

12NYCRR Part 800.7
Emergency Escape and Self Rescue Ropes and System Components for
Firefighters

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3/18/08

(a) Title and Citation: Within and for the purposes of the Department of Labor, this part may be known as Code Rule 800.7, Emergency Escape and Self Rescue Ropes and System Components for Firefighters, specifying the requirements for safety ropes and associated system components.

(b) Purpose and Intent: To ensure that Firefighters are provided with necessary escape rope and systems for self rescue and emergency escape and to establish specifications for such ropes and system components.

(c) Application: This part shall apply throughout the State of New York to the State, any political subdivision of the State, Public Authorities, Public Benefit Corporations or any other governmental agency or instrumentality there of.

This Part shall not apply to employers located in a city with a population of over one million.

800.7(d)

(d) DEFINITIONS

(1) “System Components” means safety harnesses, belts, ascending devices, carabiners, descent control devices, rope grab devices, and snap links.

(2) “Escape Rope” means a single purpose, single use, emergency escape (Self-rescue) rope.

(3) “Interior Structural Fire Fighting” means the physical activity of fire suppression, rescue or both, inside of buildings or enclosed structures which are involved in a fire situation beyond the incipient stage.

(4) “Interior Structural Fire Fighter” means a firefighter who has been trained to, and has been found to be physically capable of, performing interior structural fire fighting.

(5) “Entrapment at Elevations” means a situation where a firefighter finds the normal route of exit is made unusable by fire, or other emergency situation, that requires the firefighter to immediately exit the structure from an opening, not designed as an exit, that is above the ground floor and at an

elevation above the surrounding terrain which would reasonably be expected to cause injury should the firefighter be required to exit unaided.

800.7(e)

(e) Specifications for Escape Ropes and System Components

(1) Emergency escape and self rescue ropes and system components provided to Firefighters shall conform to the requirements of “The National Fire Protection Association Standard 1983, Standard on Fire Service Life Safety Rope and Equipment for Emergency Services” in effect at the time of their manufacture. Those purchased after the effective date of this Part shall conform to the 2006 edition (NFPA1983- 2006)

800.7(f)

(f) Risk Assessment and Equipment Selection

(1) Each employer who employs firefighters shall develop a written risk assessment determining under what circumstances escape ropes and system

components will be required and what type will be required. The assessment should consist of the following:

(i) Identify types and heights of buildings in the area the Fire Fighters are expected to work.

(ii) Assess the standard operating procedures followed by the Department.

(iii) Identify the risks of being trapped at an elevation during structural fire fighting operation.

(a) Identify to what extent operating procedures will mitigate risks identified.

(b) Identify what type of ropes and system components will be necessary if operating procedures do not mitigate the risk.

(2) The employer shall provide to each interior structural firefighter who can reasonably be expected to have a risk of entrapment at elevations, a properly fitted self rescue/escape rope and system components appropriate for the risks identified in the risk assessment.

800.7(g)

(g) Training

- (1) The employer shall ensure that the firefighter is instructed in the proper use of the self rescue/escape ropes and system components.
- (2) A record of such instruction including the date shall be maintained by the employer.

800.7(h)

(h) Inspection of Escape Ropes and System Components

- (1) The employer shall routinely inspect and ensure that:
 - (i) Existing escape ropes and system components were manufactured to the requirements of NFPA 1983 that were in effect at the time of manufacture. Ropes and system components purchased after the effective date of this Part conform to the 2006 edition of NFPA 1983
 - (ii) Existing escape ropes and system components still perform their function and to identify any of their limitations.
 - (iii) The employer shall accomplish this by;
 - (A) Checking the labels or stamps on the equipment;
 - (B) Checking any documentation or equipment specification;

(C) Contacting the supplier or the approval agency;

(D) Ensuring that Firefighters are informed of the limitations of selected escape ropes and system components;

(E) Ensuring that Firefighters are not permitted or required to use any escape ropes or system components beyond their limitations or for purposes other than self rescue / emergency escape;

(F) Ensuring that existing or new escape ropes and system components have no visible defects that limit their safe use;

(G) Ensuring that escape ropes and system components are used, cleaned, maintained, and stored according to the manufacturer's instructions;

(H) Ensuring that the fire fighter is instructed in identifying to the employer any defects that the firefighter may find in escape ropes and system components; and

(I) ensuring that any defects found are immediately corrected or immediate action is taken to eliminate the use of the equipment by:

(i) Ensuring that escape ropes and system components with defects which are repairable are tagged as unsafe and stored in such a manner that it cannot be used until repairs are made.

(ii) Ensuring that Escape Ropes and system components that cannot be repaired are destroyed or rendered unusable as a self rescue/escape rope and system components.

(2) The employer shall ensure that any self rescue / escape rope that have been utilized under load for the purpose of self rescue / emergency escape is immediately removed from service, destroyed or rendered unusable as a self rescue / emergency escape rope and immediately replaced.