

# Montgomery County Fire and Rescue Service

## Fire Chief's General Order

NUMBER: 14-06

April 24, 2014

TO: All MCFRS Personnel

FROM: Fire Chief Steven E. Lohr



SUBJECT: Rope Rescue Systems on Aerial Apparatus

The MCFRS fleet has multiple styles and rated aerial apparatus, each with unique manufacturer requirements and limitations. Aerial manufacturer operator manuals address the dynamic loads transferred to the aerial during certain rope rescue operations. **All MCFRS personnel must remember that:**

***Rappelling from any component of an aerial apparatus, including the tip or bucket, is prohibited.***

**Only** the rope systems outlined in the PSTA Driver Training Program Stokes Basket Operations Using Aerial Devices manual may be used. For best practices on Stokes Basket operations using Aerials, review the web site below:

[http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/mcfrs-psta/Resources/Files/Driver/Best\\_Practices/Stokes Basket Operations Using Aerial Devices March 2014 Distribution.pdf](http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/mcfrs-psta/Resources/Files/Driver/Best_Practices/Stokes_Basket_Operations_Using_Aerial_Devices_March_2014_Distribution.pdf)

All rope systems must be designed and operated **to limit and prevent** the application of a shock load to the aerial apparatus.

**Only** aerial tower apparatus may be used for a rope system weighted with a two-person load.

To clarify any information regarding Aerials, please contact the Fleet Section.