

# AKRON FIRE COMPANY INC.

## STANDARD OPERATING GUIDELINE #200.6

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_, 2012

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SUBJECT: Emergency Escape and Self-Rescue Rope System for Interior Structure Firefighters

### I. PURPOSE

- A. Establishes the policy of the Akron Fire Company, Inc. (“AFC”) and guidelines regarding the mandatory use of the Emergency Escape and Self-Rescue System (“EES”).
- B. Defines the role of AFC and firefighters in the use and training of EES.
- C. Defines the AFC’s responsibility in the care, use, maintenance, repair and replacement of the EES and its components.

### II. POLICY—ALL AFC INTERIOR STRUCTURE FIREFIGHTERS CONDUCTING INTERIOR STRUCTURAL FIREFIGHTING OPERATIONS ABOVE GRADE SHALL BE EQUIPPED WITH AND MUST BE WEARING AFC-ISSUED EES THAT MEETS APPLICABLE NFPA STANDARDS.

DEFINITION OF AN INTERIOR STRUCTURE FIREFIGHTER (“ISFF”) — An ISFF is a firefighter who (1) has successfully completed the Essentials of Firemanship, or NYS FF 1, or an equivalent course approved by the Fire Chief (written proof of completion of such course must be submitted to the AFC); and (2) has successfully completed the one year new member probationary period with THE AFC.

- A. In the event an ISFF becomes trapped by an uncontrolled emergency situation such as a rapid fire advance, use of the EES should enable the firefighter to utilize a non-conventional opening, such as a window to escape the emergency.
- B. It is mandatory that all ISFFs operating in an above grade structure will be equipped with EES. Any mutual aid companies coming in to assist at the scene are responsible to follow their own SOG’S and policies regarding use of EES.
- C. It is mandatory that all ISFFs be trained by a qualified instructor on a semi-annual basis on the use of the EES and a record of such training shall be maintained.
- D. In a structure with a maximum elevation of four (4) stories or less, the EES shall consist of a Class II Gemtor NYC Harness, 50 feet of escape rope, an attaching carabiner (as defined by NFPA 1983), an F-4 Descender, a Crosby Hook and/or 1 Self-Locking Carabiner, and one portable anchoring device meeting applicable NFPA standards. All parts of the EES shall conform to UL certification that meets NFPA

standards and standards set forth in the New York Code of Rules and Regulations Part 800.7, and any amendments thereto.

- E. The EES shall be affixed to the Class II Harness at ALL times with its components stored in the Bunker Pants Pocket.

### III. PROCEDURES

- A. All ISFFs must wear the EES when operating in an above-grade structure during interior firefighting activities.
- B. Each EES shall consist of the following components, which shall meet all applicable NFPA standards:
  - 1. Escape harness
  - 2. 50 feet of escape rope
  - 3. Escape carabiner
  - 4. Anchoring device
- C. When a firefighter determines it necessary to evacuate a structure at an elevation higher than the first floor of a structure using the EES, the firefighter shall declare “May Day” (see May Day Standard Operating Procedure) informing the Incident Command (“IC”) of the situation. The firefighter shall utilize any convenient route of escape to escape the life threatening situation. In the case of a non-conventional route such as a window, the firefighter shall deploy the EES and lower him/herself in a controlled manner using the EES as it was designed and as he/she was trained. The firefighter shall lower him/herself to:
  - 1. The ground if enough rope is available;
  - 2. A lower floor safe from danger to be pulled in by responding rescuers (FAST); or
  - 3. To a safe position and stand-by to be rescued by ground ladder or aerial device.
- D. IC/ FAST Command will communicate the type of rescue that will be attempted to the firefighter needing rescue.
- E. IC or its designee will terminate the MayDay situation when appropriate.

IV. TRAINING—All ISFFs will be initially trained on the EES by a qualified instructor which will include instruction on system components, inspection and use. ISFFs will initially be required to do 3 bailouts at a MINIMUM.

All ISFFs are required to do 3 bailouts on a yearly basis. The bailouts must be done within 2 months after completion of a yearly interior physical, so that the firefighter remains proficient in the use and deployment of the EES. Any firefighter who does not complete his/her yearly physical and bailouts shall be removed from the status of