Ladder Safety for the Fire Service

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• Velva Fire and Rescue
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Case Study

- 1am structure fire
- Velva Fire and Rescue assist neighboring department
- 30 ish year old male firefighter injured
- Ladder failure
- 2 broken bones in the left leg
PRIDE in your Profession
W.I.S.E.

- Walk around your apparatus
- Inspect the apparatus
- Start each system
- Equipment
  - “If it has moving parts, operate them.”
Ladder Types

- Extension
- Ladder
- Roof
- Ladder
- Attic
- Ladder
- Many other types
Parts of a ladder: Extension Ladder
Parts of a ladder: Attic Ladder
Parts of a ladder: Roof Ladder
Hazards of using a ladder

- Falls
- Back injuries
- Head injuries
- Cuts
- Numerous MOI
On scene

- “Many hands make light work”
Ladder Placement

- Watch for electrical hazards
- Depends on mission
- Solid foundation
- Solid building
- Watch for windows and doors
- 75 degree angle
Healing and Securing

- Ladders must be secured whenever firefighters are climbing or working from ladders
  - Make sure the ladder locks are properly secured on extension ladders
  - Tie the halyard
  - Heel or tie the ladder to the structure
- What are the hazards for heeling
Climbing a ladder

- Climbing a ladder is a very dangerous
  - Climb smooth to prevent bouncing or movement of the ladder
  - Insure your footing on the ladder is good
  - Insure the structure is adequate
  - Practice... easy company level drills
Working form ladders: Leg Locks
Victim Removal
Victim Removal
Inspection of ladder after service

- Inspect after each you
  - Dirt/ debris
  - Overall damage
  - Rung stability
  - Heat sensor
  - Know the manufactures recommendations
  - Know your SOG/ SOP
Inspection of ladder monthly

- Inspect monthly
  - Dirt/debris
  - Overall damage
  - Rung stability
  - Heat sensor
- Lubricate per Manufacture specs
- Check welds, rivets, and bolts
- Know the manufactures recommendations
- Know your SOG/ SOP
Inspection of ladder monthly

- Inspect monthly
  - Dirt/ debris
  - Overall damage
  - Rung stability
  - Heat sensor
  - Lubricate per Manufacture specs
  - Check welds, rivets, and bolts
  - Load test
  - Know the manufactures recommendations
  - Know your SOP/SOP
● What are things to put in your Standard Operating Procedure/ Guidelines?
● Do you have a platform for sharing your SOP/ SOG
Case Study

- What do you think happened?
“Once a job you have first begun, Never quit until it's done, Be the labor great or small, Do it well, or not at all”