



# Division 02 Apparatus and Equipment

## Chapter 01 – Aerial Device and Ground Ladder Testing

February 2009

### POLICY

There shall be a policy and procedure system established that governs the testing of aerial devices and ground ladders, in accordance with the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA).

### DEFINITIONS

**Nondestructive Testing (NDT)** – One of several methods used to inspect a structural component without physically altering or damaging the materials.

### PROCEDURES

#### 1. General Provisions

In order to provide reasonable safety for firefighters and victims during the use of Fire/EMS Department aerial devices and ground ladders, the following is hereby established:

- Aerial devices shall be tested in accordance with the latest version of The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) 1914, “Standard for Testing Fire Department Aerial Devices.”
- The complete inspection and tests, including the Nondestructive Testing (NDT) defined in NFPA 1914, shall be conducted at least annually; after major repairs or overhaul; following the use of the aerial device when the aerial device could have been subjected to unusual operating conditions of stress or load; or when

there is reason to believe the usage has exceeded the manufacturer’s recommended aerial device operation procedures.

- Fire Department ground ladders shall be tested in accordance with the latest version of NFPA 1932, “Standard on Use, Maintenance and Service Testing of In-Service Fire Department Ground Ladders.”
- The complete inspection and tests defined in NFPA 1932 shall be conducted at least annually; any time a ladder is suspected of being unsafe; after the ladder has been subjected to overloading; after the ladder has been subjected to impact loading or unusual conditions of use; after heat exposure; after any repairs have been completed, unless the only repair was replacing a halyard.
- The aerial devices and ground ladders shall be visually inspected by station personnel at least once a month and after each use.
- Should any failure, malfunction, unusual operation or appearance occur, the aerial device or ground ladder is to be placed out-of-service, and Apparatus Maintenance is to be notified.
- The aerial device or ground ladder is to remain out-of-service until the unsafe condition has been corrected and proper testing has been completed.
- Apparatus Maintenance shall coordinate all aerial device and ground ladder testing.



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

- It is the responsibility of all personnel to follow this procedure and notify Apparatus Maintenance of any needed repairs or inspections.

### 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

### FORMS/ATTACHMENTS

N/A