

Training Announcement

VOLUME XV • ISSUE 8



LADDERS AND HOSELINES

Advancing attack lines on the fireground is tough enough when it's through the front door so moving one up and over a ground ladder or aerial apparatus is something that certainly needs to be practiced. Standard tactics say that there should never be more than two lines through any entrance. There will be times that the easiest access for an additional line, or the only access for the primary line, may be through an upper floor window (or even over a balcony). That's when knowing how to move dry and charged lines over ladders will pay dividends.

The easiest stretch over a ladder will be with a dry line. As long as there's a safe area to stretch into and stage enough hose to make the advance then stretching dry makes the most sense. When there isn't a safe area, or the line's already been charged and needs to be repositioned then a charged line will have to be moved up and over the ladder. Either stretch requires both teamwork and communication, along with practice. When you're moving a dry line, carry as much line as you can—dragging or hoisting the line may be an option also. The nozzleman should always control the ascent and make sure that the nozzle is secured when he reaches the target area. After the line is moved up and staged it can be charged and secured on the upper level. A charged line takes a bit more effort and requires the nozzleman to maintain control of the nozzle as he ascends. The nozzle man should take on the nozzle and control the rate of ascent up the ladder. It's important for those helping with the stretch to *feed* line as needed, not ahead of time.

When using an aerial apparatus to get a line to an upper level it's a good practice to use the apparatus for *transport* of the line and not for continued support of it. Basically, once the line is in position then free up the aerial apparatus for other work. Remember that there's a crew with the line but make sure the aerial can be used if needed and not tied to the hoseline.

This session will review moving lines over ladders. After a brief review for both dry- and charged-lines there will be stations to allow students to develop proficiency on the fireground.

Date: _____

Time: _____

Trainer: _____

Location: _____



Ladders and Hoselines

I. Positioning and Advancing Hoselines on the Fireground

- A. Use the shortest route
- B. Use the straightest route
- C. No more than two lines through any opening/entrance
- D. Use stairs to access upper floors when possible
- E. Ladders are an option when accessing upper floors
- F. Depending on the situation a rope stretch to the upper level may be the best option
- G. Stage hose on upper levels before making advance
- H. Lines entering upper levels should be secured at the entry point prior to advancing

II. Safety while moving Hoselines over Ladders

- A. Once a ladder is placed to a window for access it should NOT be moved
 1. If the ladder must be moved then all personnel should be made aware of the situation
 2. Personnel who used the ladder for access MUST receive and acknowledge the message
 3. Lines should be advanced over ladders as a last resort
- B. Ground Ladders
 1. Ladder placement should be at a slightly exaggerated angle
 2. Ladder tip should be at, or slightly below, the window sill
 3. Footing the ladder
 - a. when the ladder cannot be secured into the ground (i.e.: soft grass, dirt, butted against sidewalk, foundation, etc.)
 - b. any time you suspect the ladder 'kicking out' is an issue
- C. Aerial apparatus
 1. Use the aerial as a means to get the hose up to the level required
 2. Remember the function of the aerial apparatus — use it to move and position hose and then secure the hose so the aerial can be used
 3. Be careful not to commit the aerial apparatus as a standpipe system — a supply line up the side of the building, secured at the entry point, will accomplish the same
 4. Platform apparatus can move a lot of equipment to be staged at the entry point — attaching the hose to the platform as it is raised is easier than performing a rope stretch
- D. Advancing Hose over Ladders
 1. Firefighter safety is number one — always ensure that you have solid footing and a solid grip on the ladder and/or aerial
 2. Develop a plan — make sure everyone knows the objective before you get started
 3. Stage line at the base of the ladder before climbing
 4. Use multiple firefighters to get line to the upper level
 5. The nozzle firefighter should not be overloaded
 6. Always control the nozzle (dry or charged)
 7. Efficiency creates speed — rushing creates problems
 8. Make sure you know where the line is going — there's no place to retreat if you enter the fire area from an upper level — always try and enter from the floor below (if possible)

III. Advancing a Dry-Line Over a Ground Ladder

- A. Make sure advancing the line over the ladder is the best option
- B. Ensure the ladder is positioned properly and secured
 1. Exaggerated angle — easier to climb
 2. Tip at or slightly below the window sill
 3. Ladder secured — no risk of kicking out at base (footed, tied off, sunk in ground)

Student Handout – 2 of 2

VOLUME XV • ISSUE 8



- C. Determine entry location and direction of advance prior to beginning up the ladder
- D. Stage dry line at base of ladder
- E. Have nozzleman begin advance with nozzle secured
 - 1. Nozzle folded over shoulder
 - 2. Nozzle hooked on rung above during climb, repositioned as needed
- F. Have second firefighter grab a few folds over shoulder and begin advance — assisting nozzleman's advance by lightening drag from hose
- G. As nozzleman enters area he should move nozzle away from entry point and assist second firefighter entering and flaking hose
- H. Other firefighters can assist carrying and/or moving up additional hose for attack team
- I. Call for line to be charged and secure line at point of entry — make sure there's enough line for the advance — stretching short at this point will require loosening the strap and pulling more hose in — not an easy task

IV. Advancing a Charged-Line Over a Ground Ladder

- A. Make sure advancing the line over the ladder is the best option
- B. Ensure the ladder is positioned properly and secured
 - 1. Exaggerated angle — easier to climb
 - 2. Tip at or slightly below the window sill
 - 3. Ladder secured — no risk of kicking out at base (footed, tied off, sunk in ground)
- C. Determine entry location and direction of advance prior to beginning up the ladder
- D. Stage charged line at base of ladder
- E. Have nozzleman begin advance by securing nozzle a rung or two above his position — nozzle is moved up as the nozzleman ascends — always ensuring control of the bale
- F. Second firefighter should begin climbing and supporting the line to ensure nozzleman can maintain control of the nozzle and continue the advance
- G. Additional firefighters may be needed during ascent depending on the height of the climb
- H. Once nozzleman enters he should secure the nozzle until the second firefighter enters the window — then both firefighters should begin moving line into the area to stage — it's critical to ensure additional firefighters on ladder are supporting the line as it is brought up
 - 1. Consider hose straps at intervals along the ladder — depending on height of climb and/or size of hoseline
 - 2. Firefighters will need to be positioned at hose straps to assist in raising hose — but the pressure due to the weight of the hose will be minimized
- I. Secure line at point of entry when enough line has been positioned inside for the advance

V. Advancing a Dry- or Charged-Line Over an Aerial Apparatus

- A. Consider using the ladder or platform to access the area and then a rope stretch to hoist the line and stage it inside
- B. If a supply line is needed it may be hoisted up by the aerial apparatus and then brought inside after firefighters have entered the area
- C. Once the line is charged make sure it is secured at the point of entry after enough line is staged for the advance
- D. If the aerial device is committed as a standpipe or hose tower the it will not be available for rescue operations if they arise

Ladders and Hoselines – Test



VOLUME XV • ISSUE 8

STUDENT NAME: _____ INSTRUCTOR NAME: _____ DATE: _____

1. **When positioning and advancing hoselines on the fireground:**
 - A. Use the shortest route possible
 - B. Use the straightest route possible
 - C. Use stairs to access upper floors when possible
 - D. All of the above

2. **There should never be more than _____ hoselines through any opening/entrance.**
 - A. Two
 - B. Three
 - C. Four
 - D. None of the above

3. **When advancing hoselines over ladders:**
 - A. Speed is gained by rushing
 - B. Efficiency causes problems
 - C. Firefighter safety is number one
 - D. None of the above

4. **When it comes to performing faster on the fireground:**
 - A. Rushing causes problems
 - B. Speed comes from efficiency
 - C. Develop a plan before you get started
 - D. All of the above

5. **When advancing hoselines over ground ladders the tip of the ground ladder should be positioned:**
 - A. Two rungs into the window
 - B. At or slightly below the sill
 - C. Above the window
 - D. None of the above

6. **When advancing hoselines over ground ladders the stretch of choice would be:**
 - A. A charged line
 - B. A dry line
 - C. A charged line that has been bled off
 - D. All of the above

7. **When advancing a hoseline into an upper level over a ladder the line must always be secured:**
 - A. True
 - B. False

8. **Committing an aerial apparatus as an improvised standpipe or hose tower is the best use of that piece of equipment:**
 - A. True
 - B. False