

2011 LODD

To Date:

49

Elevator Control

LODD at this point last
year:

44

- Where smoke is reported on several floors, **get off two floors below the lowest reported floor.**
- If the fire is within eight floor of the elevator lobby, **walk up.**
- Expect problems when using an elevator. Have the forcible entry tools ready to force open the inside door at the first sign of trouble. This will interrupt the interlock and stop the car's travel right where you are. As soon as the car begins to move from the lobby, press the emergency stop button. The car should stop. If not, pop open the car door. If the car does stop, pull out the emergency button and begin the ascent again. Rather than ascending directly to the floor two floors below the fire, the trip should consist of a series of precautionary stops every five floors. These stops serve several purposes, and you should consider them vital to your safety. First, they ensure that the elevator is **still responding to your programming.** If it fails to do so, pop open the door to stop what might be an express to the fire floor. Second, the stops allow the firefighters to step out and **verify the location of the nearest exit stairway** in the event that the car later stops at a smoke-filled floor. Third, they allow you to shine a light upward between the car and the wall of the shaft, looking for any smoke, water, or other contaminants entering the shaft. Although it might be possible on some cars to open the roof hatch and shine your light up while the elevator is ascending, the precautionary stops are still necessary for the other two reasons. Just because no smoke may be apparent doesn't mean that you should make the ascent directly. These shafts are often pitch black, anyway, and what appears to be the top of the shaft may be a solid layer of smoke.

**Taken from John Norman's book, Fire Officer's Handbook of Tactics*

Stay Safe!