

Operating Guideline # 217

Fall Protection from Aerial Ladders and Platforms

September 28, 2019



PURPOSE:

The purpose of this Operating Guideline (OG) is to increase the safety of firefighters when working on aerial ladders and platforms.

ISSUE/RATIONALE:

While this fire department does not currently own an aerial apparatus, there are potential opportunities for Muskoka Lakes firefighters to work from aerial apparatus during mutual aid incidents within Muskoka Lakes or another municipality.

GUIDELINE:

1. When climbing apparatus firefighters shall use the supplied steps and handles to ensure “three-points of contact” while ascending and descending from the apparatus including any ladder attached thereto.
2. Firefighters shall use ladder belts or fall protection/harness systems designed for the applicable apparatus at all times personnel are in an elevated position.
3. **Any user of fall protection systems will be a competent person who understands the proper use, operation and inspection of the equipment.**
4. If a firefighter is required to transition from a secured position on an aerial device to an unsecured position on a structure, extreme care must be taken to protect against a fall during this transition.

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-4-11, Fall Protection