

Minimize The Risks of Accidents

Recommendation #1: Fire departments and fire service products distributors should provide training to all fire fighters and employees expected to use or demonstrate rescue chute¹

Discussion: Personnel assigned to use and/or demonstrate rescue chutes should be trained in the safe procedures necessary to use or demonstrate these devices. Training and education are paramount to an effective occupational safety and health program. It is critical that employees are trained before they perform specific tasks.

Recommendation #2: Fire department personnel and fire service product demonstrators should follow safety rules for rescue chute operations.²

Discussion: Rescue chutes provide a dual function that give rescuers the ability to provides people trapped in high rise building a safer means of rapid vertical escape from bucket to ground or to be positioned at the parapet of balcony and window by the rescue personnel to desired floor. Following safety rules are vital to a safe and effective operation. The following safety rules, at a minimum, should be followed while demonstrating or using rescue chutes:

- The deployment operation should be planned before starting, and the equipment should only be used by trained personnel.
- Operators should be thoroughly familiar with the equipment, its operating principles and methods, and its limitations.
- Operators should follow the manufacturer's recommendations for the specific system being used.
- All components should be kept in good operating condition with regular periodic maintenance.
- Operators should check carefully what is the maximum safety load of aerial ladder or skylift can carry before beginning operations. Add operator's weight plus the chute and the platform (3 layers chute weight is about 1.8 kg per metre and the weight of the platform is about 25 kg) plus the estimate weight of 75 kg for each additional person on the platform or in the chute. Remember the danger of overloading exceeding its lifting capacity will damage the vehicle and can also result in a catastrophe.
- The rescue chute should be positioned on or against a parapet with a solid surface.
- The rescue chute should never be placed against sharp objects that may cause damaged to the chute.
- When multiple chutes are connected to desire length, all the snap-locks from each segment should be tightly locked to one another and no snap-locks should be left unconnected between any of the segments.
- A clear and effectively implemented safe operating procedures addressing the use of rescue chutes is the cornerstone of ensuring that fire fighters/product demonstrators will understand the importance of using this vital equipment on a routine basis.
- Proper deployment and use of rescue chutes will not necessarily guarantee the user's safety; however, injuries and fatalities can be minimized.