

Operating Guideline # 215

Working on Top of Apparatus

February 28, 2022



PURPOSE:

The purpose of this Operating Guideline (OG) is to increase the safety of firefighters working atop fire apparatus.

ISSUE/RATIONALE:

Working on top of fire apparatus, whether loading hose, retrieving or re-installing equipment or using equipment (monitor nozzle) can present a fall hazard for firefighters. Given the short duration of these activities and the varying locations and operating environments under which such activities occur, it is not feasible to provide fall protection. Every firefighter must be cognizant of the danger that working atop apparatus presents.

GUIDELINE:

1. When a crew of firefighters is assigned to work atop an apparatus, a supervisor shall be assigned from the ground to watch over operations. The minimum number of firefighters required to perform the task shall be assigned.
2. When climbing apparatus firefighters shall use the supplied steps and handles to ensure "three-points of contact" while ascending and descending from the apparatus.
3. Where possible, firefighters should work in pairs and position themselves in the centre of the apparatus and face outwards towards the sides.
4. Firefighters shall remain on hands and knees while working and moving about on top of fire apparatus to prevent a potential trip and fall.
5. Firefighters will not reach beyond the apparatus at any time. (Doing so may cause a loss of balance and stability.)
6. Ground level firefighters will lift the load to take the weight of the load while the firefighter(s) on the apparatus continues to lift/pull the load.
7. Helmets and other appropriate PPE should be worn while atop fire apparatus and for members working below.
8. Apparatus shall not be moved with firefighters working atop apparatus (Exception while re-loading hose, SEE ALSO - OG 211, Riding on Apparatus Exteriors).

RESPONSIBILITY:

It is the responsibility of all Emergency Operations Division staff to comply with the provisions of this Operating Guideline.

REFERENCES:

- Section 21 Guidance Note GN-1-01, Fire Truck Occupant Safety
- Section 21 Guidance Note GN-1-03, Backing Fire Apparatus
- MLFD OG 211 - Riding On Apparatus Exteriors
- MLFD OG 409 – Backing Apparatus