

Tully Hose Co. #1

Standard Operating Guidelines

Ladder Operations

Guideline # TF-317 – Rev.1

Purpose:

To establish guidelines for the safe operation, maintenance, testing, storage and effective use of ground ladders.

Scope: This procedure is designed to provide a guideline for all personnel to utilize while operating TFD ground ladders. Procedures for storage maintenance and testing of ground ladders will be outlined. It is the intention of this procedure to provide a greater margin of safety whenever possible.

General:

Ground ladders are an integral part of fire ground operations. They are critical to the safety of firefighters and occupants in burning structures. In order for ground ladders to be used safely and effectively, firefighters must understand when and how to use them. TFD has adopted the procedures, definitions, descriptions, and types of ladders as described by the International Fire Service Training Association (IFSTA). All personnel should become familiar with the procedures outlined in this manual.

Use of Ground Ladders:

- Provide methods of getting firefighters and equipment to higher or lower levels for rescue, ventilation and other firefighting operations.
- Provide emergency bridge
- Roof- top to roof-top
- Window to window across narrow alleys
- Used as a form of drafting basin
- Used as a support for hard suction strainer
- Used for forming water removal chute
- Used as an improvised stretcher

Ladder Safety:

- Always wear full PPE, including gloves, when working with ladders. Personnel assuming the heel position must be in full PPE as well with their helmet on and face shield in the DOWN POSITION.
- Choose the proper ladder for the job.
- Use your legs, not your back, when lifting ladders from below the waist.
Remember to lift with the legs, not the back or arms!
- Use the proper number of firefighters for each raise.
- Make sure that ladders are not raised into electrical wires. **Personnel should take special care to ensure that the ladder will be raised and placed away from all possible electrical hazards.**
- Do not use excessive speed when raising or carrying a ladder.

- Check the ladder for the proper angle.
- The ladder should be footed by at least one firefighter while personnel are either ascending or descending the ladder. In order to properly foot a ladder, the firefighter shall be in full PPE and maintain contact with the bottom of the ladder with enough force/weight to ensure the bottom of the ladder does not move while personnel are ascending or descending.
- Make sure the halyard is secured to prevent slippage and reduce the potential for tripping.
- Make sure that the ladder is secure at the top and/or the bottom before climbing. The ladder should be footed by at least one firefighter while personnel are either going-up or coming down the ladder.
- Climb smoothly and rhythmically. Climbing of the ladder should be done by using the leg muscles, not the arms. When carrying tools up a ladder the tool should be slid up the beam while the hands maintain contact with the ladder.
- When it is necessary for firefighters to work while standing on a ground ladder and have both hands free, the use of a leg lock should be used.
- Do not overload the ladder. One firefighter may be placed on the ladder for every 10 feet of working space. Overloading of ladder may result in failure of the ladder.
- Carrying of tools and other items up ground ladders should be performed using an approved method. Care should be taken to ensure the safety of all firefighters working in the area.
- Never use a ladder NOT designed and built for fire service use.

Removing And Returning Ladders From Apparatus :

- All firefighters shall know the type and length of the ladders on each apparatus.
- The butt end will face the rear of the apparatus for each ladder.
- Upon removing any ladders from the side of the apparatus, the remaining ladders must be re-secured on the ladder rack.
- The roof ladder shall be placed on the rack first followed by the extension ladder. On the fire ground, the extension ladder is available first.
- The fly section shall be placed facing away from the apparatus.
- The rungs that sit to the outside of the mounting brackets shall have tape marking them.

Ladder Positioning:

- First objective is to place ladder for its intended use
- Second objective is to place the butt the proper distance from the building for safe and easy climbing

Placement Guidelines:

- Ladder at least two points on different sides of the building. Available ladders should be positioned at as many windows or openings as possible to ensure an exit for interior firefighters should an emergency arise.
- Extension ladders shall be positioned with the FLY SECTION OUT – AWAY FROM THE BUILDING before CLIMBING.
- Avoid placing ladders over openings such as lower level windows and doors.
- Take advantage of strong points in building construction when placing ladders.
- Avoid placing ladders where they may come into contact with overhead obstructions such as wires, tree limbs, or signs.
- Avoid placing ladders on uneven terrain or on soft spots. Always locate the butt of the ladder on firm level ground.
- Avoid placing ladder on main paths of travel that firefighters or evacuees will need to use.
- Avoid placing ladders where they may contact either burning surfaces or openings with flames present.
- Do not place ladders against unstable walls or surfaces.
- Place ladder at a 75-degree angle against the building. Divide the used length by 4 to determine the distance from the building.
- Place the tip of the ladder to the side of the window for ventilation.
- Place the tip of the ladder at the sill at the bottom of the window for entry and rescue.
- Ladders placed to a roof should extend a minimum of five (5) rungs above the roofline. This will allow for easy access and egress of personnel and help pinpoint the location of the ladder should smoke conditions obscure vision.

Inspection And Maintenance:

- **Maintenance:**

At each checkout, all ladders shall be inspected for cleanliness. If the ladder is damaged, then it shall be brought to the attention of the officer-in-charge. The ladder shall be removed from service until it is repaired.

- **Repair:**

Any repairs required for a ladder shall be brought to the attention of the officer-in-charge.

- **Cleaning Ladders:** –.

Dirt and debris may collect and prevent operation of ladder sections. Soft bristle brush and water is recommended for most cleaning applications. Degreaser may be used for tar, oil and grease.

After use, each ladder shall be inspected for cleanliness. No ladder shall be returned to service unless it is clean.

September 27, 2011