SOUTH PORTLAND FIRE DEPARTMENT
STANDARD OPERATING GUIDELINES

Policy #:	5.123	**Effective Date:**	12/8/2021
Title:	Fire Hose Service Test Procedure	**# of pages:**	2
Category:	Administration	**Classification:**	Green

1. PURPOSE: The purpose of this guideline is to provide instructions for procedures to be used when performing a Fire Department Fire Hose Service Test. A Service Test is distinguished from an acceptance test as the Service Test is done annually on every active length of hose within the department.

2. POLICY: It is the responsibility of all Fire Department personnel to know these procedures, and abide by them, when conducting a Hose Service Test.

3. PROCEDURES:
   1) A hose test gate valve(s) shall be connected to the pumper discharge(s) to be used for the test. Pumper discharge(s) used for the test shall not be adjacent to the pump panel. The pump operator shall stay at the pump panel throughout the test.
   2) A hose line, equipped with a shut off device for bleeding air at the free end of the house, shall be connected to each hose test gate valve. No hose line shall exceed 300 feet in length.
   3) With the hose test gate valve in the full open position, each line shall gradually be filled with water and have all air purged.
   4) The hose test gate valve shall be moved to the restricted flow position.
   5) The pressure on the lines shall be raised to approximately 45 psi.
   6) The hose shall be checked for leaks at the couplings and tightened with spanners where necessary. Each hose line shall be marked with chalk at the back of each coupling.
   7) All people shall move to a safe distance from the test are prior to increasing pressures. At least one man shall be positioned to signal the pump operator if an immediate shut down is necessary.
   8) Hose of 3” or less diameter shall be raised to a pressure of 250 psi and maintained at that level for 5 minutes. Hose of greater than 3” diameter shall be raised to a pressure of 200 psi and maintained at that level for 5 minutes.
   9) While the test layout is at service test pressure, the hose shall be inspected for leaks. Whenever possible, the inspecting personnel shall be at least 15 feet to the left side of the hose. The left side is the side which is to the left when facing the free end of the hose from the pumper discharge. Personnel shall never stand in front of the free end of the hose or straddle the hose.
   10) If during the test, a leak or burst occurs, replace the failing section of hose and start the test over. It will be necessary to purge the line of air again.
   11) After the test period, reduce the pressure, shut down the pumper discharge, relive pressure on the hose and check the chalk lines by the back of the couplings for signs of coupling slippage. If the coupling has slipped, the hose has failed the test.

12) Record the identification of all the hose which a test was attempted, on the "Hose Test Record Sheet". Numbers for hose passing the test shall be recorded in the test section. Numbers for hose that has failed shall be recorded in the failed section only. The reason for failing the test shall be recorded on the back of the "Hose Test/Repair Record" sheet. Both ends of the hose shall be compared for the same number. In the case of 4" or 5" hose that has both numbers on the coupling and the jacket; use the number on the jacket.

13) All hose that passes the test shall be affixed with the designated string, at the female end, prior to being reloaded. All failing hose shall have the designated tape affixed to the section of the hose failing the test.

14) All completed "Hose Test/Repair Record sheets shall be forwarded to the officer in charge of hose testing. The officer conducting the tests also is responsible for entering and updating the records in Naviline.

4. REFERENCES:
   - None

By Order Of:

James P. Wilson
Fire Chief