

RIO HONDO FIRE ACADEMY

LADDER METHODS / COMMANDS

COMMAND:

The base /butt person will be the ladder commander. On Multi person carries, the person on the butt left will be in charge of the ladder. In the event the ladder is Being carried tip first, the person in command at the butt remains in command and gives the preparatory and execution commands. The tip person is responsible for safety commands. The butt person will remain in command at all times.

COMMANDS:

IFSTA recommends having a verbal command to communicate actions. These commands are made to prevent injury and communicate commands in an orderly manner so that all actions are taken in unison. One word, clear text, preparatory commands are used to communicate the next movement of the ladder. A pause is made between the preparatory and execution commands to allow personnel to prepare for the next move. Upon the statement of LADDER, personnel execute the one word preparatory command.

CARRYING LADDERS:

		<u>COMMANDS</u>	
		<i>PREPARATORY</i>	<i>EXECUTION</i>
1.	To place a ladder on the beam	BEAM	LADDER
2.	To pick and carry at arms length	LIFT	LADDER
3.	To pick up and carry a ladder (low or high shoulder)	SHOULDER	LADDER
4.	To proceed forward with the ladder	FORWARD	LADDER
5.	To stop forward process	HALT	LADDER
6.	To change direction during carry	HALT	LADDER
		<i>then</i>	
7.	To place ladder flat on the ground	REVERSE	LADDER
8.	To return ladder to apparatus	GROUND	LADDER
		SECURE	LADDER

RAISING LADDERS

1.	To spot the heel of the ladder for raising	SPOT	LADDER
2.	To raise the ladder to the vertical position	RAISE	LADDER
3.	To Pivot the ladder	PIVOT	LADDER
4.	To extend the fly of the extension ladder	EXTEND	LADDER
5.	To secure the fly in the extended position	SECURE	LADDER
6.	To lean ladder into the building	LEAN	LADDER
7.	To set or locate butt of the ladder for correct climbing angle	SET	LADDER

REMOVING AND LOWERING LADDERS

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|----|--|-----------------|---------------|
| 1. | To reduce the climbing angle | REDUCE | LADDER |
| 2. | To bring ladder away from the building | REMOVE | LADDER |
| 3. | To lower the fly of the extension ladder | RETRACT | LADDER |
| 4. | To lower the ladder from vertical position | LOWER | LADDER |
| 5. | To place on the shoulder ready to carry | SHOULDER | LADDER |

SAFETY COMMANDS:

Personnel are responsible for safety at all times. Overhead obstructions remain one of the top injuries when using ladders. Personnel shall state “*all clear of overhead obstructions*” when raising ladders to the high position, when removing the ladder away from the building, and when lowering the ladder to the ground or shoulder (adding: “*all clear to the rear*”).

The halyard person will state, “*fingers and toes,*” when the butt person states, *retract ladder.*”

CARRYING METHODS:

1. **Low Shoulder:** Method whereby the ladder beams are in the vertical plane with the upper beam resting on the shoulder, with one arm through the rungs at a specified location to stabilize the ladder. Fly sections to be away from the body.
2. **High Shoulder:** Method whereby the ladder beams are in a vertical plane with the lower beam on the shoulder. The shouldered arm is raised overhead to stabilize ladder, opposite hand is placed one rung in front of face near lower beam.
3. **Flat Carries- Shoulder:** Method whereby the ladder beams are in a horizontal plane with the main ladder beams resting on the shoulder and palm of the hand.
4. **Flat Carries- Arms Length:** Method whereby the ladder beams are in a horizontal plain at arms length.