



SAFETY BULLETIN

26-002

March 16, 2026

TO: All Personnel

FROM: Battalion Chief Bogenschutz

SUBJECT: Training Safety Reminder – Ladder Bailout Training Incident

Overview of Incident

On March 10, 2026, at approximately 1400 hours, Cadre members and firefighter recruits were conducting head-first ladder bailout training at the training tower.

While exiting the window and attempting to grab the ladder, one recruit firefighter fell from the second floor to the ground. The firefighter was secured to a belay system; however, excess slack in the belay line allowed the firefighter to descend farther than intended, resulting in ground contact. The belay absorbed part of the fall, but the firefighter still made contact with the ground and sustained minor injuries.

Safety measures in place included:

- Ladder properly placed with the tip tied off
- Ladder heeled by a firefighter
- Cadre member assigned to belay line control
- Firefighter tethered using SCBA strap and carabiner
- Cadre member positioned at the window opening

All safety measures were in place; however, this incident is a reminder that firefighting training carries inherent risk, and even properly controlled evolutions require constant attention to detail.

Safety Reminder – High-Risk Training Evolutions

The primary contributing factor in this incident was excess slack in the belay system.

Moving forward, all personnel involved in bailout or similar training shall ensure:

- Belay systems properly rigged and slack minimized
- Ladder secure, tied off when possible, and stabilized
- Safety personnel assigned and focused on their role
- Harness, SCBA, carabiners, and belay connections verified
- Instructor supervision maintained at all times
- Training stopped immediately if unsafe conditions exist

Training is necessary to prepare for emergencies, but it must always be conducted in a controlled manner that limits unnecessary risk. All members are expected to remain vigilant and correct unsafe conditions immediately.

Reporting

All injuries, near misses, or safety concerns shall be reported immediately through the chain of command to your Battalion Chief and to the Safety Officer.