

Egg Harbor Fire Department and First Responders Standard Operating Guideline

Subject: Aerial Ladder Operation

SOG 306

Purpose: To give direction in operations of aerial apparatus. These directions at no time will supersede the manufacturer's recommended practices for operations.

Scope: This procedure applies to all members of the Egg Harbor Fire Department.

Procedure:

A. Apparatus Placement

1. The operator or IC is responsible for placing the apparatus.
2. The apparatus is not to be placed in the collapse zone.
3. The apparatus is to be placed as not to block other apparatus.
4. The apparatus is to be placed as to reach as much of the building (minimum of 2 sides) if possible, considering, rescue, ventilation, and water application.
5. At no time is the ladder to be placed in a position less than 12 feet from any electrical wire or hazard to operations.

B. Operation (Main Ladder)

1. Only qualified drivers are to drive the apparatus.
2. The operator is responsible to see that all ground jacks, plates, and wheel chocks are properly set. Full extension of all outrigger jacks will be standard operating guideline. "Short Jacking" will not be permitted unless directed by an Incident Commander of the Egg Harbor Fire Department or in extreme emergencies.
3. The operator shall operate the turntable and man it whenever men are aloft.
4. The operator shall monitor all movements of the ladder for safety and override the operation whenever necessary.
5. The operator shall maintain communications with the TIP at all times using the intercom or portable radio operating on a fire ground channel.
6. The operator shall maintain radio contact with the IC at all times.

SOG 306: Page 1 of 2

Original Issue Date: 10-7-10
Last Review Date: 10-7-10
Last Change Date: 10-7-10

7. The operator shall don SCBA however does not have to go on air unless directed or if necessary to assist those on the aerial.
8. Only qualified operators shall operate the aerial.
9. Operator may request a spotter if he/she feels one is necessary.
10. Firefighters on the aerial shall don SCBA.
11. Firefighters shall be connected with ladder belt at all times.
12. The ladder shall never be extended or retracted with personnel on the ladder.
13. When the ladder is retracted the ladder drain must be opened to prevent damage to the waterway.

C. General Aerial Ladder Safety.

1. The operators should always be aware of the general safety regarding elevated operations. There are many dangers associated when working aloft, electric wires are strung above most of our streets and shall be avoided at all times, trees that obstruct the climbing of ladders should have the limbs removed. Hot gases, smoke, and flame rise with the potential for serious burns.
2. Falling can be avoided with the proper use of a safety belt locking in whenever stationary on the ladder and maintaining three points of contact when climbing.

D. Pumping the Aerial Ladder

Pump operator should always pump aerial truck only when pump step is out and operator is on top of step and shall not leave step while aerial ladder is out of the cradle and in service to prevent possible electrocution.