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Each officer in charge is to read this circular to all operational personnel and discuss. Then sign the appropriate box above to confirm that this has been completed.

## **OPERATIONAL SERVICES**

**File 00924**

**12 April 2006**

**SAFETY CIRCULAR NO: 6/2006**

### **ASSISTING ST JOHN AMBULANCE OFFICERS WITH LIFTING**

Concerns have been raised by firefighters of the increase manual handling risks when helping St John Ambulance Officer's lift heavy patients. St John Ambulance has advised all ambulance personnel that the following guidelines should be followed:

1. The ambulance crew that initiated the call for assistance should be involved in and control the lifting manoeuvre as they are aware of the patient's condition and positioning required.
2. The Ambulance officers who request assistance should assess and address egress and access hazards, assess correct lifting device and methods in terms of protecting the lifters and patients. This information should be handed over to the attending FESA crew members assisting with the extrication via a short briefing prior to the lift.
3. The commands to lift should be "Prepare to lift, 1,2, 3 lift"

Firefighters need to familiarise themselves with the above St John Ambulance protocol and ensure that St John Ambulance lead and control the shift or lifting process. All Firefighters are also reminded that manual handling risks are increased when lifting or shifting heavy patients. Extra safety consideration is required to minimise any likelihood of injury during the difficult and often sensitive task of assisting with shifting very heavy patients.

**CRAIG HYNES**  
**A/EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OPERATIONAL SERVICES**