

Lift safety at buildings and sites

The responsibility for the maintenance and operation of both passenger and goods lifts at buildings and sites lies with the landlord or building owner. As security practitioners GUK and RUK staff are often those who identify or receive information regarding lift faults.

Below are some reminders that will keep yourselves and building users safe when dealing with lift issues:

You should not enter lift motor or equipment rooms.

BS7255 states that only those trained and competent in the operation of the lift machinery should enter lift motor rooms or machine spaces. This includes carrying out patrols. You can enter to inspect if you are accompanied by a lift engineer.

Ensure that you have appropriate signage and barriers to cordon off lifts.

Do not be pressured into attempting to open lift doors if a lift car is stuck between floors.

There will be an unguarded drop into the lift shaft below the lift car.

If a lift passenger is unwell or panicking and there is a considerable delay in the arrival of a lift engineers then call the fire brigade on 999.

Lift motor rooms should not be used as storage areas.

Ensure that you know the lift emergency procedures for your site – who do you call?

At GUK we do not want our staff to become involved in the emergency release of lift passengers.

Only trained and competent staff should undertake this operation, which in most cases is the lift maintenance company.

The safest place for lift passengers to be if a lift is stuck is to remain in the lift car until released by a lift engineer.

If there is a lift entrapment at site ensure that you remain in contact with the trapped person and make a log of the incident, including timings.

Out of hours if you are the only member of security or reception staff on duty avoid using the buildings lifts in case of entrapment.