

SPOKANE COUNTY FIRE DISTRICT 8

Standard Operating Procedures

130.03.04
ROPES AND HARNESS



Adopted: 12/20/16
Reviewed: 11/09/22
Revised: 11/09/22

Approved:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. J. B. B.", is written over a horizontal line.

Purpose: To ensure safety equipment is inspected and used properly.

References: WAC 296-305-02019
NFPA 2500

Procedure:

1. Ropes used to support the weight of members or other persons during emergency operations, or during training evolutions shall be life safety rope.
2. Life safety rope used for rescue at fires, or other emergency incidents, or for training, shall be permitted to be reused if inspected before, and after, each such use in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions and:
 - a) Has not been visually damaged by the exposure to heat, direct flame impingement, chemical exposure, or abrasion.
 - b) Has not been subjected to any impact load.
 - c) Has not been exposed to chemical liquids, solids, gases, mists, or vapors of any materials, known to deteriorate rope.
3. Rope used for training evolutions shall be designated as training rope and shall be permitted to be reused if inspected before and after each use in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions.
4. The destruction of a rope means that it shall be removed from service and altered in such a manner that it could not be mistakenly used as a life safety rope. This includes disposal or removal of labels and cutting into short lengths to be used for utility purposes.
5. Class I safety harnesses shall be used for fire fighter attachment to ladders and aerial devices.
6. Class II and Class III life safety harnesses shall be utilized for fall arrest and rappelling operations.
7. Rescue ropes shall have edge protection when deployed over edges or rough surfaces.

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8. Responsibility.

- a) Rope inspection shall be conducted in accordance with rope inspection procedures established and recommended as adequate by the rope manufacturer to assure rope is suitable for reuse.
- b) All repairs to life safety harnesses shall be done by an authorized manufacturer's representative, or the manufacturer.

9. Guidelines.

- a) If the rope used for rescue at fires or other emergency incidents, or for training, has been subjected to 2. (a), (b), (c) or fails the visual inspection, it shall be destroyed after such use.
- b) If there is any question regarding the serviceability of the rope after consideration of the above, the safe course of action will be taken and the rope shall be placed out of service.
- c) Records shall provide a history of each life safety and training rope. The minimum information to be reflected in the record of history of life safety and training ropes shall include: Date of manufacturer, organization serial number, use list to include inspector's name and space for comments.
- d) Rope care:
 - i. Dry damp ropes prior to placing them back in the stuff bags.
 - ii. Avoid grit or other debris that may come in contact with rope.
 - iii. Remove knots as soon as possible.
 - iv. Exposure to the sun's UV radiation will damage the rope, keep exposure to a minimum.
 - v. If washing a rope is necessary, rinse it in water *only*. Using detergents is not recommended.
 - vi. While handling a rope, examine it for imperfections or abrasions.
 - vii. Any rope that is suspect should be immediately removed from service and forwarded to the Assistant Chief with an explanation.