



PURPOSE

The purpose of this procedure is to provide a guideline for the inspection of all life safety rope used for training and emergency incidents and standardize use and maintenance of rescue rope used by the Russellville Fire Department.

All personnel are responsible for ensuring this policy is adhered to.

POLICY

Definitions

1. Cleaned - for the purpose of this procedure cleaned means use of warm water with a mild non-chlorinated soap (i.e. Ivory liquid) and rinsed thoroughly, allowed to air dry completely, away from sunlight, prior to storage and/or reuse.
2. Destroy - shall mean the rope is taken out of service and cut up into random lengths. This rope should only be used for knot tying practice.
3. Downgrade - Shall mean the rope is no longer to be used as a life safety rope for rescue at fires or other emergency incidents. The downgraded rope shall be identified as being unworthy of use as a life safety rope.
4. Life Safety Rope - Rope dedicated solely for the purpose of constructing lines for supporting people during rescue, firefighting, or other emergency operations.
5. Training Line - Training rope is the same Kern mantle line as the Life Safety Rope. Training rope is just that, its intended use is for training and not for the rescue environment. After each use the rope will be inspected for wear and the use of the rope logged.
6. Utility Rope – Utility rope shall be used for lifting, hoisting or other non-life safety applications and may consist of downgraded life safety rope. Utility rope that is made from downgraded rescue rope shall be marked with an orange painted 10" section that repeats every 36" throughout the rope. (other ropes purchased solely for utility purposes may be a solid color)
7. Rope Inspector –Department Member assigned to oversee the care & maintenance of Life Safety Rope, Training Ropes, and Utility ropes.
8. Visual Damage - Shall mean damage to the rope visible to the naked eye. This shall include damage to the mantle of the rope that exposes core fibers.
9. Tactile – Inspection of rope done by feeling with an ungloved hand for any abnormalities in the core (i.e. soft spots, bulges, hour glass shapes).

Inspection Procedure

All life safety ropes will be inspected, logged, and rotated annually. The Rope Inspector will be responsible for inspections and record keeping.

Approved



RUSSELLVILLE FIRE DEPARTMENT
POLICY MANUAL

Policy Number:
Section:
Original Date:
Revised Date:

Each life safety rope shall be inspected after each use in accordance with this procedure and the manufacturer's guidelines. It will be the Company Officer's responsibility to have these inspections made.

After every use of each life safety rope, the rope shall be inspected. A minimum of two team members will inspect the ropes and shall stand in line approximately three feet apart and run the entire length of the rope through their bare hands. The Inspecting individuals should look and feel for unusual and uneven wear on the rope.

Life safety rope shall be permitted to be reused providing:

1. The rope has not been visually damaged by exposure to heat in excess of 300 degrees F.
2. The rope has not been subjected to any shock load.
3. The rope has not been exposed to any chemical liquids, solids, gases, mists or vapors known to be hazardous materials or that are known to deteriorate rope.
4. If the rope has not been exposed to excessive abrasions of the mantle that expose the core fibers of the rope.

If the rope has been exposed to excessive soiling, the rope shall be cleaned and dried after each use.

If the Life Safety Rope, Training Rope, or Utility Rope has been found to be damaged or in need of cleaning it shall be the responsibility of Company Officers to contact the Rope Inspector or the Division of Professional Standards.

After each use and inspection of the life safety rope, the rope shall be placed in an approved rope bag.

Rope Record Maintenance

A rope record shall be maintained on each life safety rope used. Two copies of the rope maintenance record shall be maintained for each rope. One record shall be left in the rope bag and the other shall be maintained at central station.

1. After each use the card located in the rope bag shall be filled out detailing the date, use of the rope, and post use inspection results. When the card on the rope bag is full the card shall be replaced and the information placed in the master file.
2. Annually the rope shall be reversed in the bag (ends rotated) and thoroughly inspected. The annual inspection and rotation shall be logged in ESO records management software (RMS).

Note: The rope ends are marked A & B to assist in completion of annual rotation. The annual inspection shall include any necessary remarking of the rope identification number, due to wear, with a permanent marker. In addition to the annual rope inspection and rotation will include checking or changing the batteries in the head lamps included in each strike bag.

Approved

Fire Chief

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