



## WASHINGTON COUNTY VOLUNTEER FIRE & RESCUE ASSOCIATION STANDARDS MANUAL

**Title: Latch Strap**

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Standardization of a room search indicator (Latch Strap).

This device is designed for indicating rooms that have been searched on the emergency scene.

### THE LATCH STRAP

1. The strap shall be made of inner tube type rubber approximately 3 and ½ inches wide and approximately 12 inches long.
2. Two holes will be cut into the strap so that the doorknobs hold the strap onto the door across the latch thus preventing the latch from operation.
3. A brass grommet will be attached onto one end of the strap. The grommet will be placed on the side of the room that the primary search team enters, thus indicating the direction in which entry was made.
4. To re-entry for the secondary search, place the strap back over the latch and a third hole cut near the end with the grommet placed over the knob will signify completion of the secondary search.
5. Upon re-entry for the secondary search, place the strap back over the latch and a third hole cut near the end with the grommet placed over the knob will signify completion of the secondary search.

This system provides indication of both primary and secondary searches, also the direction that the room was entered, and prevents the search team from being locked in a room. Furthermore, this system functions by sight or by feel thus eliminating the problem of operating in conditions of poor visibility.