

	Terryville Fire Department Best Practices	
	<u>Subject</u> Personal Escape Systems for Interior Firefighters	BP# 1-08
	<u>Authority</u> Chief of Department	Initiated 11/1/11 Revised 1/1/2016

A. PURPOSE

1. Establishes the Terryville Fire Department policy and procedures regarding the mandatory use of the Emergency Escape & Self-Rescue System.
2. Defines the Department and Interior qualified members in the use and training of the Emergency Escape & Self-Rescue System.
3. Defines the Department's and individual member's responsibility in the maintenance, repair and replacement of the Emergency Escape & Self-Rescue System.

B. POLICY

1. In the event an interior firefighter becomes trapped by an uncontrolled emergency situation such as a rapid fire advance, the use of the Emergency Escape & Self-Rescue System should enable the firefighter to utilize a non conventional opening, such as a window to escape the emergency.
2. It is mandatory that all interior firefighters operating in a structure will be equipped with an Emergency Escape & Self-Rescue System.
3. It is mandatory that all interior firefighters be trained by a qualified instructor on an annual basis on the use of the Emergency Escape & Self-Rescue System.
4. The interior firefighter's Emergency Escape & Self-Rescue System will consist of a Gemtor Class II Fire Service Harness and the Sterling F4 Escape System with 50 ft of Sterling Personal Escape Rope.
5. The Sterling F4 Escape System will be affixed to the Gemtor Class II Harness.

C. PURPOSE

1. All interior firefighters will wear their Emergency Escape & Self-Rescue System on all emergency responses.

2. When a firefighter determines it necessary to evacuate from a structure at an elevation higher than the first floor using the Sterling F4 Escape System, the firefighter will declare a “Mayday” informing the Incident Commander (IC) of their situation. The firefighter will escape the life threatening situation by utilizing any convenient route of escape. In the case of a non conventional route such as a window, the firefighter will deploy Sterling F4 Escape System and lower themselves in a controlled manner as it was designed and as trained in its use. The firefighter will lower themselves to:
 - The ground if enough rope is available
 - A lower floor safe from the danger to be pulled in by responding rescuers (RIT)
 - To a safe position and stand-by to be rescued by ladder or aerial device
3. The IC or Operations Chief will communicate the type of rescue that will be attempted for the firefighter needing rescue.
4. The IC will declare an end to the “Mayday” situation when appropriate.
5. Firefighters shall not use the Sterling F4 Escape System under any other circumstances.

D. TESTING & MAINTENANCE

1. All components of the Sterling F4 Escape System will meet NFPA 1983 Standard of Life Safety Rope and Equipment for Emergency Services 2006 Edition.

E. RESPONSIBILITIES

1. The Board of Fire Commissioners shall ensure that adequate equipment and resources are made available to the department to conduct training and certifications.
2. The Chiefs Office will enter the receipt of all Emergency Escape & Self Rescue Systems into inventory.
3. Chief Officers and Company Officers have the joint responsibility to ensure all personnel are in compliance with this policy.
4. Chief Officers and Company Officers have the joint responsibility to ensure all training and documentation is in compliance with all applicable laws and regulations.
5. Bailout Instructors have the responsibility to inspect a firefighter’s bailout system prior to the firefighter using the system for training.
6. Firefighters that have been issued the F4 Sterling Escape System and Gemtor Class II Harness are required to conduct a thorough inspection of their system and harness on a monthly basis. Additional inspections are required after any working fire, HazMat Incident, or other situations in which the system may have been exposed to dirt, debris, etc.

- Inspections shall not be conducted on a dirty surface such as the apparatus bay floor. Members shall find a clean surface such a table, etc. to conduct inspections.
 - Any defects or flaws found during the inspections should be brought to the attention of the Company Officer and the Chiefs Office
 - Inspection logs will be reviewed monthly by the Company Captain. Any member failing to inspect their harness and system may be subject to disciplinary action.
7. Firefighters may remove their Sterling F4 Escape System from their harness prior to attending any live-burn drills however, the system shall be reattached immediately upon completion of the drill.