sure of your target</b></li><li>e. If an Officer moves in front of your weapon, depress the muzzle until the Officer is clear of your muzzle.</li><li>f. Weapons handling should be restricted to the Officers primary hand unless the Officer is competent with their off hand or they are injured. <b>[24]</b></li><li>g. When using a flashlight, Officers should utilize the Harries, Chapman technique or Pistol with attached light (PWAL).</li></ul> <p>VIII. LIGHTING</p> <p>A. Lighting is a key element in a successful search.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Officers must be able to see clearly to ensure they are not missing a hidden suspect's location.</li><li>2. The proper use of lights can make an officer's task much easier and safer.</li><li>3. Improper use of lighting can place an officer in a position of disadvantage without the officer realizing the danger.<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>a. Lights in front of an officer with darkness behind.</li></ul></li></ul>	<p><b>[24] Ask-</b> Weapons handling should be restricted to the Officers primary hand unless?</p> <p><b>[25] Ask-</b> What are the hazards of silhouetting an officer with your light?</p> <p><b>[26] Ask-</b> What is the advantage of placing light in the face of a suspect in a dark environment?</p>
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<p>b. Never silhouette an officer with your light. <b>[25]</b></p> <p>c. Avoid turning your light off in a dark environment.</p> <p>d. Darkness is a suspect’s friend. Light is his/her enemy.</p> <p>e. Lighting placed into the face of a suspect in a dark environment will place the suspect at a disadvantage. The suspect may be unable to see the officer behind the beam of light. <b>[26]</b></p> <p>f. Refrain from placing your light system in your primary hand.</p> <p><b>IX. OFFICER RESCUES</b></p> <p>A. The safety of officers during a search is most important.</p> <p>1. Although officers may do everything right, misfortune can occur with one of the officers involved in the search becoming injured by a suspect.</p> <p>2. Officers need to be prepared to deal with these situations in a tactically competent manner.</p> <p>B. “The body will readily go where the mind has already been” mental preparation is a must. <b>[27]</b></p> <p>1. An officer knowing what they must do in a critical incident is going to react much quicker and with greater precision, compared to an officer who is totally unprepared.</p> <p>C. Officer rescues need to be performed in the following manner. <b>[23.IV.A.5]</b></p> <p>1. As an officer goes down, the officer closest yells out the officer’s name</p>	<p><b>[27] Ask-</b> Why is mental preparation a must during police work?</p> <p><i>(Demonstrate an officer down rescue Learning Activity 2)</i></p> <p><b>[28] Ask-</b> Why do we search with a minimum of three officers?</p> <p><b>[29] Ask-</b> What is the definition of Cover Fire?</p>
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<p>yelling (Smith is down, Smith is down) or “Officer Down!”. [28]</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>2. The officer closest to the downed officer then moves in front or to a tactically superior position in relation to the downed officer. <u>If the downed officer, or other persons remain in immediate danger from death or serious bodily injury, the cover officer may employ cover fire to aid with the rescue of the downed officer.</u> [28]</li><li>3. Cover fire is “controlled and deliberate fire, directed at a life-endangering threat, where an Officer reasonable believes the threat to be located. [29]<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>a. The cover fire does not have to be <u>directed specifically at the suspect, but instead, the specific area where the officer believes the suspect is located.</u></li><li>b. Cover fire can be fired through walls <u>to</u> suppress the suspect’s assault upon the downed officer.</li><li>c. The next officer will go to the downed officer, holster, and physically extract the officer from the location. The officer should communicate that they are moving and that they are out so the cover officer is not left in the location by himself/herself [30]</li></ol></li><li>4. Officers utilizing cover fire must fire in a systematic manner that will afford the rescuer the time necessary for extraction.<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>a. Rate of fire should be controlled and at a rate that allows the officer to maintain accuracy and ammo management. [31]</li></ol></li></ol> <p>X. APPREHENDING THE SUSPECT</p>	<p>[30] Ask- Why is it important for the rescue officer to communicate?</p> <p>[31] – Officers should explain the advantages of slowing down their rate of fire.</p> <p>[32] Ask- Why should officers always expect to find a suspect?</p> <p>[33] Ask- What are some locations officers can take the suspect(s) into custody?</p>
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- A. Officers should always expect to find a suspect in every corner and behind every piece of furniture.
- B. Using this basic principal, an officer will eliminate the element of surprise when they have located a suspect. **[32]**
  - 1. Remember, you must be prepared to deal with the suspect once they are located.
    - a. Always consider secondary suspects.
    - b. Control the suspect’s hands.
    - c. Move the suspect to a location that is advantageous to the officers, i.e. an area that has been cleared by officers and minimizes exposure for officers and suspect.
    - d. Consider the best location for taking the suspect into custody.
      - 1) If there is an area inside of the location that has been cleared by officers and considered safe, it can be used. **[33]**
      - 2) If you locate a suspect with a mirror and you don’t believe the suspect knows they have been located with the mirror, (undetected), use hand signals to notify the search team.
      - 3) If you locate a suspect with a mirror, and you believe the suspect knows they have been found (detected), use strong verbal commands to advise the suspect what to do and to also notify the

*Why is it important to use proper handcuffing techniques?*

*Why is it important to do a thorough search of the suspect?*

**[34] Ask-** Why does one officer search at a time?

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<p>search team that you've located the suspect.</p> <p>4) If you must take the suspect outside of the location for officer safety, then do so.</p> <p>e. Control the suspect movements.</p> <p>f. Slow their movements down by placing the suspect onto their knees.</p> <p>g. Never place a suspect between officers, or pull a suspect past a covering officer.</p> <p>h. Handcuff the suspect, search them thoroughly and conduct an interview.</p> <p>i. Resume search.</p> <p>j. Complete Investigation.</p> <p><b>XI. ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATIONS</b></p> <p>A. Building Searches are an inherently dangerous task that officers must do <u>daily</u>.</p> <p>1. There are many considerations that must be observed before, during and after the search.</p> <p>B. "There are no absolutes in tactics, but there are things you absolutely must do."</p> <p>1. Only one officer searches at a time (avoids confusion). <b>[34]</b></p> <p>2. Use light to your advantage and realize when light is placing you at a disadvantage.</p> <p><b>Key learning points</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Avoid entering a location alone</li> <li>- Avoid the center of halls and rooms</li> <li>- Avoid standing in a doorway</li> <li>- Keep noise down to a minimum</li> <li>- Stop and listen periodically</li> <li>- Teamwork</li> <li>- Command and Control</li> </ul>	<p>The instructors will demonstrate the three entries, <u>crisscross</u>, button hook and linear. The students will practice the entries.</p> <p>The instructors will demonstrate Mirroring techniques, Slicing the Angle (Pie) and the Quick Peek. The instructors will also demonstrate making entry into an open door, addressing a closed door and a door that opens outward. The students will practice the techniques.</p> <p>End 2 hours</p> <p>Session 2- 3hrs <b>Students will practice entries and the different search techniques.</b></p> <p>Session 3- 2hrs <b>Learning Activity 1</b></p> <p>Session 4- 2hrs <b>Learning Activity 2 (Officer Down Rescue)</b></p> <p>Session 5- 3hrs <b>Learning Activity 3</b></p> <p>Session 6- 2hrs <b>Stairwell Searches, Learning Activity 1,3</b></p>
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- Take your time, there is no reason to rush	
XII.	

**Learning Activity 1- Possible Open Door at 12020 Academy Circle [23.II.C.1,2,3,4,6,7,8,9,10  
23.III.A.2]**

**Purpose-** Provide the students with an understanding of search concepts and the knowledge and use of the equipment necessary to conduct a safe search.

**Description-** The suspect will hide under the countertop at 12020 Academy Circle. The suspect will be played by one of the instructors.

Four recruits will be chosen to assume the role of the police officers. The primary unit will receive a radio call of a possible open door at 12020 Academy Circle. The officers will have a call back number and will attempt to contact the PR (Person Reporting). The PR will advise the officers the front door of the residence at 12020 Academy Circle is open. There is no additional information given.

The primary unit will advise dispatch of their code 6 location and communicate any pertinent information. The officers will make a safe approach and observe the front door of the location ajar. The unit will communicate all necessary information including requesting additional resources to contain the building. The officers should utilize the 4 C's (Control, Communicate, Coordinate and Contain). After containing the location, the officers will attempt to call out any potential suspects inside of the location using available resources.

The officers will work as a team and use the search methods they were taught. They will enter the location and using the search methods they were taught the officers will locate the suspect hiding under the countertop. The officers will successfully take the suspect into custody using the building search concepts.

*(The time needed to get to the point of extraction and arrest will vary. Completing the scenario successfully will vary in time depending on the students)*

**Suspect behaviors:**

- Cooperative

**Resources needed:**

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- Inert handguns
- Mirror
- Flashlight
- Training radios
- 1 radio for emergency notifications

**Key learning points:**

- Communication
- What we do with an Area of Concern (Cover, clear or secure)
- Avoid entering a location alone
- Avoid the center of halls and rooms
- Avoid standing in a doorway
- Keep noise down to a minimum
- Stop and listen periodically
- The importance of teamwork
- The importance of Command and Control
- Take your time, there is no reason to rush

**Time needed:** 15-20 minutes



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**Learning Activity 2- Officer Down Rescue Demonstration [23.IV.A.5,]**

**Purpose-**The students will understand the proper tactics in performing an Officer Down Rescue. The students will demonstrate an Officer Down Rescue during Building Search Simunitions.

**Description-** Four Recruit Officers will assume the role of officers searching a building in Sit Sim Village (any building). One instructor (role-player) will assume the role of the suspect who will be hiding inside the building. Three officers will enter the building and the suspect will start shooting. One officer will go down simulating he/she had been shot. The officer closest to the downed officer yells out the officer's name ("Jones is down, Jones is down") or "Officer Down!" The officer closest to the downed officer then moves in front or to a tactically superior position in relation to the downed officer and begins firing cover fire. Cover fire shall be directed at the area where the officer knows the suspect is located. The next officer will go to the downed officer and physically extract the officer from the location. He/she shall verbalize they are moving so the officer providing cover fire does not get left inside the building by herself/himself.

Suspect behaviors:

- Deadly

**Resources needed:**

- Inert handguns

**Key learning points:**

- Importance of communication
- The importance of using cover fire
- Rate of fire (Training Purposes = no faster than one round per half second) allowing the rescuer the time necessary for extraction
- The importance of teamwork.
- The importance of Command and Control.

**Time needed:** 10 minutes

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**Learning Activity 3- Open door at the LAPD Motel [23.II.C.1,2,3,4,6,7,8,9,10 23.III.A.2]**

**Purpose-** Provide the students with an understanding of search concepts and the knowledge and use of the equipment necessary to conduct a safe search.

**Description-** The suspect will hide in the LAPD motel. The suspect (Role Player) will be played by one of the instructors.

Four Recruit Officers will be chosen to assume the role of the police officers. The primary unit will receive a radio call of an open door at the LAPD Motel. The officers will have a call back number and will attempt to contact the PR (Person Reporting). The PR will advise the officers the front door upstairs of the LAPD Motel is open and no one has permission to be inside. There is no additional information given.

The primary unit will advise dispatch of their code 6 location and communicate any pertinent information. The officers will make a safe approach and observe the front door of the location ajar. The primary unit will communicate all necessary information including requesting additional resources to contain the building. The officers should utilize the 4 C's (Control, Communicate, Coordinate and Contain). After containing the location, the officers will attempt to call out any potential suspects inside of the location using available resources.

The officers will work as a team and use the search methods they were taught including stairwell searches. They will enter the location and using the search methods they were taught the officers will locate the suspect hiding inside the location. The officers will successfully take the suspect into custody using the building search concepts.

**Suspect behaviors:**

- Cooperative

**Resources needed:**

- Inert handguns
- Mirror
- Flashlight
- Training radios
- 1 radio for emergency notifications

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**Key learning points:**

- Communication
- What we do with an area of concern (Cover, clear or secure)
- Avoid the center of halls and rooms
- Avoid standing in a doorway
- Keep noise down to a minimum
- Stop and listen periodically
- Take your time, there is no reason to rush

**Time required:** 15-20 minutes