

<p style="text-align: center;">DAVIE COUNTY, NC FIRE MARSHAL'S OFFICE STANDARD OPERATING GUIDELINES</p>	REVISION DATE 6/4/2018
<p style="text-align: center;">SUB DOCUMENT</p> <p style="text-align: center;">LIFE SAFETY ROPES, HARNESSSES AND HARDWARE</p>	SAFETY PAGE 1 OF 3
	DCFM # 200-004

1. PURPOSE:

- To provide a guideline for the inspection of all life safety rope used for training and emergency incidents.

2. DEFINITIONS

- **Life Safety Rope, Harnesses and Rigging:** Equipment used to support the weight of fire fighters and/or victims during rescue, firefighting and other emergency operations. (NFPA 1500) Further, it is dedicated solely for the purpose of constructing lines for supporting people during rescue, firefighting, or other emergency operations or during trainings.
- **Impact Load:** A dynamic load that would cause the rope to be momentarily stressed beyond the given static load.
- **Cleaned:** Means use tepid water with mild non-chlorinated soap and rinsed thoroughly, allowed to air dry completely, (The rope shall not be allowed to dry on the floor) away from direct sunlight, prior to storage and/or reuse.
- **Downgraded:** The rope is no longer to be used as a life safety rope. The downgraded rope shall be identified as not being life safety rope.
- **Destroyed:** Rope that has been taken out of service and cut up into random lengths. This rope shall only be used for utility rope, search rope or practicing tying knots.
- **Fall Factor:** A number, which expresses the maximum distance a load can fall on a given length of rope. Fall factor is equal to the length of the fall divided by the length of rope used to arrest the fall.
- **Visual Damage:** Damage to the rope visible to the naked eye. This shall include damage to the mantle of the rope that exposes core fibers. This shall also include uneven circumference of the rope that feels like an hourglass.

3. GUIDELINE:

- 3.1. All life safety ropes, harnesses, and hardware shall meet the applicable requirements of NFPA 1983.

<p style="text-align: center;">DAVIE COUNTY, NC FIRE MARSHAL'S OFFICE STANDARD OPERATING GUIDELINES</p>	REVISION DATE 6/4/2018
<p style="text-align: center;">SUB DOCUMENT</p> <p style="text-align: center;">LIFE SAFETY ROPES, HARNESSSES AND HARDWARE</p>	SAFETY PAGE 2 OF 3
<p style="text-align: right;">DCFM #</p>	200-004

- 3.2. All life safety ropes, harnesses and rigging will be inspected quarterly and shall be documented in each rope, harness and rigging file
- 3.3. Each piece of life safety equipment shall be inspected before and after each use in accordance with this guideline and following the manufacture's guidelines and recommendations
- 3.4. All life safety rope shall be carried in separate bags so marked. All other ropes shall be considered "utility" rope, to be used for lifting and hauling tools and equipment only.
- 3.5. After each use the life safety rope shall be inspected by a minimum of two (2) individuals. The two (2) individuals inspecting the rope shall stand in line approximately 3 feet apart and run the entire length of rope through their bare hands. While inspecting, the individuals should feel for unusual and uneven wear on the rope
- 3.6. Life safety rope used for rescue or training shall be permitted to be reused, if inspected before and after each such use in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions, and provided:
 - 3.6.1. The rope has not been visually damaged by exposure to heat, direct flame impingement, chemical exposure, or abrasion.
 - 3.6.2. The rope has not been visually damaged by exposure to heat in excess of 300 degrees F.
 - 3.6.3. The rope has not been subject to any impact load.
 - 3.6.4. The rope has not been exposed to chemical liquids, solids, gases, mists or vapors of any material known to deteriorate rope.
 - 3.6.5. The rope has not been exposed to excessive abrasion of the mantle that exposes the core fibers of the rope.
 - 3.6.6. If the rope used for rescue or training has been subject to 3.6.1 thru 3.6.5, or fails the visual examination inspection, it shall be cut in half and taken out of service as a life safety rope.
 - 3.6.7. If the rope, harness or rigging has been exposed to excessive soiling they shall be cleaned and dried.
 - 3.6.8. If there is any question as to the serviceability of rope, after consideration of the

<p style="text-align: center;">DAVIE COUNTY, NC FIRE MARSHAL'S OFFICE STANDARD OPERATING GUIDELINES</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">REVISION DATE</p> <p style="text-align: center;">6/4/2018</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">SUB DOCUMENT</p> <p style="text-align: center;">LIFE SAFETY ROPES, HARNESSSES AND HARDWARE</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">SAFETY</p> <p style="text-align: center;">PAGE 3 OF 3</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">DCFM #</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">200-004</p>

above, the safe course of action shall be taken and the rope shall be removed from service. (NFPA 1500)

- 3.7. Class I life safety harnesses (as defined by NFPA 1983) shall only be used for fire fighter attachment to ladders. (i.e. Pompier belts)
- 3.8. Class II and III life safety harnesses (as defined by NFPA 1983) shall be utilized for fall arrest and rappelling operations. (Personal Harnesses, Rope Rescue Harnesses)
- 3.9. Records shall be maintained to document the use of each life safety rope used at fires, rescues and other emergencies.