



ANN ARBOR FIRE DEPARTMENT

Standard Operating Procedures - 7.01 Rope



ROPE

Effective: September 3, 2021
Scheduled Review: September 3, 2024
Approved: Fire Chief Mike Kennedy

I. PURPOSE

This procedure establishes guidelines for the inspection and cleaning and removal from service of life safety, search, water and utility ropes.

II. TYPES OF ROPE

- A. Life Safety Rope (Rescue Rope) - A rope dedicated solely for the purpose of supporting people during rescue, firefighting, other emergency operations, or during training evolutions. All life safety ropes shall be cleaned and inspected after each use or annually. Shock loaded or abused life safety rope (rescue ropes, cords or webbing) that have been shock loaded or abused for any reason other than normal rescue training, should be taken out of service and sent to the master mechanic to be retired.
 - i. Every life safety rope has its own log sheet assigned to it.
 - ii. Use and maintenance of life safety rope shall be recorded in a log book maintained by the master mechanic.
 - iii. The log book is designed to show when it was placed in service, how it was used, when it was cleaned, and when it was inspected over its life time. Once the life safety rope is retired the log sheet will be pulled out of the log book.
- B. Search Ropes - Ropes used to search areas with limited visibility. Due to the nature of search ropes, they are not to be considered a life safety rope. The rope type should be cleaned and inspected when needed or at least annually.
- C. Water Ropes - Ropes used for water recovery of victims or rescuers. The rope type should be cleaned and inspected when needed or at least annually.
- D. Utility Ropes - Used for anything that is non-life safety, example lifting equipment up to the next floor or to tie off a ladder. Utility rope will be marked with 12" of pink duct tape on each end.

III. CARE & MAINTENANCE

- A. Washing
 - i. Put the ropes, cords, and webbing in a daisy chain,
 - ii. Place the ropes, cords, and webbing in a laundry bag to be washed.
 - iii. Only use the extractor at Station 3 to wash ropes. Run extractor one cycle with just water before washing the rope, to help remove any contaminant from the washer.
 - iv. After it has been washed remove it from laundry bag and undo the daisy chain,
 - v. Place the ropes, cords, and webbing in a well ventilated area out of the sun light to dry. Do not heat dry
 - vi. Must be completely dry before inspection and being placed back in service.
- B. Before returning any rope to service, it shall be inspected.



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- i. Start at one end of the rope and slide it through your hand to the other end. While you are doing this you are looking to make sure there are no abrasions, fraying, glazing, discolorations, exposed core fibers, lack of uniformity, broken fibers, soft or hard spots, or variations in diameter of rope.
- ii. If any of these do exist or the inspector has lost confidence in the rope it needs to be taken out of service and sent to the master mechanic to be inspected.