

SOUTH PORTLAND FIRE DEPARTMENT

STANDARD OPERATING GUIDELINES

SOG #:	6.533	Effective Date:	6/16/2020
Title:	Rope Classification System	# of pages:	3
Category:	Special Operations	Classification:	Red

1. **PURPOSE:** To establish standards for the purchase, marking, storing, use and retirement of rope used by the South Portland Fire Dept. This SOG does not cover ladder halyards, flag halyards and rope attached and ancillary to equipment such as starter ropes.

2. **PROCEDURES:**

Establishment of Rope classes:

Rope used by the South Portland Fire Dept. shall be classified by grouping into classes numbered 1 through 3.

Class 1 – Lifeline

Rope used to support victims or rescuers during a rescue. Class 1 rope shall be labeled on both ends “Class 1” and marked w/ red dye. The label shall also include a unique reference number for that rope. Class 1 rope shall be stored in red rope bags labeled “Class 1 -Lifeline”.

This rope shall be previously unused rope meeting NFPA 1983.01 standards for General Use Lifeline.

Rope shall be removed from this class upon any of the following:

- Subject to load
 - Seven years in Class 1 service
 - Damage discovered during inspection
 - Failure of rope
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- Class 1 rope which is unused may be reclassified as Class 2.
 - Class 1 rope which has been impact loaded shall be discarded.
 - Class 1 rope that has failed shall be discarded.

Class 2 – Utility

Rope used for non- rescue application only. This rope is to be used for utility purposes such as hoisting tools or hose, crowd control and tie downs. Rope may be stored in rope bags marked “Class 2 –Utility” or coiled separately. This rope shall not be otherwise labeled or marked.

Utility rope is to be removed from service and discarded upon any of the following:

- Determined unsuitable during inspection
- Failure of the rope

Class 3 – Special Rope

Rope designed and constructed for special uses. Class 3 rope shall be stored & labeled as to its particular use. i.e. water rescue rope, search rope.

General Procedures

- Records shall be maintained on each individual rope classified as Class 1. Records shall contain purchase, inspection, classification and final disposition information.
- All rope is to be inspected quarterly and after each use.

A “Rope and Rope Rescue Equipment Use Report” shall be completed by the officer or firefighter in charge whenever Class 1 ropes are used for training or rescue.

3. REFERENCES:

- None

4. Attached Forms

- Rescue Rope Log Form

By Order Of:



James P. Wilson
Fire Chief

