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Waterloo Vol Fire Department Standard Operating Guidelines

Ground Ladder Maintenance

Purpose:

The purpose of this standard operating guideline is to outline the procedures to follow during the inspection and the maintenance of ground ladders to ensure the safe and reliable operations.

Inspection:

- In conjunction with the monthly apparatus maintenance service schedule, ground ladders are to be visually inspected and cleaned each month. A more thorough inspection, followed by required maintenance as outline below, shall be conducted annually, scheduled in a six-month offset from the annual ladder testing.
- All ground ladders shall be inspected after each use. This is to include, but not limited to:
 - Heat sensors labels for a change indicting heat exposure (note if any heat label becomes black, remove the ladder from service at once).
 - Rungs for tightness and snugness.
 - Bolts and rivets for tightness.
 - Welds for any cracks or apparent defects.
 - Beams and Rungs for cracks. breaks, gouges, wavy conditions or deformation.
 - Check for snugness of the halyard/cable when the ladder is in the bedded position.
 - Assure dog assembly work properly.
 - Assure the pulleys turn freely.
 - Check the condition of the ladder guides and for free movement of the fly section.
 - Check the halyard/cable for fraying, burns, kinks, uneven wear or other condition requiring replacement.
- Whenever a ladder is suspected of being unsafe, it should be removed from service and tested in accordance with NFPA 1932: "Standard on Use, Maintenance and Service Testing of In-Service Fire Department Ground Ladders".

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Maintenance

- Ladders shall be kept free of moisture and dirt as much as possible.
- Ladder parts are to be sprayed down with penetrating spray. Use penetrating spray at contact points between rungs, guides and rails, particularly in the fly section. Add additional spray as needed on the bottom of lock fingers to allow them to slide easier over the rungs.
- For cleaning purposes, use only a mild detergent to wash the ladder. It is permissible to use brake cleaner on stubborn, oily and greasy areas.
- Extension ladders with halyard/cable that become frayed or kinked shall be removed from service and replaced.
- A permanent record shall be kept on ladder testing and when inspection is conducted and damage is found.

Testing

- All Waterloo Fire Department ladders shall be tested annually. Test procedures must meet NFPA Standard 1932, Fire Service Ground Ladders in order to keep in operation. In addition to annual testing, any ground ladders meeting the following criteria shall be removed from service and tested.
 - At any time a ladder is suspected to be unsafe.
 - After a ladder has been subject to overloading.
 - After a ladder has been subject to impact loading or unusual conditions of use.
 - After heat exposure.
- Annual testing will be conducted by an outside testing organization as long as the NFPA 1932 Testing Requirements are being met.
- All testing and inspections shall be documented and maintained.