



Bakersfield Composite Squadron #121



60-Second Safety Advisor #55

Hold that Elevator...

There was recently a tragic case where a young man stepped into a second-floor elevator just as the doors were closing. He expected (as would we) that the doors would bounce back open if he dashed in at the last moment. This time they did not. They pinned his shoulders and trapped him in the doorway. As the elevator moved upward, it decapitated the young man.

The built-in failsafe mechanisms failed. This type of tragic accident is unusual. Federal statistics estimate that elevators kill about 27 people per year and seriously injure another 11,000 in the U.S., making them one of the safest forms of travel. Fortunately, the safety mechanisms in elevators usually do work very well. Nevertheless, we need to remember that these type of devices (just like any mechanical device) can and do fail.

Rather than squeezing through the closing doors, just push the button and wait for the next elevator. These built-in mechanisms are excellent safety nets, but the best action to take is to avoid potentially unsafe situations in the first place.

