Annex A – TSSA Communication May 16, 2008 "The Key to Opening Elevator Doors"

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The Key to Opening Elevator Doors
TSSA has recently been made aware of a few unqualified individuals manually opening doors, oft times in emergency situations, which runs the risk of harming those inside. Forcing the doors open even a fraction of an inch may kick the elevator in motion.

When an elevator stops and the doors lock, the *safest* place to be is inside. An elevator is designed with every possible safety feature in mind. If the doors do not open and you find yourself stuck between floors, ring the alarm and wait. Never force the doors or try to exit.

That message is not only of particular interest to those inside — but to building owners and managers on the outside. Only trained specialists know how to safely remove passengers or restart the elevator. In such non-emergency situations, even firefighters will bow out and tell you to contact the elevator contractor.

TSSA would like to remind owners, managers and contractors that no employee may perform rescue operations, including manually opening doors, unless trained to the specific rescue standards established by TSSA and detailed in Ontario Regulation #222/01 (Elevating Devices, Certification and Training).

An owner must:
- designate only those trained to perform rescue operations;
- develop written operating procedures for such rescue with the registered contractor;
- obtain training from a TSSA approved training provider
- maintain an up-to-date list of all trained employees with dates of initial and subsequent training; and
- provide TSSA's Director of Elevating Devices Safety with your operating procedures and training upon request.

Following safe rescue operation procedures is the only way to achieve your intended purpose — the overall safety of your patrons and passengers.

As a last reminder, an elevator may only be operated, altered, maintained or repaired by a qualified mechanic. Regardless of rescue training, contact your elevator contractor to ensure a professional is on the scene and the elevator is serviced in a safe, certified manner.

Should you have questions or require further clarification, please contact TSSA at customerservices@tssa.org or 1-877-682-8772.

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