

## FIRE FIGHTERS GUIDANCE NOTE # 6-14

### ISSUE:    **SAFE ROOF OPERATIONS**

Under clause 25(2)(a) of the *Occupational Health and Safety Act (OHSA)*, employers have a duty to provide information, instruction, and supervision to a worker to protect their health or safety. Clause 25(2)(h) of the OHSA also requires the employer to take every precaution reasonable in the circumstances for the protection of a worker.

The following information will assist with meeting the above requirements for the safety of personnel working on roofs during emergency operations. Fire Departments need to develop SOPs/OGs for roof operations that provide written instruction and training to address these concepts:

- Conducting initial and ongoing risk assessments that include the determination of the type of roof construction, the location of the fire and the length of time that the structure has been burning as this impacts building integrity (which needs to be taken into consideration as to whether to commit personnel to or evacuate personnel from the roof sector).
- Based on the risk assessment, appropriate PPE and equipment should be provided to individuals assigned to the roof sector.
- Identifying /providing for an alternate means of emergency escape other than the initial route of access.
- Appointing a Roof Sector Officer under the Incident Management System to ensure appropriate supervision is provided.
- Necessary precautions must be taken where firefighters are at risk of falling off or falling through a roof during emergency operations.
- If fall arrest systems are implemented as a precaution where there is fall hazard, a self-rescue and rapid intervention plan shall be developed, and implemented upon need by trained personnel.

#### Reference:

GN # 4-11 Fall Protection from Elevating Devices

GN # 6-18 Unprotected Lightweight Building Construction

GN # 6-11 Rapid Intervention Teams