# Aerial High Pick Point

The Alameda County Fire Department utilizes aerial devises to construct and implement high pick points to affect rescues above and below grade. The purpose of this standard is to provide guidelines for rope rescue operations utilizing an aerial ladder as a high pick point. During rope rescue operations, judgment, experience, training and coordination are a necessity.

***High angle*** rope rescue operations are a high risk undertaking that requires this operations to be performed by ***qualified personnel***.

The aerial devise in this application has advantages and limitations based on load limitations and aerial ladder construction.

**Advantages:**

- Adjustable in height and reach
- Solid anchor points
- Maneuverability

**Limitations:**

- Load limit on tip
- Weight and access for apparatus
- Side load consideration

Basic Equipment Cash

Class-3 Harness

**Equipment Cash (minimum)**

- Rescuer gear and PPE
- Hardware and software
  - -2 RPM Systems
  - -Webbing cache
  - -Edge Protection
- Aerial Pre-rig Bag (If Available)
- 2-300 foot rope bags
  - -1/2” rescue rope
- Rescue harness
  - - Class 3
- Victim packaging
  - -Stokes basket
  - -Pre- rig
- Any additional equipment needed to complete the rescue operation

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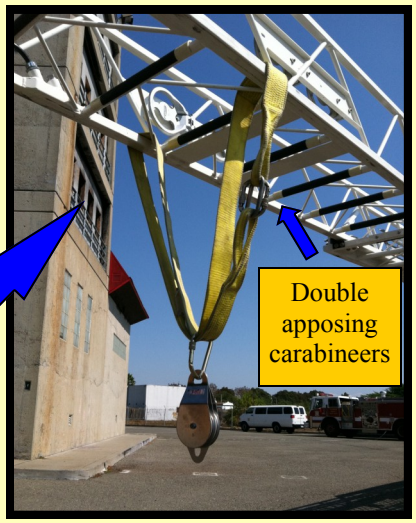
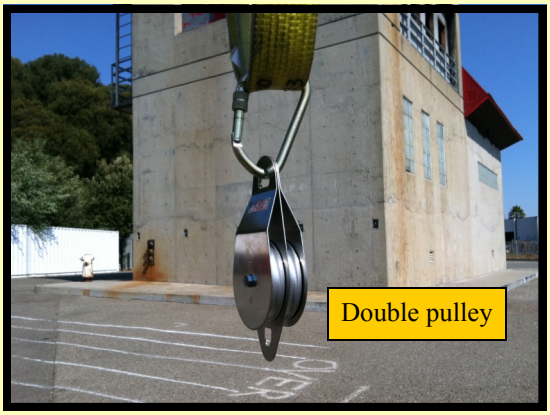
**Aerial Ladder High Pick Point**

- Initial size-up of the incident must include a safe area to utilize the aerial as a high pick point
- Position aerial apparatus for above ground or below grade access
- Make aerial tip accessible from ground level
- Attach sling and change of direction pulleys (between rungs 6 and 7)
- Feed rescue rope through rope guide and pulley, and place a figure “8” on a bight.
- To avoid side loading ladder, consider placing a rope guide 1/2 to 3/4 way down on base section of ladder

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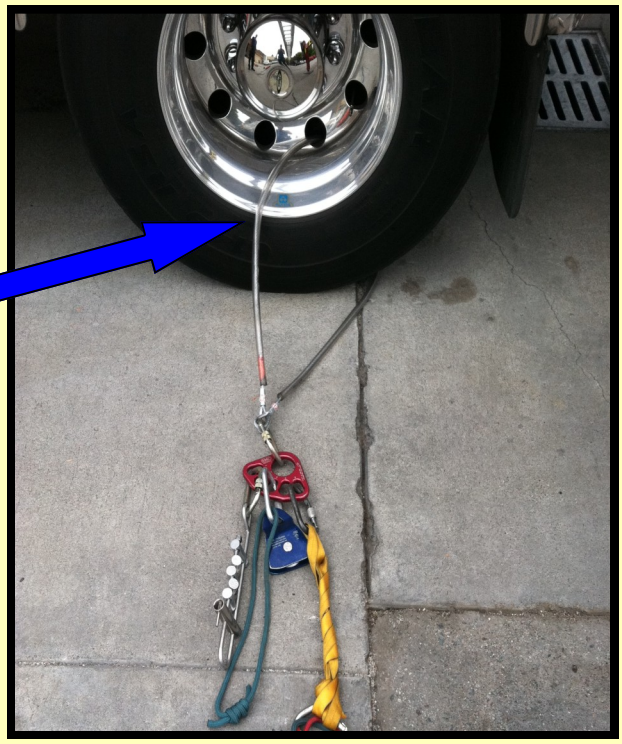
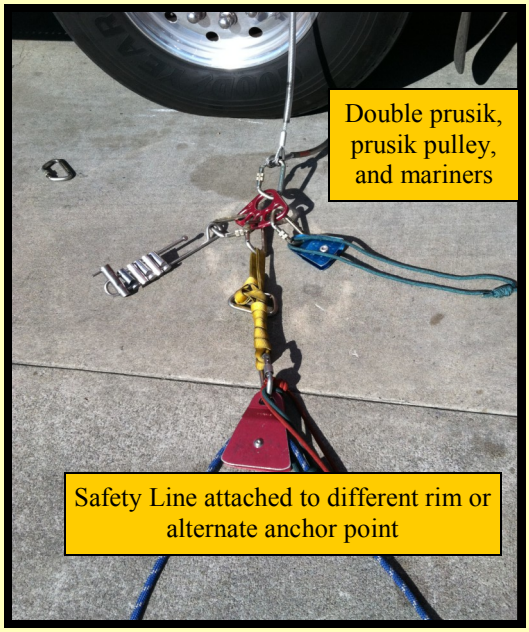
**Anchor Considerations**

- The fundamental goal is to create a "BOMB PROOF" anchor
- Utilize apparatus or other fixed object
- Cable anchor through tractor duals (rated at SWL-330 Kg)
- Attach RPM System to anchor
- Prepare system to either lower or raise

**Safety Line**

- Safety line must be secured to a separate anchor
- Above Ground Rescue: Safety line must be ran through double pulley on sling on tip of ladder
- Below Grade Rescue: Safety line must run at ground level with edge protection



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## Operational Considerations:

Prior to initiating a rope or high angle rescue, the first arriving unit's size-up should answer the following questions:

1. Can the victim(s) be safely removed by other means
2. The victim(s) location
3. What injuries have been sustained
4. Is the victim(s) suspended or supported

- Appoint a Rescue Group Supervisor
- Edge Position directs all operations
  - -Confirms all positions are "ready" for operations
  - -Maintains visual contact with rescuer
  - -Control of operation is performed by one person
  - -Control of operation may be passed, but only one person shall give commands

## Safety Considerations:

- System ***must*** have a safety inspection by a Technical Safety Officer-(TSO) prior to use.
- LOCK-OUT&TAG-OUT of apparatus and aerial.
- ***The aerial apparatus will never be utilized as a crane***
- Each member operating at the incident is responsible for maintaining a high level of safety during the entire operation.
- No maneuver shall be attempted that would place a rescuer at risk.
- Use a tag-line to control the movement of the rescuer, to avoid the pendulum effect

## ***Warning:***

*Refer to manufacturer specifications regarding load limits on ladder.*

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