



GROUND LADDER OPERATIONS – LADDER PLACEMENT (1.3)

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- NFPA 1001
- NFPA 1932

TASK SKILL DESCRIPTION AND DETAIL

The ground ladder is one of the most effective and versatile tools on the fire ground. The completion of the strategic goals and tactical objectives are often dependent upon the timely placement of ground ladders to facilitate ventilation, rescue, emergency egress, ingress to upper levels/exposures, salvage, and hose line operations. Firefighters must be proficient in the basic skills of operating with ground ladders as well as understand the general application of each ground ladder that LFR utilizes.

Placement Guidelines

1. Properly position the ladder for its intended use.
 - a. The tip a minimum of 3 rungs extended above the roof edge during vertical ventilation operations.
 - b. The tip just below the windowsill for rescue operations and ingress/egress.
 - c. The tip adjacent to the top of the window placed on the windward side for horizontal ventilation operations.
2. Place the butt of the ladder the proper distance from the building.
3. Ladder a minimum of two points on different sides of the building.
4. Avoid placing ladders over windows and doors. This will reduce the possibility of exposing the ladder to heat or direct flame contact as well as keeping the means of egress open.
5. Avoid placing ladders on trapdoors, grates, or manholes
6. Take advantage of strong points on a building (i.e. corners).
7. Do not place ladders against unstable walls or surfaces.



Task #1 – Place the ladder for ingress/egress or rescue operations

#1 Utilizing a single or two person carry and raise, place the ladder in position for ingress/egress or rescue operations. The tip of the ladder will be placed just below the windowsill. This placement allows for ease with ingress and egress through a window since the opening is not blocked by the ladder.



Figure 1 - Ladder placed for rescue or ingress/egress



Figure 2 - Ladder placed for rescue or ingress/egress



Task #2 – Place the ladder for horizontal ventilation operations.

#1 Utilizing a single or two person carry and raise, place the ladder in position for a horizontal ventilation operation. The ladder will be placed on the windward side with the tip of the ladder positioned adjacent to the top of the window. This placement will allow the firefighter to stand above the window thereby reducing the possibility of being struck by falling glass.



Figure 3 - Ladder placed for horizontal ventilation



Figure 4 - Ladder placed for horizontal ventilation



Task #3 – Place the ladder for vertical ventilation operations.

- #1 Utilizing a single or two person carry and raise, place the ladder for vertical ventilation operations. The ladder will be extended a minimum of three (3) rungs above the roof edge. This provides a measure of safety for the personnel operating on the roof.



Figure 5 - Ladder placed for vertical ventilation



Figure 6 - Ladder placed for vertical ventilation