



DEPARTMENT OF FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICES

	<h1>GENERAL ORDER</h1> <h2>500.01</h2>	
---	---	---

Originating From	Issue Date	Revision Date	Attachments
Support Services	12/10/1995	N/A	N/A

SUBJECT: Annual Service Testing and Inspections

APPLICABILITY: All Personnel

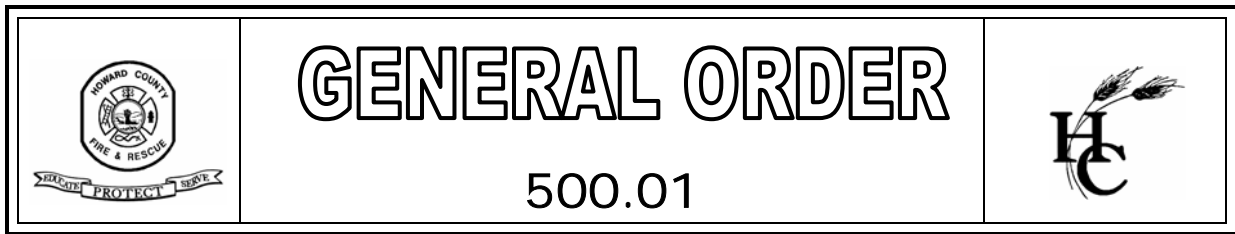
POLICY:

Service testing and inspections, as a minimum, shall be conducted annually to insure that all equipment and apparatus in the Howard County Department of Fire and Rescue Services (DFRS) is in a constant state of operational readiness. This annual procedure shall help minimize equipment failure and increase safe and efficient operations during emergency incidents

1 General

- 1.1 All equipment and apparatus shall be tested and/or inspected annually to ensure proper operational safety. More frequent testing/inspections may be required for certain equipment as stated in this procedure.
- 1.2 All equipment and apparatus shall be tested and/or inspected after any suspected damage or extensive repairs.
- 1.3 All equipment and apparatus will be tested in accordance with NFPA standards or manufacturer recommendations.
- 1.4 Testing and inspections shall be conducted each spring during the months of March, April, and May, unless otherwise stated.
- 1.5 Apparatus or equipment that fails any portion of the service test will be placed out of service. Repairs, if appropriate, will be accomplished in a timely manner.
- 1.6 Failed apparatus or equipment shall be retested after repairs have been completed prior to returning to full performance emergency service.
- 1.7 An annual inventory shall be conducted of all equipment carried, to verify there are no unauthorized devices present.
- 1.8 A preventative maintenance program shall be in place for all apparatus and equipment in accordance with manufacturers' recommendations, DOT regulations and/or applicable NFPA standards

DEPARTMENT OF FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICES



2 Equipment Requiring Annual Testing and/or Inspection:

2.1 Fire Service Pumps

2.1.1 Shall be conducted in accordance with NFPA 1911.

2.2 Hose

2.2.1 Shall be conducted in accordance with NFPA 1962, Chapter 5.

2.2.2 All new hose will be tested prior to being placed in service.

2.2.3 All Fire Service Hose that has any suspected damage or has been repaired will be service-tested prior to returning to emergency operations.

2.3 Rope, Life Safety Harnesses and Hardware

2.3.1 There is no approved method to service-test rope without compromising its strength. The DFRS shall use only NEW rope for rescue work.

2.3.2 Rope and accessories shall be inspected and/or removed from service in accordance with NFPA 1983, sec. 3.6 and manufacturer recommendations.

2.3.3 Life Safety Rope shall be downgraded after any use and altered in such a manner to prevent future accidental emergency service.

2.3.4 Training Ropes will be scheduled for replacement at regular intervals. Training Rope shall be destroyed after signs of wear, damage or impact loading.

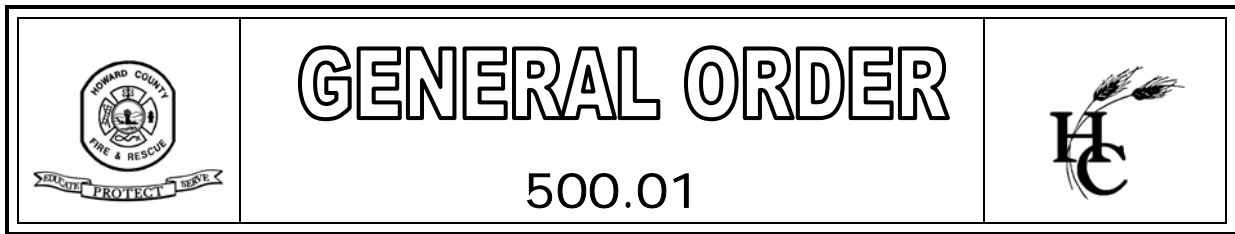
2.4 Ground Ladders

2.4.1 Shall be tested in accordance with NFPA 1932.

2.4.2 Strength Service-testing and Hardness Testing of ground ladders will be conducted by an independent ladder-testing vendor. Interpretation of non-destructive test results must be performed only by certified personnel.

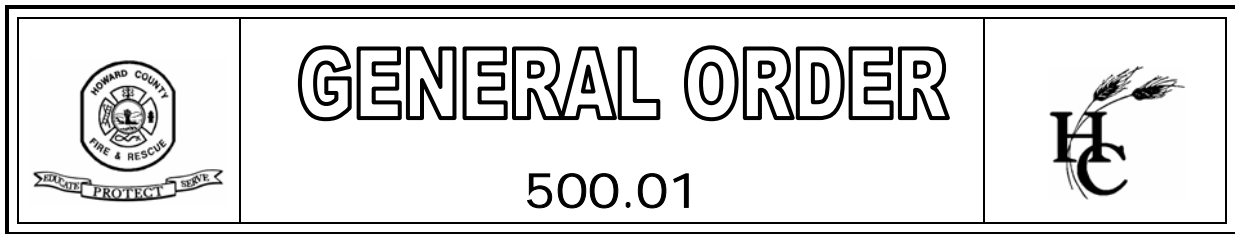
2.4.3 Testing agencies will provide certification documents stating that their personnel meet the American Society of Non-destructive Testing Requirements.

DEPARTMENT OF FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICES





- 2.4.4 All Ground Ladders will be identified by: Serial Number, where applicable, and engraved on the beam with the unit radio identification number followed by the number 1, 2 or 3 (example: 21-1 = 35' 3-section ladder).
- 2.4.5 Heat Sensor Labels will be checked after every use. If a change in the label is noted, the ground ladder shall be removed from service and tested prior to returning to operational use.
- 2.5 Aerial Ladders and Elevating Platforms
- 2.5.1 All Aerial Ladders and Aerial Tower Apparatus will be tested in accordance with NFPA Standard 1914.
- 2.5.2 The inspections and tests will be performed by an independent vendor. Those selected vendors shall comply with the American Society for Testing and Materials Standard E543.
- 2.6 Breathing Apparatus and Cascade Systems, Pass Devices
- 2.6.1 SCBA of the open circuit design shall be positive pressure and shall meet the performance requirements of NFPA Standard 1981.
- 2.6.2 Compressed Breathing Air shall meet the requirements of the Compressed Gas Association G-7.1, Commodity Specification for Air, with a minimum air quality of Grade E, with a Dew Point greater than -55EF.
- 2.6.3 Sources of Compressed Breathing Air such as air compressors and cascade systems shall be tested every 3 months to assure compliance with Section 2.6.2.
- 2.6.4 SCBA Cylinders shall be hydrostatically tested according to applicable Federal Standards.
- 2.6.5 Annual performance testing and inspection of SCBA regulators shall be conducted in accordance with manufacturer specifications.
- 2.6.6 PASS devices shall be inspected and maintained according to manufacturer recommendations. Batteries shall be changed annually or when needed.
- 2.7 Air Quality Monitoring Devices/Explosive Meter

DEPARTMENT OF FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICES



- 2.7.1 Monitoring devices shall be calibrated, inspected, and maintained according to manufacturer recommendations.
- 2.8 Portable Fire Extinguishers
 - 2.8.1 Shall be inspected annually by a certified private vendor according to NFPA 10. This shall include vehicle mounted and station mounted units.
- 2.9 All Emergency Vehicles
 - 2.9.1 All DFRS vehicles shall be maintained and inspected in accordance with established DFRS periodic maintenance and inspection procedures and with the Motor Vehicle Administration, Commercial Vehicle Inspections Division.
- 2.10 Boats
 - 2.10.1 DFRS boats shall be maintained and equipped in compliance with Department of Natural Resources regulations.
- 2.11 Generators, Gas/Pneumatic/Hydraulic Tools and Miscellaneous Equipment
 - 2.11.1 Shall be inspected annually and maintained according to manufacturer recommendations.
- 2.12 EMS Equipment
 - 2.12.1 Ambulances, oxygen regulating equipment and related miscellaneous EMS equipment shall be inspected/tested every three years by a representative from MIEMS. The inspection/certification process shall be in accordance with the Maryland Voluntary Ambulance Inspection Program (VAIP).
 - 2.12.2 An annual inventory shall be conducted of all equipment carried, to verify there are no Unauthorized devices@ present.
 - 2.12.3 Medical Defibrillators shall be inspected/maintained according to manufacturer specifications and MIEMSS.
 - 2.12.4 Mechanical CPR devices shall be inspected/calibrated according to manufacturer specifications.

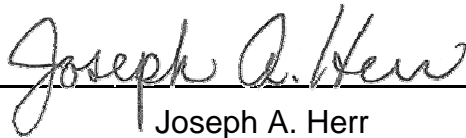
DEPARTMENT OF FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICES

 <p>HOWARD COUNTY FIRE & RESCUE SERVING PROTECT & SERVE</p>	<h1>GENERAL ORDER</h1> <p>500.01</p>	
--	--------------------------------------	---

3 Records

- 3.1 Appropriate records of tests and maintenance shall be maintained at each station.
- 3.2 Annual service test results shall be forwarded to the Deputy Chief of Operations in a timely manner.

Approved:



Joseph A. Herr
Fire Chief