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Device Helps Safe Escape From A Fire 'Exit Traveler' Unveiled At Montco Fire Academy

November 20, 1987 | The Morning Call

A device that allows people to escape burning buildings by walking backward down the outside wall was demonstrated for the first time in the United States yesterday at theMontgomery County Fire Academy.

The Exit Traveler, a compact lowering device, was demonstrated by RAW Rescue Products Inc. before two dozen firefighters at the school in Plymouth Township. RAW Rescue of Ambler is sole distributor of the product made in the Netherlands and available in Europe for several years.

Company President Rick Denzien, who made about five of the dozen descents from the fourth floor of the school's fire tower, said the descents were extremely slow, "basically like walking backward down the wall." Several others, including Jack Houser of Quakertown, who recently purchased an Exit Traveler, also descended from the tower, Denzien said.

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The purpose of the daylong demonstration was to educate fire instructors and professionals about the product in the event prospective buyers ask them for recommendations, Denzien said.

The device is available in four-, seven- and 12-story models. It allows people trapped in tall buildings to escape by hooking a stainless steel cable to a heavy object and strapping the harness around themselves. The device lowers people at a rate of 1.64 feet per second.

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