



MONTGOMERY COUNTY FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE  
MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MD.

## FLEET MANAGEMENT BULLETIN

**NUMBER: 23-01**

**February 22, 2023**

### **Ground and Aerial ladder testing**

#### **Background**

MCFRS is compliant with the requirement to have all Aerial Ladders tested per NFPA 1914 and all ground ladders tested per NFPA 1932. Because of the specialized nature of this testing, it is performed by a third-party vendor.

Until this point, ground ladders have been tested during aerial ladder testing for aerial apparatus. Ground Ladders on Engines, Brush Engines, Tankers, Rescue Engines, and Rescue Squads have been assigned by the Small Tools Mechanic in a random selection. Ladders assigned to the PSTA have been tested during the test assigned to T727 in which the vendor reports to the PSTA and completes all ladders at the Academy. The Small Tools loaners and stock cache has been "as time permits".

In addition to the test, any special service units (aerial ladders, rescue squads, and rescue engines) reporting to CMF for assigned front line unit testing, has had preventative maintenance performed by the Small Tools Section. The preventative maintenance is for any small gasoline engine powered tool (non-extrication equipment-done separately by manufacturer specific vendor) and the equipment regardless of vehicle the equipment is on.

#### **Current State**

The Aerial Ladder Testing and Ground Ladder Testing Program has been redesigned in attempt to conduct testing from March to December with any "make up" testing occurring in January, February, or any other available testing slots throughout the year. Beginning in 2023, the new schedule will take a different path to ensure accountability and prevent duplication of testing.

#### **Small Tools Loaner and Stock Ladders**

All Small Tools Loaner and Stock Ladders will be tested in January and February. Any unit that has a ground ladder marked PSL or ST- Loaner is asked to contact Small Tools to coordinate a test date.

#### **Aerial Ladders and Ground Ladders assigned to all Ladder Trucks and Towers**

The CMF Aerial Ladder Crew Chief will continue to schedule aerial ladder testing based on the availability of aerial apparatus. Ground Ladders assigned to an aerial ladder will continue to be tested on the schedule set by the CMF Aerial Ladder Crew

Chief. Crews are needed to assist with the test and to move the ground ladders assigned to the vehicle for Ground Ladder Testing in conjunction with the Aerial Test. During the test, personnel assigned to the Small Tools section will perform the yearly preventative maintenance on the small gas engine tools assigned to the unit.

If a front-line vehicle is scheduled for an aerial test and the unit/ company is in a reserve truck/ tower, **it is expected that the crew report to CMF to assist with the test for the front-line unit and have the small gas engine PM completed.** If there is any equipment that did not get moved onto the reserve unit, station personnel should make every effort to bring that equipment with them or coordinate movement with the personnel assigned to Small Tools and/ or CMF Light Duty.

### **Ground Ladders Assigned to Engines, Brush Engines, Tankers, Rescue Engines, and Rescue Squads (To include all non-aerial reserve apparatus)**

Ground Ladders assigned to Engines, Brush Engines, Tankers, Rescue Engines, and Rescue Squads (including all non-aerial reserve apparatus) will be done in the month corresponding to the last number in the unit designation.

*January- All CMF Small Tools stock ladders and loaners*

*March- All unit designations ending in "3" (E703, RE3, BE713)*

*April- All unit designations ending in "4"*

*May- All unit designations ending in "5"*

*June- All unit designations ending in "6"*

*July- All unit designations ending in "7" (to include the PSTA ladder cache)*

*August- All unit designations ending in "8"*

*September- All unit designations ending in "9"*

*October- All unit designations ending in "0"*

*November- All unit designations ending in "1"*

*December- All unit designations ending in "2"*

For each month, there will be a couple of slots for "make up" tests.

Any unit that has special service equipment (Rescue Squads, Rescue Engines) will have the small gas engine preventative maintenance performed by the Small Tools Section during the scheduled ground ladder test for that vehicle.

### **Action Needed**

Small Tools is providing the following direction for Ground Ladder testing:

1. Units should report to CMF on time as directed by the Duty Chief's Office via the Chain of Command and Operational Briefings
2. Duty Operations Chiefs should be prepared for a request of one aerial ladder and three to five additional units (for ground ladder testing only) on testing days. On days that do not have an aerial test scheduled, the request for ground ladder testing may be from 8-10 units each day. There are tentatively four testing days per month from March through December. The dates of each month are dependent on the availability of the third-party testing vendor.
3. Ground Ladders should be tested as scheduled **regardless of the last date of test.** We know there might be overlap.

4. If the ground ladders from a unit cannot be tested or are found during weekly apparatus checks to have not been tested within the last 12 months, notify the Station Commander, and contact the Small Tools Section to arrange a date for a retest.
5. Station personnel should ensure that each ladder assigned to a unit is marked with the unit number (E701, AT718, RE4)
6. At each ground ladder test in 2023, an internal use “stock number” will be given to each ladder either by our contracted Third-Party Vendor or Small Tools staff.
7. If a non- aerial unit is Out of Service and going to an outside vendor within the month of testing, every effort should be made to pull the ladders, tag/ mark them, and store in the apparatus bays at CMF. Please coordinate the placement of the ladders with the Small Tools Staff. If the Small Tools Section is closed, please follow up with an email to the Small Tools Section ([frs.smalltools@montgomerycountymd.gov](mailto:frs.smalltools@montgomerycountymd.gov)) and/ or phone call to the Small Tools desk (240-777-2217).

**End State**

If you have any questions please contact the Small Tools Section via phone (240-77-2217) or email ( [frs.smalltools@montgomerycountymd.gov](mailto:frs.smalltools@montgomerycountymd.gov)).