EMERGENCY EGRESS FROM MINING SHOVELS & LARGE EXCAVATORS

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Rev	Status	Rev. Date	Status Description	Prepared by	Reviewed by	Approved by
5	APP	Jul 21, 2025	Approved	Peter Hamel	Mark Haupt	Tammy Siver
4	APP	Jun 15, 2022	Approved	L. Norris	T. Siver	T. Siver
3	APP	Jul 25, 2019	Approved	Tammy Siver	Lisa Norris	Dave Kallay

The following is a step-by-step procedure on how to complete a specific task or meet a facility specific requirement. Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) are written for all identified critical tasks. By virtue of the hazard or complexity associated with critical tasks it is paramount that the SOP be followed as written. SOPs contain a listing of high-level hazards associated with the task, for detailed hazard analysis reference the applicable Task Hazard Assessments. SOPs do not replace the requirements contained in the company Standards, Codes, and Processes nor do it replace the need to comply with the required legislation. Section 8.0 references documentation that the worker shall understand before work commences.

1.0 PURPOSE

- To establish a company standard to safely and effectively carry out work as it applies to emergency egress from mining shovels and large excavators when typical egress is rendered inoperable.

2.0 SCOPE AND APPLICATION

- This document applies to all company Heavy Construction Mining operations. Ensure all site-specific requirements are met or exceeded before performing the task.

3.0 HAZARDS AND CONTROLS

- Hydraulic oil, fuel and / or electrical fires causing personal injury (burns, smoke inhalation), damage to emergency egress equipment and equipment damage.
    - Follow emergency egress procedures and exit equipment immediately.
    - Discharge fire suppression system, if required.
    - Do not put yourself in danger by attempting to extinguish fire.
    - Emergency egress equipment shall not be used near sharp edges, chemicals, high heat or other hazards that could damage the device. If the use of the device near sharp edges is unavoidable, cover the edge with a heavy pad.
- Falling from shovel during egress.
    - Use emergency egress system (emergency ladder or descent device) as a last resort; always check walkways and normal egress routes for accessibility prior to using emergency egress system.
    - Workers must be trained in the safe use of the emergency descent device prior to its use.
    - The emergency descent device will be used as per manufacturer's instructions.
    - The emergency descent device must be donned before opening the handrail gate or climbing over the handrail. If climbing over the handrail, use extreme caution and ensure 4x3 point contact is always maintained.
    - Maintain 4x3 point contact when climbing down emergency ladder. Do not rush. Maintain control when climbing down the ladder.
- Emergency egress system malfunctioning.
    - Workers will inspect emergency egress equipment as part of their equipment pre-use inspection.
    - Formal inspections will be completed on emergency egress systems as per manufacturer's recommendations or legislative requirements.

- Manufacturer's instructions / manual will be kept with the emergency descent device system.
- The emergency descent device must be covered so that it is not exposed to the environment or weather.
- The emergency descent device must not be used for fall protection; the equipment is designed for emergency descent only.
- Ensure the combined weight of the worker, clothing, tools, etc. does not exceed the weight capacity of the emergency descent device (refer to manufacturer's manual for weight capacity).
- Only one person may use the emergency descent device per descent. Multiple descents are permitted providing the number of uses does not exceed the manufacturer's recommendations.

4.0 CHECKLIST

- ☐ Attend all preparatory meetings (IE: daily PSI; job scope; review of JSAs and SOPs for the job).
- ☐ Complete FLRA cards before starting the work.
- ☐ Ensure all personnel involved in the task are aware of the hazards and the controls to be used, as identified in the SOPs; JSAs; and FLRAs.
- ☐ Conduct a pre-job inspection of all equipment to be worked on and tools to be used.
- ☐ **Standard of Training required for working on this job: On-the job training.**

5.0 DEFINITIONS

5.1 Company

Means North American Construction Group Ltd. (NACG) and all directly or indirectly owned subsidiary companies, including joint ventures.

5.2 Company Personnel

Includes the Company's employees, officers, directors, agents, associates, consultants/contractors, temporary employees and third-party processors.

5.3 HSE

Refers to the Health, Safety & Environment department.

5.4 Emergency Descent Device

An emergency escape device used for automatic, controlled descent from heights.

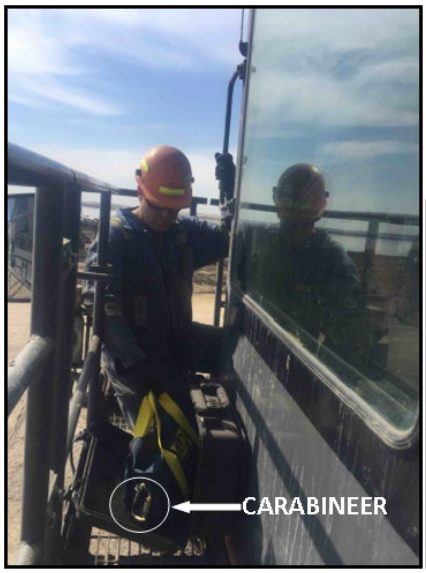
6.0 PROCEDURE

1) Shut down the equipment, activate the fire suppression system (if required), and notify supervisor of the emergency.
2) Assess approved egress routes and determine the safest means of egress. Use stairs and ladders when it is safe do so. Maintain 4x3 point contact on ladders and use the handrails on walkways.
3) Dismount equipment and move a safe distance away (Minimum 30 meters).

6.1 Emergency Descent Device

If it is unsafe to use ladders or stairways for egress, follow these steps for using an emergency descent device:

1) Locate the box containing the descent device. The boxes are usually located on the good side of the shovel cab or inside the equipment's cab.
2) Inside the box will be a bag with the descent device. A carabineer will be on the outside of the bag.
3) Twist the gate on the carabineer and squeeze or pull open. Attach the carabineer to the anchor point (with the bag still attached).
4) Remove the bag and allow the spool with the rope to fall to ground.
5) Pull body strap over your head and place it under your arms
6) Carefully climb over the handrail or open the gate.
7) Step away from the machine and allow the device to automatically lower you to the ground.



7.0 NOTES

If this task is to be done by a method different than described in this SOP, the work must **STOP,** and the alternate method must be **DOCUMENTED** with an adequate hazard assessment tool such as a JSA. The document must be **APPROVED** by a supervisor before such procedures are implemented.

8.0 REFERENCES

- Alberta Occupational Health and Safety Act, Regulation and Code – {Part 36, Section 545, Mining – Fire Prevention and Emergency Response}

9.0 APPENDICES

- There are no appendices.