



**CITY OF CAMDEN**  
**FIRE DEPARTMENT**  
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The Camden Fire Department with funding from FEMA through an AFG grant (Assistance to Firefighters Grant) was able to purchase Gemtor harnesses for all of our members as an additional form of personal safety. Fortunately our fire department had individuals who were trained in the use and individual training for the harnesses so we endeavored to have all of our personnel trained to use them so they would be part of their everyday personal protective equipment. The training was done and was proven to be very successful and appreciated by all of our members.

As time went on and after recommendations from some of our members who are part of the NJ-USAR Response Team an emergency escape system was suggested to go along with the Gemtor harnesses. We put the word out that we were looking for emergency escape systems for our members and "All Hands Fire Equipment" came through for us by demonstrating and eventually supplying the Petzl EXO personal escape system with a lumbar bag to be used in conjunction with our Gemtor harnesses. We purchased an individual system and lumbar bag for each one of our members that works in the field to enhance their personal safety and protection.

"All Hands Fire Equipment" not only provided the equipment for us but they also provided top notch training for our members as well. On a prearranged schedule coordinated through our training academy, "All Hands Fire Equipment" sent highly qualified instructors from "Safety and Survival" to train our members in the proper care and use of the Petzl EXO system. The training included classroom lectures and the actual hands on training of the Petzl EXO system with our members completing a minimum of nine (9) separate slides using the systems. This training was one of the most gratifying training done for our members in years based on the feedback we received from some of those who completed the training.

Our department would definitely recommend "All Hands Fire Equipment" to other departments seeking to get involved in these types of operations. We had a totally positive and valuable experience throughout the project.

Sincerely,

*Michael L Harper*

Chief