

Fire Hose

CHAPTER 10.1

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Fire Hose

Fire hose shall be tested in accordance with the Department's Hose Maintenance program.

Purpose

This standard shall apply to the care of all types fire hose while in service, in use and after use, including record keeping, inspecting, and service testing. The purpose of this standard is to provide a reasonable degree of assurance that the hose, coupling assemblies, and nozzles will perform as designed.

Responsibility

The assigned District Chief shall be responsible for all aspects of the Fire hose testing and maintenance program. Each station Lieutenant on the same shift as the assigned District Chief shall be responsible for the oversight and application of the Fire Hose Program (FHP) at their respective station. The other shift Lieutenants shall be responsible for FHP duties as assigned by the primary shift Lieutenant.

Care and Use of Fire Hose

- Hose shall be inspected and service tested within 90 days before being placed in service after purchase and then annually
- Hose shall be removed from the apparatus and reloaded so that the folds occur at different positions at least every 90 days. This practice will be completed during the months of February, May, and August. If it is documented that the hose was removed and reloaded during fire operations this will meet the above requirements.
- After each use, all hose shall be cleaned. If, after use the hose has been exposed to hazardous materials, it shall be decontaminated by the method approved for that contaminate.

Hose Loads

The following hose loads are standard hose configuration for the Department.

5" LDH	Fire Town Fold
3" LDH	Accordion
1¾ and 2½"	"S" Load

Hose Records

- Accurate hose records shall be established and maintained. It shall be the responsibility of the District Chief assigned to the program to ensure that hose testing and record keeping is current.
- The primary shift Lieutenant shall ensure testing is completed as directed. The Lieutenant testing the hose shall accurately record all hose record on Target solutions.

Inspection of Coupling

- Couplings shall be kept in serviceable condition. After each use, and during each hose service test, they shall be visually inspected for the following:
 - Damaged threads
 - Corrosion
 - Slippage on the hose
 - Swivel not rotating freely
 - Out-of-Round
 - Missing lugs
 - Loose external collar
 - Other defects that might impair operation.

Hose Service Testing-Procedures

- Hose testing will take place during the month of February and will be completed by May 1st of that year.
- Prior to testing a visual inspection of each section must be made in order to ensure that there are no visual defects.
- A hose testing machine or a stationary pump shall be used. Fire apparatus shall not be used for testing hose.
 - After filling to 45 psi the hose shall be checked for leakage at the coupling and tightened with a spanner wrench as necessary. Each length of hose shall then be marked at the end or back of each coupling to determine if the coupling has slipped during the test.
 - The total length of hose to be tested at one time shall not exceed 300 feet.
 - The District Chief in charge of the Hose program shall assign an Officer to ensure that the gauge used to read the hose test pressure shall have been calibrated within 30 days prior to the testing.
- Service test pressure shall be held for five minutes. Service test pressures are as follows:

- 1½" to 4½ " hose 250 PSI
- 5" hose 150 PSI

- When the test hose is at service test pressure the hose shall be inspected for leaks. If the inspecting personnel walk the test layout to inspect for leaks, they shall be at least 15" to the left side of the hose in the test layout. The left side of the hose shall be defined as the side that is to the left when facing the free end from the pressure source.
- If during the test a section of hose leaks or bursts the test will be terminated and the failed section will be marked and returned to supply for replacement. A failed section of hose will be recorded in the station log book, a physical identification such as a piece of scene tape secured to the failed section and the section will be segregated from other passed sections of hose until the failed section can be picked up by supply. The failed section should be recorded in Target solution and the removed from service date added. An email to the District Chief responsible for the hose program should be sent by the Lieutenant conducting the testing. If failed section(s) of hose will place the apparatus below minimum requirements, the Supply Officer shall be notified immediately to replace the required sections of hose.
- After five minutes at the test pressure the pump shall be shut down and the water drained. The marks on the hose by the couplings will be checked for slippage.

Damaged Hose

- Hose damaged either by testing or in operation shall be marked or returned to the supply division. The Lieutenant on duty will be responsible to update the records with special emphasis on recording the nature of the damage. New hose may be requested from supply at this time.

Safety

- The Lieutenant on duty will act as the Safety Officer. Only those individuals testing the hose shall be present in the near vicinity when hose testing.
- All individuals on the test ground must wear the following safety gear:
 - Helmet
 - Gloves
 - Fire Boots

[Hose Test Sheet](#)