

<b>Standard Operating Procedure</b>	NO: 04-03-16
Scriba Volunteer Fire Department Scriba, NY	Date: 04/15/2017
Topic: Operations	Page <b>1</b> of <b>3</b>
Title: PERSONAL ESCAPE SYSTEMS	Revision: 0                      Date:

**PURPOSE**

The purpose of this procedure is to establish the policy and procedure regarding the mandatory use of Emergency Escape and Self-Rescue Systems. This will be done by defining the Department and Interior qualified member’s responsibility in the use and training of the escape system. The Department is responsible for the maintenance, repair and replacement of the Emergency Escape and Self-Rescue system and its components. This policy is intended to comply with OSHA/PESH standards.

**SCOPE**

This standard applies to all interior qualified SCBA personnel who are performing fire attack or rescue operations during a structure fire. This guideline should be applied whenever personnel are operating on or above the third floor of a structure.

**GUIDELINE**

- In the event an Interior Firefighter becomes trapped by an uncontrolled emergency situation such as rapid fire advance, the use of the Emergency Escape and Self-Rescue System should enable the firefighter to utilize a non-conventional opening such as a window to escape the emergency
- It is mandatory that all Interior Firefighters operating in a structure will be equipped with an Emergency Escape and Self-Rescue System.
- It is mandatory that all Interior Firefighters be trained by a qualified instructor designated by the authority having jurisdiction on an annual basis on the use of the Emergency Escape and Self-Rescue System.
- Based on the Department risk assessment the maximum elevation has been determined to be 10 stories or less. Emergency Escape and Self-Rescue system will consist of the following components:
  - A. Integrated Escape Harness
  - B. 50 feet of 8mm life safety rope
  - C. 1 micro figure 8 descender
  - D. 2 Aluminum T rated carabineer
- All apparatus equipped with SCBA shall carry 1 escape kit per riding position.
- In the event that a system is deployed and used in an actual emergency, the Emergency Escape system used will be immediately taken out of service and replaced.

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### **Use and Deployment Procedure**

- All Interior Firefighters will carry their Emergency Escape and Self-Rescue system on all structure fires involving a structure with elevations greater the two stories.
- All Interior Firefighters shall be trained to proficiency and show competency in the use of the emergency escape system. Each Interior Firefighter shall demonstrate proficiency at a designated Department training drill to the satisfaction of the designated Department officer on an annual basis.
- When a Firefighter determines it is necessary to evacuate a structure at an elevation higher than the second floor of a structure using the Emergency Escape and Self-Rescue system, the Firefighter will declare a MAYDAY (see MAYDAY SOP) informing the IC of their situation. The Firefighter will escape the life threatening situation by utilizing any convenient route of escape. In the case of a non-conventional route such as a window the Firefighter will deploy the Emergency Escape and Self-Rescue system issued and lower him (her) self in a controlled manner using the Emergency Escape and Self-Rescue system as it was designed and as trained in its use. The Firefighter will lower him(her)self to:
  1. The ground if enough rope is available.
  2. A lower floor safe from danger to be pulled in by responding rescuers (FAST)
  3. To a safe position and stand-by to be rescued by ladder, aerial, or FAST team.
- Incident Command/FAST Command will communicate the type of rescue that will be attempted to the firefighter needing rescue.
- IC will declare end to the MAYDAY situation when appropriate.

### **Testing and Maintenance and Training**

- All components of the Emergency Escape and Self-Rescue system will meet NFPA 1983 Standard on Life Safety Rope and Equipment for Emergency Services 2006 edition, and 12NYCRR 800.7.
- Life Safety rope or escape rope used for training purposes will not be used for any other purpose other than emergency escape training.
- Life safety rope or emergency rope used in training will be stored separately from active kits and be clearly labeled as “TRAINING”.
- Life safety rope or escape rope used in training will be inspected after every training use.

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- Training will utilize a life safety rope belay system with an appropriate high anchor point with trained operators as a safety back-up for the emergency escape rope training.
- The safety belay system will not be secured to the firefighter's SCBA harness, but will be secured to an appropriate class III safety harness.

### **Responsibilities**

- Company Officers will ensure the location and quantity for all kits carried on their assigned apparatus.
- Chief Officers and Company Officers have the joint responsibility to ensure that all personnel are in compliance with this SOP.
- Chief Officers and Company Officers have the joint responsibility to ensure that all training and documentation is in compliance with all applicable laws and regulations.
- Any Interior Firefighter not able to satisfactorily demonstrate competence and proficiency in the emergency escape system will be reclassified from Interior to Exterior Firefighter.
- Any Interior Firefighter refusing to comply with this SOP will be reclassified from Interior to Exterior Firefighter.