

HIGH RISK/LOW FREQUENCY

HUDSON FIRE DEPARTMENT

Standard Operating Guidelines

GUIDELINE NO: 100.13

**SUBJECT: CONFINED SPACE HARNESS
INSPECTION/MAINTENANCE**

APPROVAL: Scott St. Martin, Fire Chief

Effective Date: 5-16-16

Revised Date: n/a

PURPOSE

This guideline establishes a procedure for inspecting/maintaining the confined space rescue harnesses.

RESPONSIBILITY

1. All Chief and Company Officers have the responsibility to comply with and ensure that the personnel under their command are adequately trained, fully understand, and comply with this guideline.
2. All firefighters have the responsibility to learn and follow this guideline.

PROCEDURE

- A. Per manufacturer guidelines the following warning is given:

Warning

1. **Serious injury or death may result from the improper use of this equipment.**
2. **This equipment has been designed and manufactured for use by experienced professionals only.**
3. **Do not attempt to use this equipment without proper training.**
4. **Failure to follow these instructions could result in serious injury or death**

- B. Emergency services life safety harness in accordance with NFPA 1983 – 2006. This harness meets the life safety harness requirements of NFPA 1983 standard on life safety rope and equipment for emergency services 2006 edition class III

- C. Harness inspection

1. The harness will be inspected after each use and on a monthly basis at the regularly scheduled truck check meeting.
2. Only fire department approved personnel shall inspect the harnesses. Approved members are any firefighter trained to the High Angle Rope Rescue Technician Level
3. Documentation of inspection will include the harness in-service date and a pass or fail rating after inspection.
4. Manufacture recommendations for inspection.
 - a. Check webbing for cuts, worn or frayed areas, broken fibers, soft or hard spots, discoloration, or melted fibers.
 - b. Check the stitching for pulled threads, abrasion, or breaks.
 - c. Check the hardware for damage, sharp edges, and improper operation.
 - d. If any of the above is noted, or if the harness has been subjected to shock loads, fall loads, or abuse other than normal use, remove the harness from service and destroy it. If there is any doubt about the serviceability of the harness, remove the harness from service and destroy it.

D. Carrying, Maintenance and Storage per manufacturer.

1. During use, carrying, and storage keep the harness away from acids, alkalis, exhaust emissions, rust and strong chemicals. Do not expose the harness to flame or high temperatures. Carry the harness where it will be protected as the harness could melt or burn and fail if exposed to flame or high temperatures. If the harness becomes soiled, it can be washed in cold water with a mild detergent. Dry out of direct sunlight. Do not dry in an automatic dryer. Store in a cool, dry location.

References – Progressive Rescue Solutions manufacturer guidelines.