

Training Officer Express - Quick Training

Fire Behavior Challenge

Which side of the couch did the fire start and why?



Answer: Typically we are taught that the points of origin are the areas with the most char. While this sounds logical and may be appropriate in most situations, it is not always true and it doesn't require any abnormal behaviors. The couch above was ignited on the left side near where you see wires running up to the arm chair. The left side of the couch is next to a closed door and this couch is sitting in a bedroom. The right side of the couch is sitting near (2-3') an open window. While the couch was ignited on the left side there was more oxygen on the right side of the room near the open window. For everyday tactical use – control your flow path and you control the fire. Wherever the fire is venting is where the fire is traveling – best air to fuel mixture (smoke is fuel).

