



## ROPES MAINTENANCE SOG

### SCOPE

This guideline shall apply to all members of the Stoney Point Fire Department (SPFD) and shall be adhered to by all members regarding the care of and use of Rope and associated equipment.

### PURPOSE

The purpose of this guideline is to establish a standard procedure for the care, use, and the proper documentation of rope and associated equipment usage. Establish a standard procedure for inspection of rope and associated equipment on a monthly / quarterly basis. As well as establish a standard procedure for removing rope and associated equipment from service in compliance with current edition of NFPA including NIOSH and the manufacturer's instructions.

It shall be the policy of the Stoney Point Fire Department that all personnel understand the safe usage of as well as the proper documentation of all ropes and associated equipment used in either training or rescue scenarios.

### REFERENCES

NFPA, NIOSH, IFSTA Rope Manual, FEMA Urban Search and Rescue Training Manual, Manufacturers Recommendations on Care and Usage.

### PROCEDURE

It is highly recommended that all members of the Stoney Point Fire Department understand the safe usage of as well as the proper documentation of all ropes and associated equipment used in either training or rescue scenarios.

### AFFECTED EQUIPMENT

Rope

1" Webbing

HARNESSES to include:

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- Class One Life-Safety Harnesses shall be used for Firefighter attachment to ladders and aerial devices.
- Class Two Life-Safety Harnesses shall be used for fall arresting and repelling operations where two person loads can be encountered. Class Two Harnesses fasten around the waist, under the buttocks and around the thighs.
- Class Three Life-Safety Harnesses shall be used for the same purposes as Class Two Harnesses, but they fasten around the waist, under the buttocks, around the thighs and around the shoulders. This makes them very useful in inverted operations.

#### CARABINERS

#### DESCENT CONTROL DEVICES (FIGURE 8 AND BRAKES)

#### PULLEYS

#### EDGE ROLLERS

#### ROPE GRAB DEVICE

#### CARE OF EQUIPMENT

- All Fire Department Ropes used for Life Lines shall be stored in appropriate rope bags and shall be stored out of direct sunlight and chemical contamination.
- Ropes shall be inspected on the first day of each month and after each use. The proper documentation shall be done using the forms that are provided with each of the ropes. All copies of rope inspection records shall be turned into the Rescue Officer for permanent record keeping.
- Each Fire Department rope shall be marked on both ends with (A) on one end and (B); this will ensure that the working end can be rotated when the rope is used.
- End markings will also have date in service; length of rope; and marked end A/B as well as rope number.

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- Ropes should be washed as needed with a mild non-alkaline soap and in water not exceeding 180 degrees F. In temperature.
  - Ropes should be washed in a mesh bag or woven into a rope chain.
  - Fabric softener should be added during the final rinse cycle.
  - Ropes should be air dried without the use of heat and out of direct sunlight.
  - All fire Department harnesses shall be stored in a clean area out of direct sunlight and chemical contamination. They should be inspected on the first day of each month and washed with a mild soap as needed.
  - All Fire Department hardware shall be stored in an area free of dirt and chemical contamination. Hardware shall be inspected on the first day of each month and after each use. Hardware can be cleaned with soap and water.

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#### **ROPE INSPECTION PROCEDURE**

- All rope shall be visually inspected for unusual wear, lumps, cuts, exposed core material, excessive wear or abrasion of the sheath material; discoloration which could be from chemical contamination; and/or burn marks from excessive friction or heat buildup.
- During visual inspection all ropes shall be felt for soft spots, kinks, unusual bulges, inconsistent texture or flexibility, unequal diameter or thickness, and/or excess contamination from dirt or debris.

#### **DOCUMENTATION OF ROPE USAGE**

- Every time ropes are used in rescue or training scenarios they shall be inspected before they are put back in service. **This inspection shall be done and recorded on the form carried on the vehicle storing the rope.**
- Monthly inspections shall be noted on this form as well.



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### **REMOVING ROPE AND HARDWARE FROM SERVICE**

- Rope should be retired if there is excessive sheath wear; when more than half the outer sheath yarns are broken; after severe shock loading from a fall; when stressed with a load beyond that which it was designed to hold; if contaminated by chemicals,; when worn out from use or age; when an inspection exposes fault or damage; or when usage cannot be accounted for. If in doubt, take the rope out of service.
- During periodic inspection if rope is determined to be damaged it is to be removed immediately from service. The rope shall be cut into small pieces and used in training personnel in knot tying. Proper documentation must be submitted to remove a rope from service.
- Any hardware dropped from a height greater than waist high shall be removed from service and turned into Station Four for determination of disposal or return to service.

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