



DIRECTIVE



Safety Directive Number: **00008**

Issued June 21, 2024 by Peter McClare, Chief Elevators & Lifts Inspector
Department of Labour, Skills and Immigration

Elevator Emergency Rescue - Guide for Emergency Personnel

Legal information

[Elevators and Lifts Act](#)

Elevators and Lifts General Regulations

Interpretation:

2(1)(ea) “emergency personnel” means a person from an emergency services agency as defined in the *Emergency “911” Act*

29(3)

Despite subsection (1), emergency personnel may remove, displace, interfere with or damage any device installed in or about an elevating device or interfere with its safe operation, if it is for the sole purpose of permitting them to perform an emergency rescue.

Summary

Nova Scotia Technical Safety, Elevators and Lifts section recognizes the need for trained personnel to assist in elevator emergency rescue. The unique aspects of elevators and the hazards associated with these devices require knowledge of the specific mechanical electrical systems and the procedures to rescue trapped passengers. Elevator technicians when available are the most trained in elevator systems. If there is an emergency where assistance is required from a 911 agency, such as firefighters, it is advisable these persons have specialized elevator rescue training.

Rescue training is provided by different consultants registered with the Nova Scotia [Technical Safety Division](#).

Issue

The Elevator and Lifts general Regulations specify in section 29, no person shall interfere with an elevating device unless instructed by an inspector, a mechanic or registered contractor.

The only allowable exception in the Regulations, section 29(3), is emergency personnel, for the sole purpose of performing an emergency rescue. The Regulations further define emergency personnel as a person from an emergency services agency defined in the *Emergency “911” Act*.

This legal statement limits organizations from appointing internal elevator rescue personnel which are not affiliated with a 911 agency.

Directive

Elevator emergency rescue personnel shall be limited to the following:

- An elevator mechanic registered with the Nova Scotia Technical Safety Division, Safety Branch, who holds a licence to work on the specific elevator equipment where rescue is necessary.
- Personnel from an Emergency services agency as defined in the *Emergency “911” Act*.

Exemption To This Directive

- *Emergency “911” Act*
- Other emergency service agencies approved by the Minister.

Sources

[*Elevators and Lifts Act*](#)

[*Emergency “911” Act*](#)

Contact us

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