

# FRP Breaching Tool Handles Keep First Responders Safe

*The experts at Tencom have developed an FRP composite breach tool handle to assist firefighters and police officers in fire rescue missions.*

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EINPresswire.com/ -- According to the United States Fire Administration, there were an estimated 1,318,500 fires across the country in 2018. More than half of these deadly incidents were caused by cooking fires resulting in 15,200 injuries and 3,655 deaths. While one key factor in preventing death in these cases is the response time of the first responders, another important factor is whether or not firefighters can gain entry into the building.



It takes anywhere from 4 to 17 minutes for a home to burn down depending on when it was built and what materials were used. In as little as 3 1/2 minutes, house fire temperatures can soar to 1,100°F. Death can occur at just 300°F, so getting inside to rescue the victims is critical. With the

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It's one less thing that first responders have to worry about because breaking through these defenses is a lot safer and easier”

*Robert Disanza*

help of Tencom's new FRP [breaching tool](#) handles, first responders and firefighters can force their way into the home without hurting their hands.

## Heat-Resistant Handles

Traditionally, breaching tool handles are made entirely of metal. The most common ones use carbon steel, stainless steel, or some type of alloy. However, metal is a conductor, which is not ideal for breaching a door or window during a

fire. In order to safely force entry into a burning building, first responders need breaching tools

with non-conductive handles that are also resistant to heat. Tencom's new breaching tool handles have both of those qualities, making it the perfect forced entry tool on the market.

House fires are not the only cases in which a breaching tool must be used. Police officers also use them in raids. The most common type of raid in the United States is a drug trafficking raid. Often, the groups that manufacture or sell drugs will take extreme measures to prevent other people from coming inside.

When high-voltage wiring is used on all of the entry points including doors and windows, the danger of being electrocuted is elevated. These defensive installations can prove to be deadly to law enforcement officers using all-metal breaching tools. So, our new FRP breaching tool handles provide safe entry tools into defensive installations that have high voltage wired to the doors or windows. Specifically, these innovative handles will be able to provide 100,000 volts AC electrical insulation per foot. This passes the ASTM F711 12.2.5.2 electrical withstand testing requirements. That is the same testing that tools for utility workers are put through.

### Non-Conductive Handles

There are two types of conductivity – thermal and electrical. Tencom's new breaching tool handles are designed to withstand both types. Let's take a closer look at what each one means.

In the case of thermal conductivity, most materials can withstand heat up to a certain point. For example, wood is far less heat-resistant than steel. However, FRP composites blow all the other materials out of the water, metaphorically speaking. The best part about FRP composites is that they can be tweaked to be even more thermal resistant. Here at Tencom, we offer three types of specialty resins that do just that.

First is the vinyl ester specialty resin that improves the product's resistance to high temperatures. Next is the polyester resin that makes the product more fire-retardant and resistant to smoke and spread. Finally, we offer another vinyl ester resin with improved product fire-retardancy and resistance to corrosion.

Moving on to electrical conductivity, this refers to the material's ability to transmit an electrical charge. While metals all have different degrees of electrical conductivity, they are all conductors. This can be very dangerous for first responders when dealing with a breaching incident. Fiberglass is a non-conductive, non-magnetic material that is classified as an electrical insulator. This means that first responders can safely enter through doors and windows that have been booby-trapped with electrical wiring.

Tencom is a [custom manufacturer of pultruded fiberglass](#) reinforced tubes, Composite [fiberglass rods](#), conductor rods, handles, tool handles, duct rods, custom profiles, and plant & tree stakes.

Tony Shannon  
Tencom Ltd.

+1 419-865-5877

[email us here](#)

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