

<b>SCOTTS VALLEY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT</b>		
<b>STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES</b>	<b>ARTICLE: II</b>	<b>SOP: 2205</b>
	<b>SECTION: 2200</b>	<b>APPARATUS &amp; EQUIPMENT</b>
	<b>SUBJECT: ROPE MAINTENANCE &amp; INSPECTION</b>	

**Purpose:** To assure that all ropes and rope equipment are in safe and proper working condition.

**Scope:** In addition to weekly apparatus inventory checks, all rope and rope equipment shall be inspected before and after each and every use.

**Definitions:**

*Life Safety Ropes:*


Rope used to support the weight of members or other persons during a rescue, firefighting, or other emergency, or during training evolutions. This will include small diameter drop bags.

*Utility Ropes:*

Rope used for the hoisting and/or securing of objects other than a life.

**Procedure:**

1. The following items shall be inspected for damage or wear:
  - All ropes
  - Carabiners
  - Gibbs ascenders
  - Pullies
  - Web straps
  - Prusik ropes
  - Life safety harnesses
  - Pre-rigged lifting harnesses
  - Patient litters

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2. Any deficiencies or conditions that may compromise the integrity of an item shall require that the item be removed from service and be brought to the attention of the company officer. The company officer shall, on inspection, place the item or items *out of service* if need be and notify the responsible division chief.
  
3. All life safety ropes shall require that a rope maintenance record be maintained for the life of the rope.
  
4. Life safety ropes shall be placed *out of service* if subjected to high stresses such as impact loading situations, or signs of weakness or wear are detected.
  
5. Rope Maintenance Report
  - A. General
    - 1) The rope maintenance record shall be kept in the rope compartment of each applicable apparatus.
    - 2) There shall be an individual record maintained for each life safety rope.
    - 3) Rope, rope bags and their records shall be marked and identified by number.
  
  - B. Instructions
    - 1) Each time a life safety rope is utilized during an incident or training evolution the activity shall be logged on the maintenance record.
    - 2) The record shall require the following information:
      - a) Date of activity
      - b) Location of activity
      - c) How was the rope utilized and quantity of evolutions performed
      - d) Make comments on severity, adverse, destructive or unusual situations the rope was subjected to
      - e) List the results of the inspection, any damage or unusual characteristics of the rope
      - f) State recommendations in regards to the inspection: stay in service, repair, replace, or downgrade.

*(See attached Rope Maintenance Record)*

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