

# Grissettown Longwood Fire & Rescue

## Laddering a Structure

The importance of laddering a fire structure cannot be emphasized enough. Roof and upper floor access, including any attic or “widows watch” can be a haven for rising gases of both a toxic and fire nature. Heat build-up alone can cause secondary fires or flaring, jeopardizing lower floor and ground activities.

### 6.1 FIRE STRUCTURE

- a. The fire structure is to be laddered at two locations, preferably at opposite ends. This laddering is not to be placed in such a fashion as to hamper or prevent the use of exterior access ways.
- b. Should multiple roof landings exist, each landing is to be laddered as best practical in to assure access to all roofs. Caution must be exercised when laddering is necessary over or adjacent to the involved portion of the structure.
- c. Plans must be made for interior laddering in case of stairway failure or the need for interior attic access.
- d. All ladders used must be fire service rated ladders.
- e. When dismounting a roof ladder “sounding” for the roof surface must be performed to assure of soundness and surface safety. Roof mounted ladders occasionally go over parapets located several feet above the true roof surface.
- f. Make sure proper techniques are used while raising and lowering equipment on ladders.

### 6.2 SAFETY

- a. Ladder safety must be practices at all times. This includes proper raising and lowering, angling, leg locks, hose lay tie-ins, and proper ladder loading of manpower and equipment.
- b. Always look for overhead power lines and other obstructions before erecting any ladder.
- c. A fire fighter is to remain at all ladder bases in full turnout gear to stabilize the ladder and be ready to assist should trouble arise.
- d. The first up fire fighter is to remain at the ladder top and succeeding fire fighters are to remain to assist those still climbing.
- e. During poor light conditions every effort must be made to light ladders, either with the use of apparatus lights, ground lights or hand lights.

f. If possible, both the base and top of the ladder should be anchored to the structure or other fixed point to prevent slipping or falling.