Bath Township Fire Department			Standard Operating Guideline	
Section Equipment	**Referral No.** E-20	**Subject:** Care and Maintenance of Ground Ladders	**Date Issued** 03/08	**Date Revised**

Purpose:

- To provide guidelines for the care and maintenance of ground ladders.

Scope:

- This standard operating guideline shall apply to all personnel.

Responsibilities:

- Officer
  - Ensure that personnel are trained in the care and maintenance of ground ladders.

- Personnel
  - Ensure that care is taken to maintaining and clean ground ladders per the manufacturers' recommendations.

Guidelines:

- **Safety is always our first priority!**
- Fire service ladders, in general, are simple tools normally used to gain access to levels above the ground (i.e. roof access, 2nd or 3rd story windows, etc.)
- The ground ladders shall be checked and cleaned after each use to ensure that they are in a safe and undamaged condition
- Mild soap (i.e. Dish soap) and water works well with a soft bristle brush
- The heat sensors will be checked for exposure to damaging heat.
- Ensure the rungs are all tight
  - This is the only thing that holds the two beams together.
  - If any rung is loose - remove the ladder from service, repair and service test before further use and putting ladders back into service.
- Aluminum is a malleable metal and is subject to dents and nicks, etc.
  - Small dents and/or nicks on the beams and rungs are not uncommon and are not grounds to fail a ladder.
- Inspect the ladder locks/pawls to ensure that they properly lock into place for the fly section.
- Pulleys should be checked to maintain a smooth extension of the ladder.
- Ropes should be inspected to ensure that the rope with not break or become tangled during use.
- Roof ladder hooks shall be inspected to ensure proper movement without difficulty.
- Footpads on ladder shall be checked.
- Any damage or malfunction shall be reported to an officer and a repair slip completed.

- Types of Ladders in service
  - Roof Ladders
  - Extension Ladders
  - Folding/Attic Ladders
  - A frame Ladders (i.e. Little Giant)
- Replacement labels will be the ones that are available from the ladder manufacturer (Duo-Safety Corp.)
- Ground ladders will be inspected and maintained according to NFPA 1931
- Ground ladders will be inspected after each use and monthly according to NFPA 1932.
- An independent testing firm, according to NFPA 1932, will test ground ladders annually.