

Summary of Chapters
NFPA 1932: Standard on Use, Maintenance, and Service Testing of In-Service Fire
Department Ground Ladders

This standard specifies requirements for the use, maintenance, inspection, and service testing of fire department ground ladders. Ground ladders used in the fire service must be constructed to rigid standards to ensure that the ladders are of the highest quality. These ladders often provide the only means of fire fighter entry into a building or portions of a building and could be the only means of egress for victims trapped by a fire within a building. Fire department ground ladders serve as a path for fire fighters to transport people, equipment, and extinguishing agents from one level to a higher or lower level. Because the lives of fire fighters and fire victims often rely on the performance, without failure, of these valuable pieces of fire department equipment, these standards of performance are critical.

Chapter 1: Administration

- a. The scope of work defines requirements for the use, maintenance, inspection and service testing of fire department ground ladders.
- b. The purpose of this standard is to ensure reasonable safety for fire fighters and victims.
- c. This standard applies to all ground ladders irrespective of year of manufacture.

Chapter 4: Ground Ladder Mounting and Storage

- a. Ground ladders must be mounted and protected to prevent movement, abrasion and other damages.
- b. Ground ladders must be supported to prevent any sagging or distortion.
- c. Mounting equipment needs to be tested and maintained.

Chapter 5: Use of Ground Ladders

- a. Ground ladders must be used solely for rescuing, fire fighting and training.
- b. Ground ladder loading must be subjected to the duty rating.
- c. Ground ladder must be inspected after every use.
- d. Ground Ladders shall be used at the correct angle of inclination, secured by mechanical means or a firefighter at top and bottom, and visually inspected at each reposition.

Chapter 6: Inspection and Maintenance of Ground Ladders

- a. Ground ladders are required to be inspected and tested in accordance with established standards and manufacturer's recommendations.
- b. Ground ladders must be inspected visually once every month and after each use.
- c. Inspection shall include; cleanliness, discoloration, heat sensor labels (all labels), mechanical damage (wear, gouges, dents, cracks, tightness and operation of components, lubrication, fraying or halyards and operation of mechanical components, etc.).

- d. Maintenance of ground ladders must follow manufacturer's recommendations.
- e. Manufacturer's consultation is strongly advised on repairs.

Chapter 7: Service Testing of Ground Ladders

- a. Ground ladders must be subjected to required service tests in accordance with manufacturer's recommendation or NFPA 1932 service test recommendations.
- b. Service tests must be conducted on placing the ladder in service, annually, anytime the ladder is suspected of being unsafe, after the ladder has been subjected to overloading, impact loading, high heat & heat sensor label change and after repair.
- c. Out-of-service ladders must be marked with date and description of defects.
- d. Records on service tests must be recorded.