

# ELEVATOR RESCUE

Rescues from stalled elevators should not be attempted unless the passengers are in danger or injured. Twenty four-hour response personnel are available from almost all manufacturers of elevators and are available through fire alarm. If it becomes necessary to rescue persons from elevators the following procedures are acceptable. **AT NO TIME WILL RESCUE BE ATTEMPTED WITH THE POWER SWITCHES ON.** Extreme caution should be used if power to the building is off as it may come back on during the attempted rescue.

## Procedure with Car at or Near Landing

When an elevator car is located at or near a landing, it may be that the hoistway door is unlocked, and the hoistway and car doors can be opened by hand. Under these conditions proceed as follows:

- (a) Set the mainline disconnect switch for the stalled elevator in the "OFF" position.
- (b) Open the doors by hand.
- (c) Enter the elevator car and set the emergency stop switch in the "STOP" POSITION.
- (d) Assist the passengers in leaving the elevator car, one at a time. If the car is not level with the landing, make sure that the passengers do not trip or fall while leaving the car.

## Procedure with Car within 3 Feet of Landing

When the hoistway doors are not unlocked and the elevator car floor (platform) is within 3 ft. of the landing level the following methods of removing the passengers should be used:

- (a) Opening Doors from Landing or From Inside Elevator Car
  - (1) Set the mainline disconnect switch for the stalled elevator in the "OFF" position.
  - (2) Unlock the hoistway door at the floor nearest to the stalled elevator car by means of the hoistway door unlocking device (elevator door interlock release key), if provided, and open the hoistway and car doors by hand. If hoistway door unlocking devices are not provided, it may be possible on some

installations for a passenger to manually open the car and hoistway doors from within the elevator car.

- (3) A member of the rescue party should enter the elevator car and place the emergency stop switch in the “STOP” position.
  - (4) The passengers should then be assisted from the stalled elevator car, one at a time, by rescue personnel located both in the car and on the landing. A sturdy stepladder or footstool should be used for safe removal. Precautions should be taken to guard any hoistway opening below the elevator car floor (platform) when the car is above the landing.
- (b) Opening doors from Adjacent Elevator Car. When a hoistway door unlocking device (elevator door interlock release key) is not provided, or the doors cannot be opened from within the elevator car by the passengers, and an adjacent car is operable, the following procedures should be utilized:
- (1) Take an adjacent elevator car to the floor closest to the stalled car and open its doors.
  - (2) Set the mainline disconnect switches for both the stalled elevator and the rescue elevator in the “OFF” position. Also place the emergency stop switch of the rescue elevator car in the “STOP” position.
  - (3) By extending a pole through the opening between the car and hoistway doors of the rescue elevator car, it may be possible to engage the interlock roller of the stalled elevator car so that its doors can be opened by hand. When using this method, be careful not to extend the pole into the hoistway of any elevator which is still in service. If this is not possible.
  - (4) A member of the rescue team should enter the stalled elevator car and set the emergency stop switch in the “STOP” position.
  - (5) The passengers should then be assisted from the stalled elevator car, one at a time, by rescue personnel located both in the car and on the landing. A sturdy stepladder or footstool should be used for safe removal. Precautions should be taken to guard any hoistway opening below the car floor (platform) when the elevator car is above the landing.
- (c) Opening Doors with Forcible Entry Tool. Where the hoistway doors cannot be unlocked by an unlocking device or by other means, and an adjacent elevator in the same hoistway is not available, the hoistway door at the floor nearest to the stalled elevator car can be forcibly opened. Proceed as follows:

- (1) Set the mainline disconnect switch for the stalled elevator in the “OFF” position.
- (2) Open the doors with the use of the forcible entry tool. It should be used at the top of the doors where the interlock is located to minimize damage to the doors and to allow for quicker return to normal service.
- (3) A member of the rescue team should enter the elevator car and set the emergency stop switch in the “STOP” position.
- (4) The passengers should then be assisted from the stalled elevator car, one at a time, by rescue personnel located both in the car and on the landing. A sturdy stepladder or footstool should be used for safe removal. Precautions should be taken to guard any hoistway opening below the car floor (platform) when the elevator car is above the landing.

#### Procedure with Car More Than 3 Feet from Landing

When an elevator car is stalled so that the car floor (platform) is more than 3 feet above a landing level, it is inadvisable to remove the passengers through the elevator door opening as the excessive distance between the car floor (platform) and landing level creates a danger due to the possibility that a passenger may fall into the hoistway. In addition, it is inadvisable to remove passengers through the elevator door opening when the car floor (platform) is more than about 3 feet below the landing level since the reduced opening clearance makes exiting too difficult.

The recommending methods for removing the passengers under these conditions are as follows:

- (a) Removal Through Top Emergency Exit
  - (1) The mainline disconnect switches in the machine room for the stalled elevator and the adjacent elevators (if the stalled elevator car is located in a multiple hoistway) should be set in the “OFF” positions.
  - (2) The rescue team should open the hoistway door at the nearest landing or an emergency access door, where provided, above the stalled elevator car top. This entry can be made by the use of the hoistway door unlocking device, the emergency door key or by forcing open the hoistway doors.
  - (3) A ladder with nonskid feet should be lowered to the elevator car top and securely positioned on the elevator car top. This ladder

- should be of sufficient length to extend at least 3 feet above the landing floor.
- (4) One member of the rescue team, wearing a safety belt and properly tied off to a secured lifeline, should descend to the top of the stalled elevator car. A second ladder should be lowered through the top emergency exit and positioned between the elevator car floor and car top. This second ladder should be of sufficient length to extend at least 3 feet above the car top.
  - (5) A second rescue team member also wearing a safety belt and properly tied off to a secured lifeline should then descend to the car top. The team member should carry an additional safety belt for use in rescuing the passengers.
  - (6) One team member should then enter the stalled elevator car through the top emergency exit. The other rescue team member should remain on the top of the stalled elevator car. A third member should be at the landing used to gain access to the hoistway.
  - (7) The emergency stop switch in the stalled elevator car should be set in the “STOP” position.
  - (8) The passengers should then be assisted, one at a time, from within the elevator car to the car top, then to the landing above with the use of safety belts and secured lifelines.

#### Restoration of Elevator Service

Do not attempt to restore power to the stalled elevator. After the rescue has been completed, have a rescue team member stand by to inform the elevator personnel what switches were pulled and which doors were forced open.