

Conscious / Unconscious Victim Removal 2nd Floor Using Ladder

Lowering an Unconscious Firefighter on a Portable Ladder

In this situation, the unconscious firefighter is moved out of a window feet first in the prone position, onto a portable ladder. There will be a rescuing firefighter on the portable ladder ready to accept the weight of the unconscious firefighter. To perform this lowering procedure, do the following:

- Have the weight of the unconscious firefighter rest on your right knee by placing your right knee between the victim's legs and into the groin area. Grab the rails or the rungs of the portable ladder with both hands by reaching under the unconscious firefighter's armpits. (See Figure A)
- While maintaining the weight of the victim on your right knee, lower your hands to the next rung, or move your hands down the rails.
- Now transfer the weight of the victim to your forearms by moving your right knee down one rung.
- Keep transferring the weight from the right knee to the forearms until the ground is reached.
- The benefit of this procedure is that almost any size rescuer can lower almost any size unconscious firefighter. The weight of the unconscious firefighter is supported by the skeletal system, not the muscles. The one size requirement for this rescue is that the member on the portable ladder must be able to reach the rungs with his/her hands. If the unconscious firefighter is wearing his/her SCBA, a longer reach will be required.



Figure A

- If time permits, a rescuer can attach a personal or life saving rope around the victim's chest. This is then run down to floor level, under the instep of the rescuer's boot. This rescuer then feeds the rope through his hands, giving a more controlled descent for the victim, especially if the victim is very heavy.

Use a Portable Ladder as a High Point Anchor to Lower a Firefighter

This method of rescue can be used when conditions prohibit the rescuers from getting under a victim. This would prohibit rescuing members from creating a human ramp. To perform this evolution, do the following:



Figure B

- Raise a portable ladder and position the tip of the ladder so that it is two rungs over the top of the window.
- Have a rescuing firefighter climb the portable ladder with the end of a Life Saving Rope. This member passes the Life Saving Rope over the rung that is level with the top of the window. The ladder rung will be used as a high point anchor. (See Figure B)
- While the members outside the building are preparing the ladder and the rope, rescuing firefighters inside the building will be preparing the victim for removal. The rescuing firefighters inside will pull the hook of the victim's personal harness up through the bunker coat. This action will keep the victim in an upright position while being lowered. (See Figure C)

- When the inside rescuers have finished preparing the victim, they will snap the end of the lifesaving rope that has been passed to the rescuers from the high point anchor to the victim's personal harness hook.

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Figure C

- The rescuing firefighters inside the window position the victim at the window in a seated position. The victim should not be between the rope and the window. When these rescuing firefighters are ready, they give the command to "hoist" to the firefighters at the ground below. The rescuing firefighters inside the window may have to assist in lifting the victim to clear the windowsill.
- One firefighter on the ground must foot the ladder at all times during this evolution.
- The other firefighters on the ground pull on the rope at the command of "hoist". These firefighters must pull in line with the portable ladder so the tip of the ladder does not move. This action will lift the unconscious firefighter to the windowsill.
- Once the unconscious firefighter has cleared the window, the firefighters on the ground lower the unconscious firefighter by wrapping the Life Saving Rope around



Figure D

their waists and letting the rope play through their hands. (See Figure D and E)



Figure E

Alternate Methods for Members who are not wearing a Personal Harness

If the unconscious member is not equipped with a personal harness, this method can still work. Convert the SCBA into a harness (see Sec. 6.1) The end of the rope can be passed through the shoulder straps and the snap hook of the rope is then snapped back upon the rope, forming a loop with the shoulder straps within. As an alternative, the victims arms or legs can be secured with a handcuff knot.

To perform this, the approximate middle of the rope must be brought up to the top of the ladder and passed over the rung that is level with the top of the window. The doubled up rope is then passed into the rescuers with the victim, who secure the handcuff knot around the victim. Additional rescuers on the ground must grasp both ends of the rope that come to the ground and pull on both when signaled to haul. This method of removal can be performed with an aerial ladder as well. The only modification would be that the Atlas Life Belt would have to be buckled around the rung that is level with the top of the window. This would allow the hook of the Atlas Life Belt to hang down. The Life Saving Rope is then put through the hook of the Atlas Life Belt and is handed to the rescuing firefighters inside the window.