

Northborough Fire Department in Service Training

Lesson 21 – Ropes and Knots

**Objective**

Review basic fire service knots, review NFD rope types.

**Equipment needed**

Training rope, webbing

**Important points to discuss**

It is important to maintain skill levels with basic fire service knots. If not practiced regularly skills will be lost. Discuss what knots are used for fire service applications. Discuss the various types of ropes the NFD has. Discuss the colors of rope bags as related the use of the rope. This lesson will be the first of several in service training programs that involve ropes.

Operation:

Discuss: Ropes – The department has several types of ropes including life safety, water rescue, utility, and personal escape. Most ropes are stored in rope bags on department apparatus. Personal escape ropes are located in individuals PPE as well as the waist strap of all SCBA.

- Blue bags – water rescue A-1, A-2, R-1, Boat, Ice Boat
- Black bags – utility E-1, E-2, E-3, T-1, R-1, F-1, F-2, (F-1 and F-2 utility ropes not in bags)
- Orange bags – life safety/rope rescue R-1, T-1
- Red Bags – Pre rigged haul systems E-1, E-2, E-3, R-1, T-1

It is important to note that ropes should only be used for what they are intended for. Water rescue rope cannot be used for rope rescue as it is not as strong as rescue rope and not rated for such. Rescue rope should never be used for utility rope as the outer sheath could be damaged by contaminants. Utility rope is only for hauling equipment and other non-life safety procedures. Personal escape rope should only be used for emergency bailout situations and should NEVER be used as utility rope.