



Rescue from high rise buildings

Index:

- → General
- → Preplanning
- **→** Tactics
- → Safety advices particular risks



General

- Rescue techniques at high and very high rise buildings are only slightly different from "usual" intervention techniques
- Nevertheless one must beware the pecularities of these interventions at high rise buildings to avoid situations which one might hardly control.

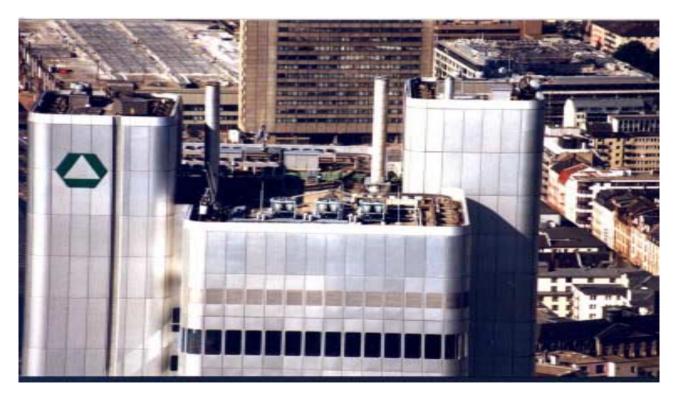
General

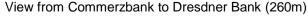
In the course of risk assessment one has to identify:

- Anchor points
- → Entry points into the building at various heights



In the preplanning phase one should get acquainted to the location







→ Anchor points

On nearly every roof of a high rise building one can find technical installations such as airconditioning and – cooling systems.

Information from responsible technicians is required to judge the proper fastening of such installations with the entire structure.



→ Rope length

To adjust the appropriate length of the rope one must know the height of the high rise building.

Rope stretching

Principally one has to use static ropes, because the rope strechting of dynamic ropes is high according to the height of the building



Anchor points are normally on the roof



View from Commerzbank to Commerzbank Tower 1 (260m)



Tactics

Isolate the site in a wide range.

Falling equipment or debris may fly several hundred meters.

Intervention plan of the team (aims, tool and and tasks) must be understood by every team member.

Change of tactics will hamper the intervention significantly in case of very long ropes.



Tactics

If entry into the building is possible, clearly identify and mark the entry point, e.g. with little flags.

It is very likely to mix up the various floors.

Entering with a victim normally requires support from other team members.



→ Beware the temperature in heights

In such heights the temperature may drop significantly

Felt temperature on the skin decreases with wind speed.

Appropriate clothing is required.



→ Beware wind condition

Even slow winds may cause drift of the rescuer away from the building.

Even with nearly none wind there may wind effects occur, e.g. because of warm-up current of air.



→ Always use a guide rope when descending is required

Install guide rope parallel to the work rope and fix it at the entry point or on ground level.

A connection from the rescuer to the guide rope avoids drifting.



→ Passive descending is recommended.

Because of windy conditions it is often difficult or even not possible to stabalize position of rescuer and victim



Install good working radio communication, e.g. with headsets with remote control (not triggered by voice)

In such heights communication without electronic means is nearly impossible. Even hand signs have their limitations because of the long distances



Beware very long time to descend victim

The use of stretcher or harness differs from medical indication

