

Access Rescue Canada, Inc.

Roof Ventilation – Sample Notes

The following constitutes notes for roof ventilation. They are not necessarily a check-list of must sees. As with all evaluation skills, ensure you clearly demonstrate each step of the skill and clearly verbalize each action.

- Permission to check equipment prior to starting evolution.
- Assess the available tools and identify the tools that you will use. This will be one (1) pike-pole and one (1) pick-head axe.
- Permission to proceed.
- Identify wind direction so that, where possible, you will work upwind.
- Look for overhead obstructions and energized electrical hazards.
- Note the existence of obstructions or excessive weight on the roof that may contribute to safety.
- Check roof for structural integrity prior to getting on to the roof (or placing equipment on the roof). Sound the roof simulator with your axe.
- If the roof ladder is not on the roof, place the roof-ladder on the roof and secure the ladder over the peak. Identify method of deployment i.e. flat-raise or beam raise.
- Confirm that the ladder is correctly placed with intent to where you will be venting. i.e. not too close to marked area or not too far away.
- Place/secure the pike-pole on the ladder.
- Check roof for structural integrity again prior to getting on to the roof. Check as you ascend the roof.
- Carry the axe and proceed onto the roof while walking on the ladder.
- Continue to sound roof as you proceed up the ladder.
- Sound the roof where you will be venting.
- Where possible always work off the ladder. Do not step off the ladder onto the roof at any point of the evolution without looking where you are stepping. There are slip hazards. You must maintain one foot within the footprint of the ladder at all time.
- Request permission to ventilate.
- Re-evaluate for hazards and other firefighters within area prior to using axe.

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- You will observe two marked squares. One smaller within the larger square.
- You are required to completely remove the inner square. Ensure your cuts remain within the outside square.
- Announce a Kerf Cut (Sample Cut) and open the far top corner.
- Confirm you are venting in the correct area.
- Ensure that main structure supports are not cut while performing ventilation.
- Make ventilation cuts – FAR from top to bottom, TOP from far to near, CLOSE from top to bottom, BOTTOM from far to near.
- DO NOT touch roof with hands.
- Once complete the proctor will confirm that the inside marked area is completely removed and the outside area is not cut. If the hole is too large this is a critical error. If the hole is too small you will have an opportunity to correct it.
- Announce ventilating and breaching ceiling.
- Once hole is of correct size, place/secure the axe on the ladder. Pick up the pike-pole and breach the ceiling by hitting it 3 times. Make contact with the base of the structure each of the 3 hits.
- Identify the ventilation is effective and complete.
- Request permission to exit roof.
- Place/secure the pike-pole on the ladder and pick up the axe.
- Start to exit the roof by staying on the ladder. Sound the roof prior to moving and as you proceed.
- Sound the roof again before as you step off the ladder to the ground.
- Place/stage the axe to the side.
- Pick the pike-pole off the ladder and place/stage it to the side.
- Your scenario is complete.