

	Nokomis Fire Department		
	Date	Directive	Number
	May 2, 2019	#2	#218
		Category R.O.G	
	Self Rescue From Buildings using Rope		

PURPOSE:

The possibility of an emergency egress from a building of height cannot be ignored. Firefighting personnel must be versed in the procedures and methods required to safely exit the building. This SOP will provide the necessary fundamentals for this type of evolution. It must be understood that this practice can result in injury or death if not properly completed. Personnel should review this procedure and apply these techniques in a training atmosphere as often as necessary to maintain abilities.

PROCEDURE:

This procedure is used when all other options, such as alternate means of egress or an area of safe refuge, have failed. This procedure is used only as a last resort.

Each first out Engine and Ladder Truck will carry the following equipment as part of its permanent inventory:

- 200' Rescue Rope
- Four (4) Rescue Harnesses • One (1) 7' Anchor Strap
- Six (6) Steel Carabiners
- Four (4) Steel Figure Eights

This equipment will be kept in an equipment bag and should be labeled "Self-Rescue Bag". This self-rescue equipment will be stored on the apparatus in a compartment that is free of dust and completely free of gasoline and other hydrocarbons. It will be stored in a compartment that has no motorized equipment stored.

Units arriving on a working fire in a elevated building will bring the self-rescue bag to the staging area designated by command. If an attack, ventilation, or rescue team is at or above the fire floor, the self-rescue bag(s) need to accompany these teams.

If it becomes necessary to leave the building because of deteriorating conditions, attempt to contact Command and advise him of your actions. All efforts should be made to exit the building on the same side as the apparatus, if unable to do so inform Command of your egress point. Should you be unable to contact Command on the radio, do not delay you exit.

Select a bombproof anchor point. This usually means a low point and something of size or permanence. **DO NOT** select an anchor point that is not permanently attached in some fashion to the building, i.e. a refrigerator, freezer, or other large object.

Once the anchor point has been secured, deploy the lifeline to the exterior of to the selected means of exit. Check to be sure that the end of the rope is past your point of re- entry or is on the ground. If re-entry into the building is necessary, make sure you have enough line to enter beyond fire danger area. If you re-enter the building, Command must be notified of your location and status.

Every attempt should be made not to overload the rope during the self-rescue process. One person should exit on the rope at a time.

Rope that has been used in a rescue situation will immediately be taken out-of-service and delivered to the Fire Chief.

Rope Markings:

Black – Rescue rope, used only for self rescue and/or victim rescue

Yellow – Training rope, used for rope rescue training. Log book kept for this type of rope at the appropriate Facility (Station 41) Rope shall be inspected before and after each use.

Red or No Color – Work rope, lifting equipment and tying off to vehicles etc.