TOWER EVACUATION PROCEDURES

1. Prior to beginning work on the lift tower, the workers checks all safety equipment and put their safety harness on. The worker at the base also puts a safety harness on.

2. After climbing the tower, the worker attaches two safety lines from the harness to the tower. The first safety line keeps the worker in place while working and prevents them from falling. The second safety line is connected from the worker to a belay system controlled by the second worker at the base of the tower.

3. In the event that a worker doing maintenance cannot descend the tower due to injury or sudden illness, the worker at the base of the tower immediately notifies park staff and requests assistance. (EMS notified as required)

4. The worker at the base of the tower communicates with the injured worker and lowers him to the ground using the belay system if the injured worker is conscious and able to direct himself safely off the tower.

5. If the tower worker collapses and cannot assist himself, the worker at the base immediately locks off the belay line, notifies park staff for assistance and contacts EMS.

6. The worker at the base climbs the tower, secures their harness to the tower and begins assisting the injured worker providing first aid as necessary.

7. When park staff arrives, the rescuer at the top of the tower prepares the casualty for lowering and instructs the park staff to assist in lowering the casualty using the belay system while he/she direct the casualty off the tower.

8. When the casualty is on the ground, first aid is continued until EMS arrives.

# LIFT EVACUATIONS

The increasing use of lift conveyances, which are suspended in the air by cables (i.e. chair, gondola, etc.), has created the requirement to safely evacuate stranded passengers if a lift becomes non-operational.

Lift safety is the responsibility of area management as is the procurement of evacuation equipment and the establishment of evacuation procedures. The development of detailed procedures, training of evacuation teams, and the actual evacuation requires joint effort between all parties involved. Overall, management of an evacuation is the area management’s responsibility while the supervision of evacuation teams may be the responsibility of the pro-patroller and/or a designated volunteer ski patroller. Rescuers should never evacuate a lift without authority from the responsible agent and co-ordination with the lift operators.

### EVACUATION EQUIPMENT

It is the responsibility of area management to provide evacuation equipment. At Sugarloaf Park the evacuation equipment consists of two (2) evacuation ladders and five (5) evacuation kits.

**Each Evacuation Kit contains:**

1. One evacuation rope c/w "horse collar" and rope saver;
2. One chain for encircling chair "gooseneck" c/w 2 carabiners
3. Two separate lead lines c/w rubber balls.
4. Evacuation record sheets and pencils.

All evacuation kits are located at the chairlift terminal

#### RESCUE PROCEDURES

Passenger safety is the first priority in any evacuation. Fear, apprehension and exposure to cold combine to cause many injuries and emergencies that are not common on a ski hill. Serious injuries have been caused by a lift breakdown or by passengers who, because of fear or foolishness, try to drop from the chairlift. Heart attacks, convulsions, onset of epileptic or diabetic attacks can occur because of emotional and physical stress.

**Evacuation should be conducted from the top of the hill downward for several reasons**:

* It is easier to move the equipment downhill than uphill;
* The upper chairs are more exposed, so the passengers suffer more from the weather;
* Passengers can see the chairs uphill of them being evacuated and know what to expect when it is their turn.

Once the command is given to evacuate, rescue teams will be formed at the base of the hill and the evacuation leader (supervisor in charge) will tell the team captains what stations to proceed to.

**PROCEDURE FOR ROPE RESCUE (Horsecollar)**

There are four phases of a rope rescue - setting up the rope on the lift cable, securing the rope, getting a passenger into the collar, and lowering the passenger.

1. Rescuers designated as first man by team leaders, make sure the rope is attached to lead line then throws the rubber ball end of lead line over the lift cable, uphill of the chair to be evacuated. This throw should be from the inside of the cable outwards to avoid electrical lines and the downhill cable. Once over, the lead line is used to pull the rope over the cable. The metal tube or rope saver on the rescue rope is then flicked into place over the cable. Be careful not to get the lead line caught under the chair's cable clamps. When pulling the lead line and rescue rope over the cable, do so away from the chairs to prevent such problems and avoid whipping the passengers.

1. As the rescue rope is pulled over the cable, the team leader has established contact with the people in the chair. Only the leader talks to the passengers. The leader instructs the passengers to drop their ski poles off to the side of their chair; they will be returned to them once evacuated. The leader then demonstrates how to put on and tighten the collar. The rescue team then gets into a relay position with the rope, standing uphill from the passenger’s expected landing point and upon instruction from the leader raises the collar up to the chair.
2. The leader must assess which passengers should be removed first. i.e. a calm passenger can assist a frightened one through the steps. Having done so, the leader goes over the procedure then instructs the passenger to grab the collar and pull it under the safety bar, place the collar over their heads and under their arms and to tighten the collar's cinch; the rope must be slack for this. The other passenger is instructed to put his/her inside arm over the back of the chair and to lower the safety bar when instructed.
3. The leader checks the team then checks with the first passenger instructing the passenger to raise the safety bar and ascertain that both parts of the rope are in front of the foot pegs. After this is done the first man puts weight to the rope by bending his/her knees. The passenger is then told to push away from the chair and to turn and face the seat keeping one hand off it to protect their face. The passenger is lowered slowly until clear of the chair at which time he/she is told to release the chair and then is lowered quickly. The leader instructs the second passenger to lower the safety bar, and then holds the legs of the first passenger to angle that person across the slope of the hill. This person is then freed from the collar by the team leader and instructed to either ***walk*** down the lift line or to walk over to the nearest ski trail to ski down but only after being assessed for their capabilities or for problems such as frost bite, etc. ***The fifth or a designated person should record the person's name, time they reached the ground and any injuries or problems.*** The collar is then brought back up and the procedure is repeated. Once the evacuation of the chair is completed, the rope saver is flicked off and the rescue rope flipped over the chair by means of an overhand travelling loop.

**UTILISATION DES ÉCHELLES**

Evacuation ladders are heavy and awkward. Caution must be exercised when using the ladders to prevent injury to team members or passengers. Ladders are to be used in instances where it is not possible to use the rescue rope in the over the cable arrangement. This occurs when a chair stops under or on a sheave assembly (tower). Also, the lifts supervisors can climb up the lift line towers for access to the passengers (only trained and designated staff).

**FOUR MAN CREW**

**Leader**

**Three people on the rope:**

* **First man**, to get lead rope and ball ready and over cable
* **Second man**, to get the evacuation collar and rope ready
* **Third man**, to assist when necessary

1. Leader to assign positions 1, 2 and 3.
2. Leader to talk to people to be evacuated (throw poles down, etc.) and decide who’s to be evacuated first.
3. Leader to explain use of collar to the passengers and how to come out of their chair.
4. Leader to check with crew.
5. If everything is ready, get person out of the chair.
6. Once person is out of chair, let person down fairly fast.
7. Leader to catch person and angle person so they are across slope of hill.
8. Leader to make sure passenger’s name, time evacuated, etc, are recorded)
9. Persons who have been evacuated should not ski down the lift line. Walk down lift line or over to nearest ski trail.
10. Once the evacuation has started, only the supervisor in charge can give the okay to start the lift if it has been repaired.