Pleasant Valley Fire District

Standard Operating Guidelines

SOG #17 – AERIAL LADDER OPERATIONS

PURPOSE: To establish a guideline for operation of Ladder 56-45. At an incident where an aerial ladder operation is required, the members operating this apparatus need to be aware of its advantages and limitations.

GUIDELINES:

1. Drivers should be qualified to run both the pump and operate the aerial before being authorized to drive 56-45

2. Only qualified interior firefighters or qualified aerial operators should operate out of the bucket.

3 . When responding, drivers should be aware of the swing of the bucket into traffic.

4. When placing the apparatus in a driveway care should be given to ensure that the work side stabilizer (side closest to the building) will be on a firm surface, such as blacktop, concrete or hardened dirt.

5. **DEPLOYING STABILIZERS**:

   a. Stabilizers and ground pads should be deployed on every alarm. This will ensure that all members are proficient with set-up procedures.
   b. Stabilizers should be deployed before the pump is engaged. The lower noise level and higher speed ensure proper set-up and allows the driver to hear the locks engage.
   c. The officer side stabilizers **SHOULD ALWAYS** have a spotter when setting up or breaking down.
   d. When spotting for the stabilizers set-up, a thumbs-up signal should mean proceed. If the thumb or arm is dropped, jack deployment should stop immediately.
   e. The stabilizers should be stopped before they drop into place for proper pad placement.

6. Once all operations are concluded, the bucket operator should bring the bucket to approximately five (5) feet from the bed. At this time, the driver should assume control and lower the bucket the remainder of the way to the ground.

7. When placing wheel chocks, always place them approximately 3" away from the tires so they do not become pinned when the apparatus is lowered.

8. Driver **SHOULD ALWAYS** be on pull-out step whenever the aerial is in operation.

9. Members should not sit or lean on apparatus while aerial is in use to prevent possible electrical shock.

10. When entering and exiting the bucket, three points of contact should always be maintained.

11. Ladder on aerial device should not be used to access bucket once it is in operation. The ladder should only be used for emergency egress due to low rail height and extreme angle between ladder and bucket.

12. All bucket occupants must be secured to the anchor point in the bucket while it is in use.

13. Only two members should operate in the bucket at any given time, under normal operating conditions.

14. At least one member should have a portable radio when working aloft. This will be the primary communication with the driver and allow bucket personnel to monitor fire ground activity.

15. At no time should a member operate on the outside of the bucket while aerial is in motion.

16. When operating near electrical wires, a minimum clearance of ten (10) feet should be maintained.

17. SCBA's should be worn whenever the potential exists of working in an Immediately Dangerous to Life and Health (IDLH) environment.

18. When performing a rescue with the aerial, approach the window from the side or above, never head on to minimize the risk of the person leaping into the bucket.

19. Upon completion of aerial operations, ensure power is turned off to the aerial.

20. When responding to a mutual aid call, only bucket qualified personnel should respond. A sufficient crew of firefighters, including the driver is needed to respond.

21. At night the entire aerial tower should be adequately illuminated.

22. Do not forcefully extend the end of the tower against a structure.

23. Never use the tower or any part of the ladder as a battering ram.

24. Never use the aerial tower for pulling down walls or structural members.

25. The operator should always remain at the truck while the aerial is in use.

26. Bucket rescue anchor point should not be used to lift loads greater than 750 pounds.

27. Bucket maximum weight capacity should always be followed.

28. Tools will be passed into bucket - not carried.