TOWER LADDERS

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HERE IS A SHORT OUTLINE OF SOME OF THE MATERIAL THAT IS IN THE HYBRID HOT WORKSHOP AND LECTURE, YOU CAN FOLLOW ALONG AND ADD YOUR OWN NOTES. TO SEE MORE INFORMATION ON THE USE OF TOWER LADDERS; VISIT: FIREENGINEERING.COM TRAINING MINUTES-TRUCK COMPANY VIDEOS ON TOWER LADDER OPERATIONS.

SIZE-UP CONSIDERATIONS FOR APPARATUS PLACEMENT

- LIFE WILL ALWAYS BE OUR FIRST CONSIDERATION- WE CAN REPOSITION LATER
- FIRE CONDITIONS ON ARRIVAL AND EXTENSION DIRECTION
- TYPE OF STRUCTURE- HEIGHT, AREA, SHAPE OR SIZE FACTORSOVERHEAD WIRES
- TREES
- STREETLIGHT/SIGNS
- ELEVATED ROADWAYS/TRAINS
- UNCERTAINTY OF GROUND STABILITY
- CONDITIONS OF THE BUILDING (VACANT, PARTIAL COLLAPSE, CHURCH STEEPLE)

VICTIM TRAPPED

- How will we approach the victim?
- From Above
- From Beneath
- At the same height
- Size-Up the victim
- -Panic
- -Physical position
- -Reaching and Grabbing
- -Ready to jump at us

- Size-Up the fire & conditions
- -Beneath us
- -Around us
- Where do we take them?
- -To the ground
- -Opposite building/exposure
- -Roof or another safe place

OTHER CONSIDERATIONS FOR PLACEMENT POSSIBILITIES

- INCIDENT COMMANDER ORDERS PLACEMENT
- TOWER LADDER OFFICER AND CHAUFFEUR DETERMINE PLACEMENT
- MAY HAVE TO "CIRCLE THE BLOCK" FOR A MORE ADVANTAGEOUS POSITION
- COVER TWO SIDES OF THE STUCTURE:

ALLOWS MORE SCRUB AREA AND ACESS TO TWO OR MORE SIDES OF A BUILDING.

PERMITS RESCUE AND REMOVALS ON NUMEROUS FLOORS.

PERMITS HYDRAULIC OPERATION ON NUMEROUS FLOORS.

VERSATILITY VERSE A STANDARD AERIAL

WHEN RESPONDING INTO THE SCENE AS A SPECIAL CALLED TOWER LADDER

- If special called as a tower ladder, radio the IC and ask if there are any SPECIFIC INSTRUCTIONS!
- Ask if there is a desired location, they want you to come in from and if so is it clear for them to get into position.
- Is a Supply Line being stretched for us?
- All members on the back step should realize that you're responding in as a "UNIT" and not to go headhunting when we arrive.

CONSIDERATIONS ON GROUNDS THAT HAVE DOUBTFUL STABILITY

- ALWAYS USE SUPPLIED JACK PADS AND ADDITIONAL PLANKING/CRIBBING
- POSITION THE APPARATUS PERPENDICULAR TO THE STRUCTURE THIS WILL EQUALIZE THE WEIGHT ON THE OUTRIGGERS/JACKS.

- OPERATE THE BOOM OVER THE BODY OF THE TRUCK IF POSSIBLE

ENSURE THAT YOU WATCH WATER RUN-OFF, IT COULD UNDERMINE YOUR FOOTING AND WASH THE GROUND AWAY FROM UNDER YOUR JACK PADS

WORK IN-LINE WITH THE APPARATUS AND DON'T VEER TO FAR OFF TO THE SIDE TO PREVENT THE UNTHINKABLE-A ROLLOVER…. THEY HAPPEN!

INCREASING THE SCRUB AREA

- By taking an angular approach, the overall scrub area of the tower ladder will increase.
- Position the cab away from the building, sometimes this only has to be done with a minimum angle.
- It also removes the cab of the apparatus out of the danger zone.

BALCONY/ FIRE ESCAPE PLACEMENT

A GOOD RULE OF THUMB IS TO LINE UP THE FLOOR OF THE BUCKET TO THE FLOOR OF THE OBJECTIVE, THIS WILL ASSIST A FIREFIGHTER IN BALANCING THEMSELVES WHILE STRADLING THE RAILING WHEN TRANSFERRING BACK AND FORTH OR WHEN REMOVING A VICTIM TO THE BUCKET.

DIFFERENT BODY STYLES MAY MEAN DIFFERENT PLACEMENT BUT WE'RE TRYING NOT TO FALL INTO THE BUCKET OR ONTO THE OBJECTIVE! MANY OF THESE STRUCTURES HAVE BEEN COMPROMISED BY EXPOSURE TO THE WEATHER

BLOCKED UP BUILDINGS

UNLIKE OPENING UP CINDER BLOCKS FROM THE MIDDLE IN HOPES OF ALLOWING THE TOP BLOCKS TO FALL INWARD/OUTWARD, START AT THE TOP BECAUSE FIRE COULD VENT FROM THE MIDDLE AND CHASE THE BUCKET AWAY FROM THE OPENING. THERE'S A DIFFERENCE WHEN YOU DO IT IN THE AIR VS. THE GROUND

ALWAYS RADIO UNITS OPERATING BELOW, OF THE ENSUING DANGERS THAT COULD OCCUR WHEN THE BRICKS OR BLOCKS FALL.

For Lecture/drill/seminar information on Tower Ladders, email: Mike Ciampo at:

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Articles and Video Links from Fire Engineering on Tower Ladder Operations:

https://www.fireengineering.com/firefighting/structural-firefighting-forcible-entry-from-the-tower-ladder/

https://www.fireengineering.com/firefighting/on-fire-alternate-water-strategies-truck-style/

https://www.fireengineering.com/videos/training-minutes-extending-a-tower-ladder/

https://www.fireengineering.com/apparatus-equipment/extending-the-tower-ladders-reach/

https://www.fireengineering.com/firefighter-training/training-minutes-cutting-from-the-tower-ladder-bucket/

https://www.fireengineering.com/apparatus-equipment/training-minutes-high-point-anchors-and-tower-ladders/

https://www.fireengineering.com/apparatus-equipment/the-tower-ladder/

https://www.fireengineering.com/firefighting/truck-company/firefighter-training-video-bucket-positioning/

https://www.fireengineering.com/firefighting/truck-company/firefighter-training-video-portable-ladders/

https://www.fireengineering.com/firefighting/pull-back-methods-of-roof-cutting/

https://www.fireengineering.com/apparatus-equipment/tower-ladders-positioning-tips-and-techniques/

https://www.fireengineering.com/apparatus-equipment/positioning-mid-mount-towers-on-the-fireground/

https://www.fireengineering.com/apparatus-equipment/firefighter-training-drill-cab-kick-out/