

Ground Ladder Testing

913.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

The purpose of this policy is to ensure that the ground ladders are periodically inspected and certified to be in compliance with the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) standards. This is a safety measure designed to reduce or eliminate the risk of injury to District members when using ground ladders.

913.2 POLICY

It is the policy of the Fresno County Fire Protection District to perform testing and certification of all ground ladders for the safety of District members and to comply with NFPA standards.

913.3 PROCEDURE

All District-owned ground ladders should be tested and certified annually. The actual testing interval may exceed 12 months if that time is reasonably needed for scheduling and completion of the testing process. In addition to annual testing, all ground ladders should be tested under the following circumstances:

- (a) New ground ladders should be tested prior to being placed into service. If the manufacturer of any new ladder provides written documentation certifying that the ladder has been tested and is in full compliance NFPA standards, the ladder may be placed in service with no further initial testing;
- (b) Any time a ladder is suspected of being unsafe;
- (c) Any time a ladder has been subjected to overloading, as defined by the NFPA standards;
- (d) Any time a ladder has been subjected to impact loading or unusual conditions;
- (e) Whenever a ladder has been exposed to or is suspected of having been exposed to direct flame;
- (f) Whenever the heat sensor label affixed to a ladder has changed to indicate heat exposure; or
- (g) After any repairs have been completed, unless the only repair was replacing the halyard.

913.4 TESTING RECORDS

The ladder testing coordinator shall be responsible for maintaining comprehensive records of all ladder testing and certification for the service life of each ladder.