Bath Township Fire Department			Standard Operating Guideline	
Section Equipment	**Referral No.** E-O4	**Subject:** Ground Ladder Operation	**Date Issued** 11/02	**Date Revised** 03/08

Purpose:

- To provide guidelines for safety and use of ground ladders

Scope:

- This standard operating guideline shall apply to all personnel.

Responsibilities:

- Officer
  - All officers will ensure that any personnel operating ground ladders will be properly trained.
  - The personnel operating the ground ladders will do so in a safe manner.
- Personnel
  - All personnel have the responsibility of wearing proper safety equipment and operating the ground ladders in a safe manner.

Guidelines:

- **Safety is always our first priority**
- All personnel operating ground ladders will do so while wearing proper turnout gear
- All personnel operating ground ladders will be properly trained
- Prior to using ground ladders, it must be determined that the scene is safe for their operation. This includes but is not limited to looking for overhead power lines and fire extension.
- The Incident Commander will be in charge of placement of ground ladders
- The proper number of firefighters will be used to carry, position and raise all ladders
- Ground ladders will raised to approximately 75^{o} or when standing with toes against the bottom of the ladder side rails, arms extended out from the body should touch the top of the rung that is at shoulder level
- When a ladder is raised to a roof, it shall extend five (5) rungs above the roof edge
- When a ladder is raised to a window for ventilation, it shall be placed on the windward side of a window, to shield fire fighter from smoke and heat as he is venting.
- When a ladder is raised to a window for rescue, it shall extend so that the ladder tip is even with the bottom of the sill
- The ground ladder that is raised to a window for rescue, it shall have an operational hand light placed within the window (within structure) to help direct the rescue effort. This light shall be in the on position
- A minimum of one (1) ladder shall be raised on a working fire scene preferably on side A of the building

- A ladder may be set up for rapid egress and this should be set up on the B or C side of the building (see Rapid Intervention Team SOP for further direction)
- The extension ladder will be positioned with the **FLY OUT** unless otherwise specified
- The person/s operating the ground ladders must keep a clear line of communication open with the incident commander to ensure for safe operation of the ground ladders
- When working while standing on a ladder a class I life safety harness will be worn or the firefighter will leg lock for security
- When climbing or working off of a ladder, the ladder will be secured either by tying in the ladder or having another firefighter heel it
- All ladders will maintain a distance of at least 10 feet from all energized power lines
- At no time shall the ground ladders be used in a manner they are not designed for
- Any damage or malfunction to the ground ladders shall be reported to an officer/on-shift personnel and a repair slip filled out
- The ground ladders shall be checked and cleaned after each use to ensure that they are in a safe undamaged condition
- The heat sensors will be checked for exposure to damaging heat
- If the heat sensor has changed color, indicating exposure to sufficient heat, it will be tested before further use
- Ground ladders will be inspected after each use and monthly according to NFPA 1932
- Ground ladders will be tested annually according to NFPA 1932