The Escape Rescue System

An advanced multi-platform rescue system installed unobtrusively on the roof-top, requiring almost no alteration to the building, suitable for both existing and new structures.

A Revolution in Rapid & Safe Evacuation

Escape Rescue Systems Ltd. has developed an advanced rescue system for high-rise buildings that allows remarkably rapid evacuation of people of all ages and abilities, as well as transportation of rescue personnel and other responders to all floors.

Increased Awareness of an Existing Problem

Regulatory organizations and the general public are becoming increasingly aware of the particular problems associated with emergency situations in high-rise buildings. Terrible events such as 9/11 have deepened understanding of the risks inherent in such structures and the threats facing those who live and work in them – both tragic accidents and terrorism.

Escape Rescue Systems Ltd. realized that any truly effective solution to the problem of rapid and safe evacuation from multi-story buildings must contend with exceptional circumstances and requirements:

- Evacuating extremely large numbers of people while access to the building is limited
- The problem of vertical mobility, for both evacuees and emergency response teams
- Difficulty of access to the focus of emergency on higher floors
- The imperative to save people of all ages and abilities
- The special challenge of applicability to existing buildings, many of which cannot be extensively altered

The Escape Rescue System – an Effective Response to these Requirements

Escape Rescue Systems' crucial insight and innovation was installing the rescue system on the outside of the building. This not only enables installation on almost any building, but ensures evacuees are led rapidly away from potentially dangerous situations inside burning or smoke-filled corridors and stairwells.

Another critical feature is the system's ability to transport upwards as well as downwards, allowing rapid delivery of rescue personnel straight to the focus of emergency.

While meeting the requirements of vertical mobility, high throughput capacity and suitability for all ages and abilities, the Escape Rescue System is simple to operate. In addition, as the cabins are completely encased, it offers a natural, everyday experience for evacuees who are already used to elevator transportation.

A Building-Wide Solution

- Saves lives
- Protects property by facilitating a speedy response to emergencies
- Ensures peace of mind for tenants, employers, owners and building management

150 evacuees in 8 minutes

How it works

The Escape Rescue System is installed on the rooftop of the building. When not in use the system is folded and essentially "invisible" and unobtrusive.

Upon deployment, the unit lowers an array of cabins to the ground. Response teams enter the cabins and are transported to the focus of the emergency. Evacuees then enter the cabins and are transported rapidly and safely to the ground, where they exit, leaving the cabins free for continuous access and evacuation (see illustrations, left).

The entire cycle takes approximately 8 minutes. This means 150 evacuees in only 8 minutes, or over 1000 in the first hour. In addition, the system can transport more than 100 responders and their equipment, up into the building in the same hour. A large and heavy populated building may choose to install two systems.

Regulation, Testing, Approvals and Policy

The Escape Rescue System has undergone extensive testing, and was approved for safety by the German Laboratory TUV, the Standards Institution of Israel, and Israel's Ministry of Labor and Welfare.

The US National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) recommended, in its report on the World Trade Center collapse, consideration of exterior escape devices.

The American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM) has developed standards for high-rise building external evacuation devices and systems. The Escape Rescue System is the only platform solution to comply with ASTM Standard E 2513 for Multi-Story Building External Evacuation Platform Rescue Systems.

NFPA 2009 editions of both the Building Construction and Safety Code (NFPA 5000) and the Life Safety Code (NFPA 101) include applicable annexes that specify conditions for installation of Platform Rescue Systems (such as the Escape Rescue System).

The US Department of Homeland Security has designated the Escape Rescue System as a "Qualified Anti-Terrorism Technology."