



**MONTGOMERY COUNTY FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE  
DRIVER/OPERATOR TRAINING PROGRAM**

# Practical Application Guide Sheet

## Aerial Ladder – Inspection

**Driver Performance Competency:** The driver candidate shall display proficiency in the inspection, maintenance, and operation of the aerial ladder, outriggers, and component parts.

1. Check the hydraulic fluid level by reading either the dipstick or the sight gauge and add OEM approved fluids to the system if necessary. \_\_\_\_\_

2. Inspect the stabilizers recording signs of visible damage, leakage, damaged hoses, or scoring on sliding beams or hydraulic pistons. Note and record any elongation or cracks to the stabilizer lock-pin holes. Make sure that stabilizer pads are in place, properly lubricated, and in good condition. \_\_\_\_\_

3. Inspect the turntable assembly noting and recording signs of any visible damage to turntable gear teeth, rotation drive motor, improper meshing or alignment, evidence of unusual wear, or inadequate lubrication. Check turntable bolts to ensure that they are all present and tight. \_\_\_\_\_

4. Inspect all components of the lower control pedestal(s) noting and recording any signs of wear or damage. Check that all electronic connections are tight and free of wear. \_\_\_\_\_

5. Inspect the platform control console noting and recording any signs of wear or damage. Check that all components move freely. Check that all electronic connections are tight and free of wear. \_\_\_\_\_

6. Inspect the communications system for any visible damage and for proper operation. \_\_\_\_\_

7. Check the status/operation of the breathing air system making sure that there is adequate air in the storage cylinders and that all components are operating properly. Note and record any damage or excessive wear to cylinders, gauges, regulator hoses and tubing, and air connections. \_\_\_\_\_

8. Inspect the aerial device retraction/extension system, recording any signs of wear or damage. Check condition of sheaves, guards, guides and any other surfaces that come in contact with the cables to ensure that they are in good condition, turn freely, are properly lubricated, and have no asymmetric or rough

edges. Check the train drive for proper lubrication and signs of damaged links or gear drives. Check all cables for fraying, bird-nesting, crushing damage, and excessive corrosion.

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9. Inspect the aerial device elevation/lifting cylinders located between the turntable and lower section of the aerial device for corrosion, class 3 fluid leaks, or damage. Make sure that the end-caps are secure and that no hardware is missing. All fasteners must be present and secure.

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10. Inspect each section of the aerial device – beams, rails, locks, alignment systems and truss works. Record any visible damage, misalignment, cracked welds or missing parts.

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11. Inspect the elevating platform (if applicable).

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12. Inspect the ladder rungs. Assure that they are not bent or otherwise damaged and that all rungs have a safe and secure non-slip tread covering.

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13. Inspect the aerial waterway system.

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14. Check operation of the stabilizers noting and recording if truck begins to sag toward any particular side after stabilizers have been deployed. Assure that all safety pins are present and usable.

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15. Raise and extend the aerial device making sure that operating control(s) results in appropriate movement of the aerial device. Look for signs of problems. Note and record any signs of damage or wear including drift, leakage, or failure to maintain elevation, extension, or rotation under load.

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16. Test the operation of all auxiliary equipment on the aerial device such as remote control nozzle, floodlights, and other equipment.

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