

## Snapshot Size-Up #105



Photo provided by Senior Correspondent Tom Libartolo



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## Emergency Egress

When operating at a typical two-three story structure fire, a Rapid Intervention Crew or ladder company should be assigned the task of placing a ladder to a window on the second or third floor as a secondary means of egress. This should be a proactive assignment, not a reactive one. Firefighters in distress may not have time to wait for a ladder to be put in position. It is also advisable to conduct periodic drills on Emergency Bailout techniques where firefighters can practice head first, self evacuation techniques such as the one shown in the photo to the right.



Deputy Chief Frank Viscuso is a twenty-year veteran of the fire service. He is a regular contributor to Fire Engineering Magazine & FireOpsOnline.com. He is also co-author of the book Fireground Operational Guides (PennWell 2011). The book features universal tactical worksheets and operational guides for more than 70 incidents that range from water, gas and electrical emergencies to multiple-alarm structure fires.