

Alexandria Fire Department



Safety Bulletin

Subject:

Near Miss – Bangor Ladder

SB 12-003

Approved:Battalion Chief Jeffrey Merryman *JM*
Health and Safety Unit**Date:**

03/22/2012

During the recent training exercises on North Saint Asaph Street, personnel were working with a 45 foot Bangor (Pole) Ladder. While the ladder was in the vertical position and during the process of retracting the fly sections of ladder, there was a mechanical failure. This failure caused the ladder to retract uncontrollably and fall vertically within the bed section. If proper ladder safety operations were not followed, a significant injury may have occurred, including the loss of finger(s) or the loss of a hand(s). The ladder was damaged and will need to be repaired and retested.

This incident reinforces the importance of practicing proper safety operations of maintaining clearance with all body parts that are in the path of moving equipment. Don't underestimate the dangers associated with ground ladders and especially extension ladders. Please take the time to inspect your ladders for mechanical issues and take the time to review and practice proper safety techniques when raising and lowering all ladders.

