

*SAMPLE SOP:*

XYZ FIRE DEPARTMENT  
STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURE #08-001  
DATE: NOVEMBER 1, 2008

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Subject: Emergency Escape and Self-Rescue Rope and System for Interior Firefighters.

I. PURPOSE:

- A. Establishes the XYZ FD policy and procedures regarding the mandatory use of the Emergency Escape and Self-Rescue System.
- B. Defines the department and Interior qualified member responsibility in the use and training of the Emergency Escape and Self-Rescue System.
- C. Defines the department responsibility in the maintenance, repair, and replacement of the Emergency Escape and Self-Rescue System and its components.
- D. Effective date November 1, 2008

II. POLICY:

- A. In the event an Interior Firefighter becomes trapped in 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.
- B. It is mandatory that all Interior Firefighters operating in a structure will be equipped with Emergency Escape and Self-Rescue System.
- C. 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.
- D. Based on the department risk assessment the maximum elevation has been determined to be three stories or less. The Emergency Escape and Self-Rescue System will consist of the following components: \*
  - i. 35 feet of escape rope
  - ii. (1) Escape carabiner
  - iii. (1) Anchoring device

All components will meet NFPA 1983 Standard on Life Safety Rope and Equipment for Emergency Services, 2006 edition.

- E. Based on the department risk assessment the maximum elevation has been determined to be 8 stories or less. The Emergency Escape and Self-Rescue System will consist of the following components: \*
  - i. Escape harness
  - ii. 50 feet of escape rope
  - iii. (1) Escape Carabiner
  - iv. (1) Decending Device
  - v. (1) Anchoring Device

All components will meet NFPA 1983 Standard on Life Safety Rope and Equipment for Emergency Services, 2006 edition.

\*The actual system you employ will be determined by the risk assessments for your response areas.

The Emergency Escape and Self-Rescue System will be issued to each interior firefighter.

In the event that an Emergency Escape and Self-Rescue System is deployed and used in an actual emergency, the EES used will be immediately taken out of service and the escape rope replaced.

### III. PURPOSE:

- A. All Interior Firefighters will wear their Emergency Escape and Self-Rescue System on all structure fires involving a structure with elevations greater than one story.
- B. All Interior Firefighters shall train to proficiency and show competency in the use of Emergency Escape and Self-Rescue 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.
- C. When a Firefighter determines it is necessary to evacuate a structure at an elevation higher than the first floor of a structure using Emergency Escape and Self-Rescue System, the Firefighter will declare a Mayday (see Mayday SOP) informing 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 themselves 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 themselves to:
  - 1. The ground, if enough rope is available.
  - 2. A lower floor safe from danger to be pulled in by responding rescuers (FAST/RIT).
  - 3. To a safe position and stand by to be rescued by ladder or aerial device.
  - 4. To a safe position and stand by to be rescued by high angle FAST/RIT deployed above the Firefighter
- D. Incident Command/FAST Command will communicate the type of rescue that will be attempted to the firefighter needing rescue.
- E. IC will declare end to Mayday situation when appropriate.

### IV. TESTING, MAINTENANCE, AND TRAINING

- A. 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.
- B. Life safety rope or escape rope used for training purposes will not be used for any other purpose than emergency escape training.
- C. Life safety rope or escape rope used for training will be stored in a locked cabinet until needed for emergency escape system training.
- D. Life safety rope or escape rope used in training will be inspected after every training use.

- E. Training will utilize a life safety rope belay system with appropriate high point anchor with trained operators as a safety backup for emergency escape rope training.
- F. The safety belay system will not be secured to the the Firefighters SCBA harness. It must be secured to an appropriate Class II or III safety harness.

V. RESPONSIBILTIES

- A. Chief Officers and Company Officers will enter the receipt of all Emergency Escape and Self-Rescue Systems into inventory.
- B. Chief Officers and Company Officers have joint responsibility to ensure all personnel are in compliance with this SOP.
- C. Chief Officers and Company Officers have joint responsibility to ensure all training and documentation is in compliance with all applicable laws and regulations.
- D. Any interior class Firefighter not able to satisfactorily show competence and proficiency at the Emergency Escape and Self-Rescue System will be moved from interior to exterior firefighter classification.
- E. Any member refusing to comply with this SOP will be reclassified from interior to exterior Firefighter classification.