



TRADITIONS TRAINING, LLC.

“COMBAT READY” FIREFIGHTING
FIREGROUND PROVEN TIPS, TECHNIQUES & DRILLS

Fire Engineering[®]



Covered Skylights

These skylights are often found on 1 story type 2 commercial buildings, often warehouse style. The roof of these buildings is a fiberglass, which in and of itself is of questionable stability (especially under fire conditions). Skylights are spaced intermittently and are semi-transparent and very weak. **They will not support the weight of a firefighter trying to walk on them.**

Several months ago, my Department experienced a near-miss when a firefighter fell through one of these skylights while investigating roof conditions. Denver Firefighter John Whelan died this year from injuries sustained after falling through a similar skylight. This is a very common construction in many areas.

While vertical ventilation operations on these types of buildings may still be necessary, they must be done with extreme caution. Smoke, darkness, or complacency can easily conceal these skylights.

Sound your roof and know where you are putting your weight before you step. Pre-plan your buildings.