

PERFORMANCE BENCHMARKS

407.01A

Rope Inspection and Maintenance Procedures

Discipline: Ropes, Knots, & Hitches
Effective: 1/1/2001
Revised: 7/5/2010
Replaces: Firefighter Benchmark #37

Anne Huff, Fire Chief

I. Objective

The firefighter, given an adequate length of fire service rope, shall demonstrate the proper technique of inspecting the rope and verbalizing at least five (5) indicators of damage that are characteristic for the type of rope selected. The firefighter shall describe the proper procedures for cleaning and storing selected rope. The firefighter shall accomplish the skill in four (4) minutes or less.

II. Instructions – Procedures for Achieving the Objective

You shall demonstrate the proper techniques of inspecting fire service rope and verbalizing at least five (5) indicators of damage that are characteristic for the type of rope selected. You shall describe the proper cleaning and storage procedures of the selected rope. You will be required to complete the mandatory steps while performing this skill. You will have four (4) minutes to complete this skill. You will begin on my instruction to start. The skill will end when you state to me that you have completed all of the identified steps. Do you understand these instructions?

III. Examiner's Note

The firefighter will not be allowed to review the performance steps at the time of testing.

IV. Preparation & Equipment

- A. Rope (synthetic/natural)
- B. Rope bag
- C. The firefighter shall accomplish the skill wearing a helmet.

V. Reference Sources

- D. TCFP, Performance Standard, Section 104-5.00
- E. NFPA, National Fire Protection Association 1001, 3-5.3
- F. IFSTA Essentials of Fire Fighting, 4th Edition, pages 150-153.

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Name:	Officer #:
Evaluator:	Officer #:
Date:	Location:

If the firefighter: **(No partial points given)**

- a) Inspects rope for damage and verbalizes at least 5 elements of rope degradation (Elements could include: softness, crusty spots, stiffness, brittleness, nicks, cuts, dirt, mildew, heat sears or discoloration, fuzziness, mushy spots, sheath sliding, lumps and/or depressions.) 1.0 _____
- b) **Examines the inner component by twisting the rope or feeling for bunching and thinness**..... P/F _____
- c) *Verbally explains that he/she would tag and remove from service any severely damaged rope*..... 1.0 _____
- d) *Verbally explains cleaning procedures* 1.0 _____
- e) *Verbally states that rope needs time to air dry completely* 1.0 _____
- f) *Verbally states an additional inspection is necessary after drying* 1.0 _____
- g) Properly stores the rope. (A coil method or rope bag storage as found in the reference manual is acceptable. Note – coiling is not necessary in a rope bag) 1.0 _____
- h) Completes skill in allotted time 1.0 _____

Allotted time for this skill: 4 minutes Time: _____ minutes _____ seconds

- **Bold letters denotes mandatory passage of this step**

Points Possible	Passing Score	Attempt	Performance Rating (Points)	PASS	FAIL
7	5	First			
		Second			
		Third			