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REUTERS

## ISRAEL: An Israeli rescue system offers safe and quick exit from high-rise buildings in emergencies

### DESCRIPTION

"Double Exit," a new Israeli **rescue** device, enables safe and quick evacuation from high-rise towers during emergencies. An Israeli company has introduced what it believes is the safest solution for evacuation from high-rise buildings and skyscrapers during emergencies, when elevators or stairwells are blocked and people can not find their way out.

Think about fire, earthquakes and even buildings under attack.

Israeli company DoubleExit presents a mechanical **rescue system**, which they say allows people to safely and quickly descend from towers and building at any given height.

In the southern Israeli city of Ashkelon, company owner and CEO Raffi Salhov said the DoubleExit, a subsidiary of Reshafim Security Doors company, was established in the wake of the 9/11 attacks to provide a solution where ladders or slides have failed.

"DoubleExit was established immediately after the World Trade Center disaster. We identified a need of descending people from high-rise buildings and developed a **system** which is considered the best of its kind throughout the world, that knows how to handle almost every situation and descend people from any height," Salhov said after he descended from an experimental five-story tower by hooking into the device and repelling safely to the ground.

Cobi Bitton, Vice President of DoubleExit explains that the **system** is installed in a closed cabin in an apartment or office. He says that an alarm **system** is activated by emergencies such as fire, smoke or earthquakes, then residents or workers just need to put on the harness connected to the cabin, and exit by a window or balcony.

"It works mechanically, automatically, using three parts of the **system**: one is the main **rescue** device, the whole mechanism, the second one is the cable wheel and the third one is the **rescue** cable itself with the **rescue** harnesses. Once we install the device, it could be in an apartment, or in an office or even on a rooftop, the user, when there is time, and the time could be fire, earthquakes or even terror attacks, he will reach, or she will reach the device, put the harness on, which is well connected, choose the way out - from a balcony or a window - and start to descend safely," says Bitton.

He adds that the **system** is able to carry up to 300 kilograms (661 lbs), and by using a roller mechanism it lowers the riders to the ground at a steady speed of a one meter per second. As soon as the first evacuee has reached the ground, the next harness is ready for use. He says it can function at any height or any floor of the building and can **rescue** lives without waiting for **rescue** teams.

In recent months the **system**, which meets German, Russian and Israeli safety standards, was introduced to international markets. It's sold at a retail price, which ranges between 5,000 to 8,000 U.S. dollars.

Citing the horrific sight of people trapped behind windows of the of the World Trade Center, Salhov believes that his **rescue system** could have saved many lives.

"Had the **system** been installed in the World Trade Center, there is no doubt we would have **rescued** many people who jumped to their deaths and people who did not jump and were incinerated," he concluded.

Ends

