

The Defenestration Sensation

This presentation will highlight the many aspects of what is commonly referred to in the fire service as a "Bailout Kit", which is a pre-rigged rope system worn by firefighters for the purpose of self rescue. In addition to self rescue, it will be shown that the kit has the capability to perform many more functions than simply self rescue: it can be used to lower trapped civilians or firefighters to a safer location, as well as to remove trapped firefighters below grade. Case studies involving bailouts and comparisons of more commonly used systems will be shown.

This presentation will discuss the different types of harnesses commonly used, several friction devices currently available, as well as anchor hardware and selecting a point on the fireground to which the system can be attached.

Lastly, this presentation will show that mountain rescue teams and the fire service are not always that far apart in the rope world. Despite the tendency of the fire service to generally choose rope that is too big and carabiners that are too heavy, it is not opposed to occasionally performing minimalist single rope operations, attached to anchors that are less than bombproof. We dinosaurs might just be evolving after all!