



## **CONSCIOUS VICTIM LADDER RESCUE (1.1)**

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- Brady/IFSTA Essentials of Fire Fighting 5th Edition
- IFSTA Structural Fire Fighting: Truck Company Skills and Tactics

### **TASK SKILL DESCRIPTION AND DETAIL**

When a victim is found, whether by an interior crew and a ladder is the means to remove them, communication, control and tact need to be implemented to have a positive and safe outcome. The people we encounter during these times want out- now. This in itself causes extreme danger both to the rescuer and the victim.

#### **Establish Contact with Victim/ Victims**

- Effective communication is paramount to keep control of the situation. This is best maintained by assigning someone on the ground during the setup of the ladders (see Figure 1).
- Determine the possible number of victims and report the findings to the IC.
- Reassure the victim and continue with communications until the victim is safely down to the ground (see Figure 2).



Figure 1- Establish communication with the victim



Figure 2- Continue communications until victim is down and safe



### Ladder Placement

- All basic ladder practices will be followed (safety, selection, carries, and raises)
- Place the ladder just below the window sill (see Figure 3).



Figure 3- Use proper ladder techniques. Place the ladder just below the window sill

### Firefighter placement

- It is recommended that four firefighters be utilized for ladder rescues.
  - The officer in charge can be used for the initial victim contact and communications. The officer in charge oversees safety and maintains situational awareness (see Figure 4). In addition, the officer in charge will notify the Incident Commander of the number of victim(s), the location of the victim(s), and request the need for EMS assistance.
  - One firefighter to heel the ladder.
  - One firefighter to climb ladder, make entry into the structure, communicate with the victim and assist victims onto the ladder (see Figure 5).
  - One firefighter to climb the ladder and wait at the tip for the victim to access the ladder. The firefighter will assist the victim down the ladder.



Figure 4- The officer in charge maintains communication with the victim while overseeing the operation



Figure 5- One firefighter to hold the ladder and one firefighter to enter structure to assist the victim onto the ladder

### Victim handling

- Expect the victims to be scared, excitable, and impatient. Be aware that the victims may try to access the ladder prior to the firefighter ascending. This can cause an unstable ladder if the firefighters are not prepared.
- Communicate all actions you are doing- nothing should be a surprise to the victim (see Figure 6)
  - It is important to reassure the victim and keep them calm all the way to the ground. Keep in mind that some people may not have used a ladder in their life. Children and the elderly may need reassurance while climbing down the ladder.
- Descend the ladder slowly and safely when assisting the victim to the ground.
- If the victim loses control or becomes combative, stop descending, force the victim into the ladder by keeping them between the ladder and the firefighter, and call for assistance (see Figure 7).
- If the victim becomes unconscious, attempt to utilize an unconscious victim ladder technique and call for assistance.





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Figure 6- Communicate with the victim and assist them onto the ladder



Figure 7- The victim may have to be secured between the firefighter and the ladder

### **Victim transfer of care**

- Treat all of the victims who were rescued as patients. The officer in charge will determine if the victims need initial BLS treatment by the rescue company (triage and additional rescues will factor into this decision).
- Do not let the victim leave until they have been turned over to EMS for evaluation.

### **Aerial Operation Considerations**

- Ladder rescues performed with the use of an aerial device should be performed as above with the following exceptions:
  - Consider the climbing angle and trip hazards associated with the aerials in our system when bringing people down.
  - The operator of the aerial should bring the ladder down to the set point and not up to victims. This will help ensure the victims do not try to enter the ladder prior to it being in position.
  - Do not allow the aerial device to be overloaded.



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## **TASK SKILL INSTRUCTIONAL REQUIREMENTS AND IMPLEMENTATION**

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### **LFR Training Materials**

- Basic ladder skills should be proficient prior to attempting rescue techniques

### **PPE**

- Full structural PPE shall be used in all ladder trainings
- It is recommended that SCBA is also worn as climbing balance points will differ with the SCBA's weight

### **Evaluation/ Associated JPR's**

- Evaluation will be accomplished by the instructors and company officers
- JPR's
  - 01110 Set Up Ground Ladders
  - 01121 Search And Rescue
  - 13310 Set Aerial For Window Rescue

### **Safety**

- Safety is of upmost concern in any and all training evolutions
- All safety concerns shall be dealt with immediately and appropriately

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## **REFERENCE INFORMATION**

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- Brady/IFSTA Essentials of Fire Fighting 5th Edition
  - Chapter 10 (Ground Ladders)
  - Chapter 15 (Fire Control) Pgs. 771, 772
- IFSTA Structural Fire Fighting: Truck Company Skills and Tactics
  - Chapter 5 (Ground Ladders)
- V:\Fire\Training Division\LFR Training Materials\LFR Training Manual