



National  
Operational  
Guidance

## Control measure

### Extrication from cable entanglement



**NFCC**  
National Fire  
Chiefs Council

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### Control measure knowledge

Emergency arrangements for extrication from cable entanglement should be put in place prior to committing personnel to an environment where cables may present a hazard.

If anyone becomes entangled in cables and is unable to move, they should remain still and be cut free. Electrical cables should be isolated if possible. Once isolated, or if the cables are not electrical, cable cutters may be used.

Personnel should consider attempting self-release techniques, especially if electrical cables cannot be isolated. One method that can be used in a building, is to find an area close to a wall where cables are still attached, and move slowly while attempting to release the cables.

### Strategic actions

Fire and rescue services should:

- Consider providing rated insulated cutters for cutting electrical cables

### Tactical actions

Incident commanders should:

- Ensure that cable cutting equipment is available at incidents where cables may cause entanglement
- Establish appropriate emergency arrangements for releasing personnel from cable entanglement
- Implement appropriate emergency arrangements for releasing personnel from cable entanglement