



# ANN ARBOR FIRE DEPARTMENT

## Standard Operating Procedures

### 7.01 Rope



#### ROPE

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Effective: December 12, 2025  
Scheduled Review: December 12, 2028  
Approved: Fire Chief Mike Kennedy

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#### 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

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. PSTrax is used to log rope use and maintenance.

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.

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.

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

##### Washing

- A. Put the ropes, cords, and webbing in a daisy chain.
- B. Place the ropes, cords, and webbing in a laundry bag to be washed.
- C. Only use an extractor to wash ropes.
- D. After it has been washed, remove it from laundry bag and undo the daisy chain,
- E. Place the ropes, cords, and webbing in a well ventilated area out of the sun light to dry. Do not heat dry
- F. Must be completely dry before inspection and placed back in service. Before returning any rope to service, it shall be inspected.
- A. 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.



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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 logistics officer to be inspected.