



**SAFETY CIRCULAR 14/2017**

**File: D03415**

**OCTOBER 2017**

**STRUCTURE FIRES INVOLVING AIR CONDITIONING DUCTING**

There have been a number of structure fires that have involved air conditioning ducting which has burnt through and exposed high tensile wire. This has resulted in Firefighters becoming entangled in the wire affecting firefighting operations.

These incidents are part of an investigation to determine a viable solution to mitigate the hazard of exposed air-conditioning wire.

There are a number of initiatives at present that personnel can employ to lessen the chance of entrapment by wiring at a structure fire including –

- Observation of evidence of a ducted air conditioner during dynamic risk assessment (ducting outlets in ceiling, unit on roof or outdoor unit on outer wall).
- Ensuring that a TIC and portable radio (as per SOP 3.4.4 Controlled Entry Procedure) is taken into the premise.
- Use of the TIC to observe the presence of hanging or bundled wiring.
- If contact with wiring is observed or felt, slowly back out to lessen the tangling effect.
- If personnel have come into contact with wiring, work with your buddy to see if you can free yourself.
- If you cannot free yourself and have become trapped, follow standard BA entrapped procedure.
- All operational personnel are reminded that in the event of a Personal Distress Alarm (PDA) activation, all priority must be given to the firefighter in need of assistance, under the direction of the Officer in Charge (OIC).

**Critical Message**

**At structure fires, attempt to identify premises involving air conditioning ducting, ensure that the correct equipment is taken with the team when conducting internal firefighting and follow the entrapment procedure if personnel become entrapped.**

**PAUL RYAN  
A/DEPUTY COMMISSIONER OPERATIONS**

Target Audience: Operational CFRS Personnel				
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O.I.C. is to communicate content to all relevant personnel under their command, discuss implications, and sign appropriate box above. Once completed Circulars shall be filed on station and forwarded to Information Resources at the end of each financial year.				
SC-14-17	Issue Date:	Removal Date:	Contact:	Operational Readiness & Standards Capability Command
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