

Specialty Evacuation Chair Helped Rescue Victims Of September 11 Attacks

By Caryn Starr-Gates

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Evac+Chair Used by Occupants to Aid Injured and Disabled Co-Workers From Twin Towers

LAKE SUCCESS, N.Y. – As the eighth anniversary of the 9/11 attack on the Twin Towers approaches, Evac+Chair North America, LLC is reminding facility managers and high-rise building owners of the importance of evacuation plans as well as providing a means to evacuate all occupants safely, without relying on the crucial efforts of first responders.

“The Evac+Chair’s unique construction makes it easy for an employee to assist a disabled co-worker,” said Rich Perl, national sales manager of Evac+Chair North America, the company that originated the stairway evacuation chair. “More than six occupants were rescued to safety from the Towers on September 11 as the first responders were making their way up the stairs,” he added.

Perl explained that the narrow profile and light weight of the Evac+Chair means that its use as an evacuation chair does not interfere with the ascent or descent of first responders sharing the stairway. The chair is engineered to convey smoothly using a patented continuous rotating V belt that ensures safety and allows the user to control the chair’s descent down the stairs with relative ease, regardless of the passenger’s size.

The Port Authority of NY/NJ had purchased 125 Evac+Chairs for the Twin Towers after the first bombing in 1993. When the Towers were hit on September 11, some disabled workers remembered the chairs and were aided by fellow employees from several floors, including John Abruzzo, who wrote a letter of thanks to Evac+Chair. The survivors and their rescuers reported that they were able to make their way down the stairs as firefighters came up without interference.

“It doesn’t take the disaster level of the Twin Towers attack to keep in mind the importance of getting all occupants out of a multi-story building safely,” said Perl. “Anyone who needs assistance down the stairs for any reason, in any building, and in any situation that requires evacuation, can be helped to safety with the Evac+Chair.”

For more information about the Evac+Chair, go to www.evac-chair.com or contact National Sales Manager Rich Perl of Evac+Chair North America, LLC at (516) 502-4240 or sales@evac-chair.com.

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ABOUT EVAC+CHAIR

The Evac+Chair (www.evac-chair.com) was developed in New York City in 1982 and is the worldwide industry standard in lightweight, portable evacuation chairs. Today the company sells internationally to hotels, hospitals, office buildings, schools, assisted living facilities, and residential and commercial high-rise buildings—any multi-story building where any tenant or occupant who needs help for any reason can get down the stairs to safety. Its narrow profile allows first responders and other building occupants to ascend or descend staircases during an emergency without interference, and its unique design allows most able-bodied users to assist anyone with mobility impairments or other conditions in need of help with relative ease.

Category Building Management
Tags evacuation chair, emergency, rescue device

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