

Santa Barbara City Fire Department - Standard Operating Procedures Training Operations	Code: T-X-13
Lead Climb Prop	
Chpt: X Technical rescue	Revised: 3/28/13 Pages: 3

I. SAFETY

- A. The lead climb prop is designed to train firefighters how to climb and secure themselves providing fall protection as they ascend.
- B. A minimum of 3 people is required to use the Lead climb prop
 - 1. 1 climber
 - 2. 1 belay tender
 - 3. 1 safety line tender
- C. At no time is the prop to be used with out all safeties in place.
- D. When climbing, have no more than a 5' fall factor. In other words, the climber should have no more than 5' from tie in points.
- E. Helmets are required for all participants
- F. The climber will wear either a class 1 harness (full body harness) or seat harness with a chest strap.
 - 1. If the class 1 harness is used, the safety line will attach to the ring on the back of the harness with the belay line attached to the front of the rescuer.
 - 2. If a 2 part harness is used, the safety line will attach at 2 points, the chest and waist. The belay line will attach to the waist.
- G. Both belay and safety line tenders will check the climber for safety prior to ascent. Only after the OK has been given by both tenders, will the climb begin.

II. CLIMBER

- A. The climber will prepare for the ascent by setting up the following equipment:
 - 1. At least 8 pieces of webbing (Blue or Green) tied in loops
 - 2. 8 carabiners, one connected to each webbing loop
 - 3. 1 prussic worn over the shoulder and across the body
 - 4. Attach carabiners to prussic with webbing hanging from carabiners. These will serve as fall protection points during the climb.

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- B. Once climber has equipment ready, they then connect to belay line and safety line.
- C. Climber confirms readiness of belay and safety by saying “on belay” “on safety”. Climber will get repeat back of same phrases to confirm.
- D. Climber starts to climb using hand/foot holds and ascends until they are approx. 5’ off of the ground.
- E. At this point climber removes webbing and carabiner from prussic and attaches to hand/foot hold using larks foot knot. The climber then clips belay line into carabiner and locks. The belay line will pass through the carabiner as a safety.
- F. The safety line does not get clipped into the carabiner.
- G. The climber continues the ascent looping the hand/foot holds and clipping the belay line into the carabiners, maintaining a 5’ fall factor until they reach the top of the tower and are safely on the roof, at which point they will communicate, “Off safety”, “Off belay”.

III. BELAY

- A. The belay person will establish an anchor on the roof of the smoke room, and attach a tandem prussic belay as the brake.
- B. The belay person will check the climber, prior to ascent, for safety.
- C. Once the climber starts the ascent, the belay person will tend the belay line giving just enough slack to allow for free movement but not enough to create a large fall.
- D. The belay person should also remind climber of the 5’ fall factor during the climb if they are exceeding this safety margin.
- E. The belay person shall tend the line until the climber is safely on top of the tower and hears the “Off Belay” report.

IV. SAFETY

- A. The safety line will run from the roof of the smoke room, through a pulley at the top of the tower back down to the climber and attach to the harness.
- B. The safety line will serve as a backup in the event of insufficient fall factor management, belay line failure or any other safety malfunction.
- C. The safety person will establish an anchor and attach a tandem prussic belay. The anchor will be on the roof of the smoke room. This will allow the safety line person to view the entire ascent from below.
- D. The belay person will check the climber, prior to ascent, for safety.

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E. The safety line shall be tended to provide just enough slack so as not to affect the climber.

F. The safety line person shall tend the line until the climber is safely on top of the tower and hears the “Off Safety” report.

