

Elevator Stuck

CHAPTER 8.6

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**Approved by: Chief of Fire
Rescue**

PURPOSE

To establish guidelines for the necessary methods needed to safely affect the rescue of persons who have become trapped inside an elevator for any reason.

POLICY

When it has been determined that persons are trapped in an elevator the following guidelines have been established.

PROCEDURE

A. Upon Arrival

1. Request dispatcher to notify elevator mechanic to respond. (Obtain name and phone number from occupant.)
2. If the elevator is equipped with Phase I recall service, attempt to recall the elevator. If this does not free the elevator, continue with the following procedures.
3. Reassure trapped passengers that efforts are underway for their release. Ascertain if any passengers are ill or injured.
4. Locate the position of the stalled car and obtain over-ride keys, if so equipped.
5. Instruct the occupant(s) to try pushing the door open button to see if it will activate the doors to simply open.
6. Instruct the occupant(s) to apply force against the car door in the **direction of closing**. This action attempts to close the car door safety circuit, which may be out of alignment. At the same time, a member of the rescue team should apply closing force to the landing door.
7. The occupant(s) should then be directed to press a floor button. If this does not work then the power to the elevators needs to be shut down to proceed further.

B. SAFETY PRECAUTIONS

1. The safest means of rescue is through elevator doors (hoist way and car).
2. If passengers are removed from elevator by any means other than the car doors, then the power must shut down using lock-out/tag-out method.
3. Whenever possible, elevator emergencies should be handled by elevator mechanic with fire department personnel assisting.

C. PROCEDURE FOR FREEING PASSENGERS

1. Use elevator key to open hoist way doors.
2. Trip the interlock using tools available.
3. If the car floor is not even with the landing floor, a crew member shall board the car and the occupant(s) shall be assisted from the car using an attic ladder with a member in the car and at the floor level assisting the occupants. At any time an occupant must climb more than 4 feet from the car floor, a safety line shall be secured to the car occupant as fall protection.
4. If the car doors cannot be opened normally, a roof hatch may be used to affect the rescue. A roof hatch removal is a complicated and dangerous removal requiring specially trained personnel and specialized equipment such as life safety rope and class three harnesses. Prior to utilizing this removal tactic the company officer shall notify the District Chief. This type of rescue should only be considered in instances where there is a serious medical emergency with one of the occupants and it is not practical to wait for an elevator repair company.
5. Cut or pry doors (Life or death situation only)