



**New York State Department of Labor**

**Andrew M. Cuomo, Governor**

**Peter M. Rivera, Commissioner**

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June 9, 2014

Dear Chief:

As you may know, in August 2012, Governor Andrew M. Cuomo signed legislation amending Section 27-a, of the Labor Law which requires employers to provide certain emergency escape systems to firefighters at risk of entrapment at elevations. We at the New York State Department of Labor (the "Department") are charged with enforcing this provision of the Labor Law that requires employers to assess the risk of firefighter entrapment at elevations and provide equipment and training to address that particular risk.

To assist fire departments and municipalities in achieving compliance with this provision of the Labor Law, we provided the following materials at the link below. Please note that the risk assessment worksheet has been modified to assist you in determining whether you need emergency escape equipment:

- a training video on emergency escape systems;
- a copy of the amended law;
- a copy of the regulations;
- a revised risk assessment worksheet;
- an equipment inspection guide; and
- a list of our Public Employee Safety and Health ("PESH") district offices.

<http://labor.ny.gov/workerprotection/safetyhealth/Firefighter-Emergency-Escape-Systems.shtm>

This online resource will outline the specific steps each fire department must take to comply with the law. Of course, the Department will continue to work with fire departments throughout the state to ensure that they are in compliance with the legislation and will provide additional guidance where needed.

If you have any questions please feel free to contact our PESH office at (518) 457-1263 or your local district office. Thank you in advance for your cooperation in helping to spread the word about emergency escape systems and keeping firefighters safe in New York State.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Eileen Franko".

Eileen Franko  
Director  
Division of Safety and Health