**12.02.07 LIFE SAFETY ROPES, HARNESSES, AND HARDWARE**

**1.0 REFERENCE**

WAC 296-305-02019

**2.0 POLICY**

**2.1** All previously purchased life safety ropes, harnesses, and hardware used by fire departments shall meet the applicable requirements of the 2001 edition of NFPA 1983, Standard on Life Safety Rope and System Components. Ropes and equipment purchased after the effective date of this rule must meet the 2006 edition of NFPA 1983, Standard on Life Safety Rope and Equipment for Emergency Services

**2.2** Ropes used to support the weight of members or other persons during emergency operations, or during training evolutions shall be life safety rope.

**2.3** Life safety rope used for rescue at fires, or other emergency incidents, or for training, shall be permitted to be reused if inspected before, and after, each such use in accordance with the manufacturer’s instructions and provided:

(a) The rope has not been visually damaged by the exposure to heat, direct flame impingement, chemical exposure, or abrasion.

(b) The rope has not been subjected to any impact load.

(c) The rope has not been exposed to chemical liquids, solids, gases, mists, or vapors of any materials, known to deteriorate rope.

(d) If the rope used for rescue at fires or other emergency incidents, or for training, has been subjected to (a), (b), or (c) of this section, or fails the visual inspection, it shall be destroyed after such use.

(e) If there is any question regarding the serviceability of the rope after consideration of the above, the safe course of action shall be taken and the rope shall be placed out of service.

(f) Rope inspection shall be conducted by qualified inspectors in accordance with rope inspection procedures established and recommended as adequate by the rope manufacturer to assure rope is suitable

for reuse.

**2.4** Rope used for training evolutions shall be designated as training rope and shall be permitted to be reused if inspected before and after each use in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions.

**2.5** The destruction of a rope means that it shall be removed from service and altered in such a manner that it could not be mistakenly used as a life safety rope. This includes disposal or removal of labels and cutting into short lengths to be used for utility purposes.

**2.6** Rescue ropes shall be padded when deployed over edges or rough surfaces.

**2.7** ANSI Class I safety harnesses shall be used for fire fighter attachment to ladders and aerial devices.

**2.8** ANSI Class II and Class III life safety harnesses shall be utilized for fall arrest and repelling operations. Class III harnesses shall be used when the potential to become inverted exists.

**3.0 DEFINITIONS**

**4.0 RESPONSIBILITY**

**4.1** Rope inspection shall be conducted by VARIABLE in accordance with rope inspection procedures established and recommended as adequate by the rope manufacturer to assure rope is suitable for reuse.

**4.2** All repairs to life safety harnesses shall be done by an authorized manufacturer's representative, or the manufacturer

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**5.0 PROCEDURES**

**5.1** If the rope used for rescue at fires or other emergency incidents, or for training, has been subjected to 2.2. (a), (b), (c) or fails the visual inspection, it shall be destroyed after such use.

**5.2** If there is any question regarding the serviceability of the rope after consideration of the above, the safe course of action will be taken and the rope shall be placed out of service.

**5.3** Records shall provide a history of each life safety and training rope. The minimum information to be reflected in the record of history of life safety and training ropes shall include: Date of manufacturer, organization serial number, use list to include inspector's name and space for comments.

**5.4** Rope care:

**5.1.1** Dry damp ropes prior to placing them back in the stuff bags.

**5.1.2** Avoid grit or other debris that may come in contact with rope.

**5.1.3** Remove knots as soon as possible.

**5.1.4** Exposure to the sun's UV radiation will damage the rope, keep exposure to a minimum.

**5.1.5** If washing a rope is necessary, rinse it in water only. Using detergents is not recommended.

**5.1.6** While handling a rope, examine it for imperfections or abrasions.

**5.1.7** Any rope that is suspect should be immediately removed from service and forwarded to VARIABLE with an explanation.

**6.0 ADDITIONAL REFERENCES**

WAC 296-305-05101 for rope rescue applications

**7.0 APPENDIX**

N/A