



MOUNTAIN BROOK FIRE DEPARTMENT

POLICY NO. 105.11 VOLUME: 1

SUBJECT: Hose Testing, Care, and Maintenance

SIGNED: _____ DATE: 5/13/2005
Chris J. Mullins, Fire Chief

SCOPE AND PURPOSE: The department's fire hose is an essential element used by firefighters engaged in fire suppression activities. With this important fact in mind, it is paramount that all department personnel be knowledgeable regarding proper procedures for the care, maintenance, and testing of fire hose; therefore, the following guidelines are established to define procedures regarding fire hose used by the Mountain Brook Fire Department.

POLICY: This policy will ensure that fire hose is maintained in optimum condition for hose line operations. It will additionally provide direction regarding annual service testing, acceptance testing, record keeping, and maintenance of all fire hose.

Record-Keeping: All hose on apparatus or on storage racks will be tested within established guidelines annually. The Training/Safety Officer has overall responsibility for coordination and control of all hose testing activities.

Records will be kept in Firehouse software of all hose purchased, tested and hose out of service. The Company Officer will be responsible for entering all data into the computer, and will notify the Training Captain upon completion of all hose testing.

All hose will be numbered and a corresponding hose record shall be maintained in Firehouse Software. Entries regarding all testing, damage, and repairs must be accurately maintained during the life of the hose.

Testing:

1. All hose tested will be tested in accordance with NFPA 1962.
2. Companies should remain in-service while testing hose. Authorization must be received from the Shift Commander to test hose in an out-of-service status. To ensure that units remain in-service, only one-half of the hose load should be tested at any one time. This will allow units to discontinue testing and respond as needed.
3. Service tests shall be conducted in May of each year, with a complete refold in November. Refolds are performed to prevent damage and permanent folds setting in the rubber lining and improve reliability and longevity of the hose.
4. Hose should be tested at a site that has adequate room to lay out the hose in straight runs, free of kinks or twists. The site should be in a low traffic area with an adequate water supply.

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5. Individual Hose Layouts may not exceed 300 feet. All gaskets must be visually checked before connecting hose lines. Use spanner wrench to tighten loose couplings.
6. A nozzle with shutoff must be attached to each hose line tested.
7. Fill each line to a pump pressure of 50psi. Open nozzles as hose lines are charged. Discharge water away from test area and continue until all air is expelled from lines.
8. Close nozzle after all air has been purged from each line. Tighten any leaking couplings and remove any section with a bad coupling from the line.
9. Increase pump pressure to 250psi, gating back the inflow to ¼ opening. Personnel should monitor hose for any failure as pressure increases.
10. Maintain pressure of 250psi for 5 minutes. After 5 minutes, slowly reduce pump pressure and close all discharge valves, then disengage pump.
11. Slowly open each nozzle and bleed off pressure in each line. Break all connections and drain water away from the test area.
12. Record hose numbers for data entry.
13. Hose which fails the service test should be tagged and placed in an out-of-service status. This would include not placing the hose on the apparatus or the reserve hose rack. The Training/Safety Officer should be notified of any hose which fails the service test.

Acceptance Test Procedures are same as the annual service test except acceptance test is conducted at 400psi for 5 minutes.

SAFETY AT TEST SITE: Safety is always our paramount concern, so please use these precautions when testing hose.

1. Pressurized hose is potentially dangerous because of its tendency to whip if any coupling fails or a fire hose burst.
2. Prevention of injuries and damage to equipment can be minimized by gating incoming water back to ¼ of opening once all hose is pressurized.
3. Do not stand or walk near pressurized hose lines, unless necessary.
4. Non-essential personnel and citizens should not be allowed near pressurized hose.
5. All personnel in the area of pressurized hose are to wear helmets.
6. All personnel are to use gloves when handling hose.
7. Always open and close nozzles slowly to prevent water hammer.