

NFPA®

1931

Standard for
Manufacturer's Design of
Fire Department Ground Ladders

2020



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NFPA® 1931

Standard for

Manufacturer's Design of Fire Department Ground Ladders

2020 Edition

This edition of NFPA 1931, *Standard for Manufacturer's Design of Fire Department Ground Ladders*, was prepared by the Technical Committee on Fire Department Ground Ladders. It was issued by the Standards Council on November 4, 2019, with an effective date of November 24, 2019, and supersedes all previous editions.

This edition of NFPA 1931 was approved as an American National Standard on November 24, 2019.

Origin and Development of NFPA 1931

In 1959, new material was added to NFPA 193, *Fire Department Ladders — Ground and Aerial*, covering requirements for the construction of ground ladders while continuing to cover their use, maintenance, and testing. These requirements recognized aluminum as a product for the construction of fire department ground ladders.

In May 1972, a complete revision of the 1959 edition of NFPA 193 was adopted.

In 1975, NFPA 193 was separated into two documents, NFPA 1931, *Standard on Fire Department Ground Ladders*, and NFPA 1904, *Recommended Practice for the Maintenance, Care, Testing and Use of Fire Department Aerial Ladders and Elevating Platforms*.

The 1979 edition incorporated extensive revisions, including editorial and style changes.

In 1984, the text of NFPA 1931 was again divided into two documents. NFPA 1931 contained the requirements for manufacturers on design and design verification testing for new ground ladders. A companion document, NFPA 1932, *Standard on Use, Maintenance, and Service Testing of Fire Department Ground Ladders*, covered requirements for the ground ladder user. The 1984 revision increased the requirements for the strength of the ladder as well as dimensional requirements.

The 1989 edition included additional requirements for labels, modified requirements for rung spacing, added requirements for securing halyards, and required staypoles to be stowable against the base section if they could not be properly deployed.

The 1994 edition added a table of ladder duty ratings, added additional requirements for wood ground ladders, and modified some of the labeling requirements. The 1999 edition basically editorially revised and updated the standard to keep it current.

The 2004 edition changed the title of the document to *Standard for Manufacturer's Design of Fire Department Ground Ladders* and revised the scope and purpose statements to emphasize that the document is for the ground ladder manufacturer, not the end user. The entire document was revised to comply with the *Manual of Style for NFPA Technical Committee Documents* and updated to clarify vague or ambiguous language in the standard.

The 2010 edition of this standard included multipurpose ladders. NFPA 1901, *Standard for Automotive Fire Apparatus*, recognized the installation of multipurpose ladders in lieu of folding ladders on apparatus. As such, a statement of construction specification was necessary to ensure a minimum duty rating ladder is employed.

The 2015 edition of NFPA 1931 had few changes from previous editions. The technical committee recognized its mature development and made only minor adjustments to mandatory language.

For the 2020 edition, the committee established a new chapter addressing ladder accessories. Definitions and references to American Ladder Institute standards were also updated.