




**PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, MARYLAND
FIRE/EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT GENERAL ORDER**

General Order Number: 02-01	Effective Date: March 1, 2012
Division: Apparatus and Equipment	
Chapter: Aerial Devices and Ground Ladders	
By Order of the Fire Chief: Marc S. Bashoor 	Revision Date: February 18, 2015

POLICY

Establishes procedures for testing aerial devices and ground ladders;
Ensures proper maintenance and lubrication of aerial devices and;
Establishes procedures for replacement of ground ladders on apparatus.

DEFINITIONS

Non-Destructive Testing (NDT) – one of several methods used to inspect a structural component without physically altering or damaging the materials.

PROCEDURES / RESPONSIBILITIES

1. Testing

- Apparatus Maintenance (AM) shall coordinate all aerial device and ground ladder testing.
- Aerial devices are tested per the current National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) 1914 "Standard for Testing Fire Department Aerial Devices".
- Complete inspection and tests, including NDT defined in NFPA 1914, shall be conducted:
 - Annually.
 - After major repairs or overhaul.
 - After being subjected to unusual operating conditions, stress, and/or load.
 - If there is reason to believe usage has exceeded manufacturer's recommended operating procedures.
- Ground ladders are tested per the current NFPA 1932 "Standard on Use, Maintenance and Service Testing of In-Service Fire Department Ground Ladders".
- Complete inspection and tests defined in NFPA 1932 shall be conducted:
 - Annually.
 - After repairs (unless the only repair was halyard replacement).
 - After being subjected to unusual operating conditions, stress, and/or load.
 - After heat exposure.
 - Anytime a ladder is suspected as being unsafe.
- Aerial devices and ground ladders shall be visually inspected by station personnel monthly and after each use.
- If personnel have concerns about unusual appearance or operation of aerial devices or ground ladders, notify Apparatus Maintenance for direction.

2. Aerial Device Maintenance and Lubrication by Station Personnel

- At a minimum, aerial devices will be cleaned semi-annually (spring and fall).
- Aerial devices will be lubricated according to the manufacturer's recommendation.



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- Aerial devices will be cleaned using mineral spirits. Do not use a degreaser, pressure washer, or steam cleaner. Wipe or brush away dirt and excess lubricant.
- Visually inspect all components, including rungs, rung covers, cables, rollers, and structural members for abnormal wear or signs of fatigue. Contact Apparatus Maintenance with concerns.
- Paint scale or rust may be sanded smooth and repainted after Apparatus Maintenance has been contacted for direction.
- After cleaning and repairs/repainting, lubricate the aerial device, turntable (including the bull gear) and out riggers with synthetic-based grease (NLGI grade-2 heavy-duty multi-purpose lubricant) according to the manufacturer's recommendation, taking care not to over-lubricate the device. Contact the AM shop supervisor for any other recommendations.

3. Ground Ladder Replacement

- Ground ladders from apparatus being retired will be retained, if possible, for use on apparatus remaining in the fleet.
- All apparatus accepted into the fleet shall meet the current Prince George's County standard for required ground ladders.
- If necessary, custom ground ladders will be purchased for use on older apparatus that will not accommodate ground ladders that meet the current NFPA standard.

REFERENCES

NFPA 1914 - Standard for Testing Fire Department Aerial Devices

NFPA 1932 - Standard on Use, Maintenance and Service Testing of In-Service Fire Department Ground Ladders Apparatus

NFPA 1901 – Standard for Automotive Fire Apparatus

Prince George's County Volunteer Fire and Rescue Association Apparatus Standards

FORMS / ATTACHMENTS

N/A