



**Let it  
Breathe...**

**Texas Peace Officers are expected to follow the rules, regulations, policies and procedures of  
their respective departments.**

**TEXAS POLICE CHIEFS ASSOCIATION**

# Call for Service



- You are dispatched to an alarm call with broken glass. You request backup and a K-9, but no canine is available. Another officer arrives so you can clear the office building. Describe any procedures for clearing rooms before entering them, and why that would be advantageous, versus simply dumping into the room.

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- Tactical competencies include our need to clear buildings with skill, regardless of assignment in the agency. If time is on our side, then do not dump into rooms without observing first.
- If the door is open, consider “Slicing the Pie” whereby you slowly move across the threshold and clear 70-80% of the room before you enter it.

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- With only two officers, one officer may be slicing the pie while the other covers other threat areas (the hard corner of the room, hallways, other doors, etc.).
- See an example of an [Open Door Threshold Evaluation](#)
- Open doors take priority over closed doors.
- If the door is closed.....

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- A closed door...
  - If a suspect is inside and determined to assault an officer, he will most likely do it when the door opens (ambush).
  - Do not be standing in the doorway when you open the door.
  - Instead, open it from the side and “let it breathe”. Back off the door to create your reactionary gap. This pause orients you on the room, confuses the suspect, allows you to do a threshold evaluation, and then enter.

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# Let it Breathe...



- A closed door...
  - See an example of a [Closed Door Threshold Evaluation](#)
  - Remember, if nothing is pushing us, Slow Down!

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# 5 Cornerstones



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