

BigEasy Lockout Tool: <http://www.steckmfg.com/Lockout.htm>

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PFI Description:

To purchase and equip “BigEasy” Lockout Kits on all front line and reserve rigs (i.e. engines, trucks, BC, safety, & reserve apparatus)

How does the PFI benefit the PFA?:

When children or pets are locked inside of vehicles they are subject to severe injury or death due to hyperthermia, dehydration, hypothermia and other hazards. The big easy tool is an inexpensive, no maintenance, and compact, user-friendly tool. The design and purpose of this tool is to have the ability to open locked car doors without causing damage to property. Like many tools we carry its uses and functions have a wide range of applicable uses for our job (not just with locked vehicles but with locked structures as well). The biggest benefit would be that it gives us the ability to be pro-active rather than reactive. We understand that in a true emergency with a child locked in a hot car the obvious choice would be to break the window and remove the victim. This tool applies is in a scenario with kid or pet locked in a vehicle and there is no immediate life-threat but removal is necessary in a timely fashion. There are many examples in our jobs where we already use non-destructive forcible entry to gain access (i.e. when we receive smoke detector call and arrive at a house with no obvious fire present) We know there are no hazards so we don't take irons and immediately force the front door. PFA encourages thinking firefighters to gain access in a non-destructive manner to silence/investigate the situation while maintaining a high level of customer service and property conservation. Due diligence has been done with local locksmith companies to find out services they offer and how the general stance is on us having this tool. Several companies said if they receive an “emergency call” with a locked car they refer that person to dial 911. One locksmith company offers a 24/7 emergency service requiring a few criteria. Their services offer free unlocks for child, and discounted for pets in vehicle and will leave any job they are on and go to that location. When asked how reliable their response the answer was 50% due to the fact is the only employees are father and son and the calls go to personal phones. There was an incident within the last month where two children were locked in a vehicle parked in the shade with the mother present. The children were in no immediate life threat and law enforcement was on waiting for a locksmith. PFA responded to this call and was given this tool to use by CSU PD. The reason it was given to us is because that officer was unaware of how to use it. PFA firefighters used the big easy tool to unlock the truck and remove kids while protecting life and property. Other benefits of this tool are that it can be used for many types of non-destructive forcible entry through residential windows, garages, etc.

Please list any experience with the project:

Gabe and I have used this tool many times while working for previous fire departments. It was very easy to learn to use and proved to be quite useful in serving the customers of our respective fire departments.

What training will be needed?

Training videos and manuals are available online at:
<http://www.steckmfg.com/video/SteckBigEasyVideo.html>

If PFA would like a hands-on training Gabe Mamigonian and I would be more than happy to teach one. Having worked with this tool we would recommend a 1hr hands-on training for each company.

Timeline to implement plan:

As soon as possible

Purchase Costs:

\$46.99 per kit – Every Engine, truck, safety, BC, & reserve: \$986.79 (shipping not included).

These prices DO NOT reflect possible discounts for purchasing in bulk and/or tax exemption.

R&D Costs: 0

Training Costs

Overtime for the training instructors if necessary.