



Division 02 **Apparatus and Equipment**

Chapter 20 – Ground Ladder Replacement

February 2009

POLICY

This General Order shall set forth a policy governing the replacement of ground ladders on Prince George's County Fire/EMS Department apparatus.

DEFINITIONS

N/A

PROCEDURES

1. Background Information

National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) 1931 sets forth standards for ladders utilized by the fire service. These standards have changed and currently call for taller, heavy beams and a minimum of 16 inches between beams.

Ladders must be tested according to the most current testing standards listed in NFPA 1932. The more stringent standards result in many ladders currently in use by the Fire/EMS Department failing the testing process. NFPA 1901 requires a total of 115 feet of ground ladders. However, the Prince George's County Volunteer Fire and Rescue Association's standard requires 200 feet of ground ladders.

2. Older Apparatus

Replacing ground ladders that are carried on older apparatus has presented a challenge, as these apparatus cannot carry ladders that conform to the current standards. For these apparatus, the following guidelines shall be followed:

- The Prince George's County Fire/EMS Department shall purchase custom ladders that will fit into the existing apparatus. Although these ladders will not meet the current NFPA performance standards due to width, they will be much stronger than the ladders that were originally on the apparatus.
- When the height of the ladder bed is a problem, the ladder rack shall be adjusted to carry a shorter total footage of ground ladders. This should result in meeting the NFPA footage standard, but may not meet the locally adopted standards. When this is necessary, the Department should strive to maintain as close to 200 feet of ground ladders as possible.

Ladders from old apparatus that are being retired shall be saved, whenever possible, so they can be utilized on apparatus still in the fleet.

3. New Aerial Apparatus

All new aerial apparatus purchased by the Prince George's County Fire/EMS Department, or apparatus accepted into the County's fleet, shall meet the County's standard of carrying at least 200 feet of ground ladders.

REFERENCES

NFPA 1901

NFPA 1931



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

NFPA 1932

FORMS/ATTACHMENTS

N/A