**Purpose:**

The purpose of this guideline is to provide users of fire department ground ladders with a means to determine if in-service ground ladders are suitable for continued service.

**Policy:**

This guideline specifies requirements for the care, maintenance and inspection of fire department ground ladders.

This guideline shall apply to all ground ladders used by Cumberland Road Fire Department for the purpose of rescue, firefighting operations, training and maintenance around the stations.

**References:**

NFPA 1500

NFPA 1932

Manufacturer’s Recommendations

**Procedure:**

**Definitions Inspection of Ground Ladders**

All fire department ground ladders shall be visually inspected at least once every month and after each use.

Visual inspection shall include, but is not limited to:

* Heat sensor labels for change indicating heat exposure
* All rungs for snugness and tightness
* All bolts and rivets for tightness
* Welds for any cracks or apparent defects
* Beams and rungs for cracks, breaks, gouges, wavy conditions, or deformation
* Butt spurs for excessive wear or other defects

Operational Check

* An operational check of the roof hook assemblies for proper operation shall be conducted.
* An operational check of the pawl assemblies for proper operation shall be conducted.
* Halyards and cables shall be inspected for proper operation and damage.
* All fire department ground ladders shall be inspected when initially placed in service, when returned from being repaired, after each use and on the first day of each month.
* Any signs of failure during inspection shall be sufficient cause to remove the ground ladder from service.

Cleaning

* All fire department ground ladders shall be cleaned after each use and during the monthly inspection.
* All fire department ground ladders shall be cleaned using warm soapy water and a soft brush.
* Tar, oily or greasy residues can be removed using a safety solvent.
* After ladder has been rinsed it shall be wiped dry.
* Record Keeping
* All inspections of fire department ground ladders shall be conducted using the Cumberland Road Fire Departments Ground Ladder Inspection Report and recorded in Firehouse RMS

Annual Service Testing

All fire department ground ladder shall be service tested annually February of each year.

**Responsibilities:**

The Shift Captain on duty the first day of each month shall be responsible for the inspection and cleaning of all fire department ground ladders assigned to the station.

The Assistant Fire Chief of Operations shall ensure all personnel adhere to this policy.