

News Release For immediate release November 2009

Announcing the UK launch of Spider Lifeline – your lifeline to safety

Wherever you're reading this, how would you exit the building in an emergency?

If you're in a high-rise building, you might have thought more about exit routes and procedures, but even on a low floor would you be confident of how you'd get out in an emergency and if the normal exit routes were blocked?

Announcing Spider Lifeline – the innovative rescue system new to the UK, specifically designed to provide an effective alternative escape route in emergency situations.

The ground-breaking Spider Lifeline system uses 'fall-arrest' technology to lower people to safety using a harness and strengthened steel cable, descending at a regulated speed that gets you out fast but without endangering others evacuating the building. The Spider Lifeline does not need any external power source, is designed to operate in all conditions and is suitable for all types of residential and office buildings, from a two-storey house to high-rise office or apartment blocks. The system can take up to 350lbs in weight, enabling adults to carry children down, and it includes an emergency braking mechanism. As people are brought safely to the ground, the harness can be returned quickly to the evacuation point for immediate re-use to bring more people down.

David Lowe, Spider Lifeline's UK sales manager, says "Our work with building managers, architects and planners shows us that Spider Lifeline will offer a significant additional escape option for the occupants of residential and office buildings of all sizes and types. We believe all responsible employers and building owners should be investigating the benefits of this important new system."

Norman Tebbit, chairman of Spider International Ltd, says "There has been a lot of activity in recent years to help improve access to buildings, but nowhere near enough focus on how people get out. Spider International is a company which exists to help answer that 'what if it goes wrong' question, not least for the most vulnerable people, the very young, the very old and the disabled. Being trapped in a burning building is the stuff of nightmares. Spider Lifeline is a way out of that nightmare. That is why I am backing the company."

Whatever floor you're on, here's one Spider you should be looking out for....

ENDS

Notes to editors

Try Spider Lifeline for yourself: we have two installations in London, one high-rise, one a bit lower – you choose! We'll tip you or your nominated reporters out of the window and bring you down safely in the Spider Lifeline system.

To interview Lord Tebbit or for any more details, pictures and video clips about the Spider Lifeline system, contact Phil Taylor on (mobile).