

## Elevator Entrapments

### 311.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

The purpose of this policy is to ensure the safe and effective rescue of people who may become trapped in an elevator.

### 311.2 POLICY

People trapped in an elevator are typically not in danger unless there is a medical emergency or fire. During any rescue effort, the priorities are the safe extrication of people in the elevator and the safety of firefighters during the operation.

### 311.3 RESPONSIBILITIES

The Fire Chief or the authorized designee shall establish guidelines for personnel entering elevator shafts and for the use of commercial elevator technicians for emergency and non-emergency extrications.

The Fire Chief or the authorized designee shall identify District-approved rescue procedures and appropriate applications. Procedures that have the potential to cause damage to private property should be avoided if reasonably practicable.

Fire prevention personnel are responsible for tracking elevator entrapment responses, identifying problematic installations and working with building owners and vendors to resolve further responses.

### 311.4 PROCEDURE

On-scene personnel should consider the following:

- Is the elevator inoperative?
- If so, are people inside?
- What is the condition of the people inside?
- Has an elevator repair person been notified and what is the estimated time of arrival?
- What is the location of the inoperative elevator? Is it between floors or at a landing?
- What is the type of elevator? Is it hydraulic or cable?
- Where is the elevator equipment room? (Generally, above for a cable elevator and below for a hydraulic elevator).

Various methods may be utilized to extricate people from an inoperative elevator. Use of a specific method should be based on the unique circumstances of each incident and the expertise of the fire personnel on scene. Elevator entrapment rescue procedures typically include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Moving the elevator car

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- Use of an adjacent elevator car
- Forcing the elevator doors open
- Breaching the elevator shafts
- Use of roof or side emergency exits

### **311.5 TRAINING**

The Training Chief should ensure that written procedures with diagrams are available for each elevator entrapment rescue procedure, including hydraulic or cable elevators and elevators with multiple-door configurations. The Training Chief is responsible for ensuring that all personnel are properly trained in District-approved elevator entrapment rescue procedures.