**12.09.01 GROUND LADDERS**

**1.0 REFERENCE**

WAC 296-305-06006

**2.0 POLICY**

**2.1** New ground ladders purchased after the effective date of this chapter shall be constructed and certified in accordance with the 2004 edition of NFPA 1931, Standard on Design and Design Verification Tests for Fire Department Ground Ladders.

**2.2** Firefighters shall climb and descend ground ladders with the fly in, for safety purposes, when not in conflict with the manufacturer's recommendations. Even when ladders are routinely used in the fly-out configuration, in adverse conditions firefighters shall be permitted to climb and descend ground ladders with the fly in to assure secure footing.

2.3 All members shall be trained on the proper used of ladders and shall demonstrate the proper use of ladders yearly based on IFSAC FF1 skill sheets.

**3.0 DEFINITIONS**

N/A

**4.0 RESPONSIBILITY**

**4.1** The Health and Safety Officer shall be responsible for inspecting, testing, certificating the condition of ground ladders

**4.2** The Health and Safety Officer will keep records of all inspections and repairs to ground ladders.

**4.3** The Training Officer shall be responsible to provide adequate training to provide proficiency in ground ladder operations.

**5.0 PROCEDURES**

**5.1** Ladders shall be maintained according to the manufacturer's recommendations and visually inspected at least once a month and after every use.

**5.2** The following ladder components shall be visually inspected:

* 1. Heat sensor labels, if provided, for a change indicating heat exposure.
  2. All rungs for snugness and tightness.
  3. All bolts and rivets for tightness.
  4. Welds for any cracks or apparent defects.
  5. Butt spurs for excessive wear or other defects.
  6. Halyards for fraying or breaking.
  7. Roof hooks for sharpness and proper operation.
  8. Beam and rungs for punctures, wavy conditions, worn serrations or deformation.
  9. Surface corrosion.

**5.2.1** The following wood ladder components shall be checked:

1. Beams for dark streaks. When a wood ground ladder develops dark streaks in the beams, the ladder shall be removed from service and service tested as specified in subsection (9) of this section.
2. Loss of gloss on the protective finish of fiberglass or wood ladders, signifying damage or wear.

**5.3** Any sign of damage or defect during a visual inspection shall be cause to remove the ladder from service until it has been repaired. Scratches and dents shall not be cause for a ladder to fail a test if it passes the appropriate service test.

**5.4** If the heat sensor label has an expiration date, and that date has passed, the heat sensor label shall be replaced.

**5.5** Whenever any ground ladder has been exposed, or is suspected of having been exposed to direct flame contact, or wherever the heat sensor label has changed to indicate heat exposure, the ladder shall be service tested according to subsection (9) of this section.

**5.6** Temporary repairs shall not be made to ground ladders.

**5.7** When ground ladders are tested, they shall be tested in accordance with the strength service testing procedures of the 2004 edition of NFPA 1932, Standard on Use, Maintenance and Service Testing of In-Service Ground Ladders, section 7.2.

**6.0 GUIDELINES**

**6.1** All ladders should be stored in a manner to provide ease of access for inspection, and to prevent danger of accident when drawing them for use.

**6.2** Methods of fastening ladder halyards, either of wire or fibrous material, should be in a manner that the connection is stronger than the halyard. All halyards should be checked for fraying or breakage.

**7.0 ADDITIONAL REFERENCES**

**8.0 APPENDIX**