

# HOSE CARE, MAINTENCE AND TESTING

DAUPHIN ISLAND FIRE RESCUE

OG- 1225.15

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## PURPOSE

The purpose of this guideline is to assure the safety and readiness of DIFR's hose inventory.

## SCOPE

All members that participate in hose care use and maintenance.

## POLICY

1. DIFR shall care, maintain and use fire hose using a published guideline..

## PROCEDURE

- Hose shall be inspected visually to determine that jacket and couplings are free of debris and exhibit no evidence of mildew, rot or damage from chemical exposure, burns, cuts, abrasion or vermin.
- Hose found not in compliance should be removed from service and sent for needed repair or replacement.
- When available, only clean, dry hose shall be placed into service.
- All hose shall be marked with the date acquired and an individual number match hose record.

### Cleaning and drying

- Hose shall be cleaned after each use by brushing with a sweep broom.
- If dirt cannot be thoroughly brushed from the hose, or if the hose has come into contact with harmful materials, the hose shall be washed using a mild detergent/water solution and rinsed clean with water. If contaminant is not removed, hose should be taken out of service and sent for needed repair or replacement.
- Hose shall be dried in the designated areas.

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- Every effort shall be made by company personnel to minimize the amount of time hose is left on a rack to reduce exposure to UV Light.

### ***Storage***

- Hose shall be stored in a well-ventilated location and in such a manner so as to minimize exposure to direct sunlight.
- Hose shall be stored only after it has been cleaned, drained, thoroughly dried and inspected.
- Hose taken out of service for repair shall be tagged and kept separated from any hose in storage that is ready for service.

### ***Fire Hose Records***

- Each hose shall be marked with the year a manufacture and an identifying number. These identifying marks shall be placed no closer than 2 ft from the butt end of the hose and shall be placed on both end and both sides.
- Records of hose in use by the Fire Department as specified in records storage procedures.
- Hose removed from service for repair or because it has been condemned shall be tagged disposed at DIFR's discretion.

### ***Service Testing***

- All hose currently in use by the DIFR shall be service tested at the following intervals:
  - (a) Annually
  - (b) After repairs before returning to service

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### Test Procedure

- The total length of any test layout shall be straight and free of twists/kinks and shall not exceed 300 ft.
- Lengths of hose to be tested simultaneously shall be of the same service test pressure and collectively shall be considered the hose test layout.

### Conducting the test

- The test layout shall be connected to the discharge outlet of the testing apparatus.
- When conducting a test using DIFR apparatus, at no time shall the butt end of a test layout be attached to any discharge outlet at or adjacent to the pump operator's position.
- A test cap with a bleeder valve shall be attached to the far end of each hose line in the test layout. If a test cap is not available, a nozzle with a non-twist shut-off shall be permitted to be used.
- All connections shall be fully tightened using hose spanner tools prior to any pressure being admitted into the test layout.
- Prior to flowing water, all lines shall be secured to a stationary object at both ends with a belt tie-in or rope at a point 10 to 15 inches from the coupling.
- After all pre-test procedures have been accomplished, the pressure on the test apparatus shall be raised slowly to 45 psi.
- After the test layout is full of water, the valve on the discharge end of each line in the layout shall be opened to exhaust air from the layout.
- With the hose in the test layout at 45 psi, the entire layout shall be checked visibly for leakage and removed/repared as necessary.
- Prior to raising the hose layout to test pressure, all persons other than those required to perform the remainder of the procedure shall clear the area.
- The test pressure shall then be slowly raised at a rate not greater than 15 psi/second until the service test pressure of 300 psi is attained and then maintained for 3 minutes.
- While the layout is under the service test pressure, it shall be visually inspected for leaks by the testing officer conducting the test according to the following:
  1. Inspecting personnel shall walk the test layout to inspect for leaks and shall remain at least 15 ft to the left side of the layout.

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2. Inspecting personnel shall never stand directly in front of the discharge end of a hose, straddle the hose or walk on the right side of the hose in the test layout.
3. If during the test a length of hose in the layout bursts, the test shall be terminated, water drained from the layout, the damaged section removed and the test re-started.
4. The length of hose leaking/burst shall have failed the test and shall be either repaired/replaced as determined by the personnel conducting the test.
5. After 3 minutes at service test pressure, the pressure shall be slowly reduced to allow all pressure to equalize, all nozzles/valves opened and water drained from the test layout.
6. Lengths of hose tested successfully shall then be replaced onto the apparatus in the manner appropriate to it use.
7. All findings of the service test shall be recorded on an appropriate form and maintained t according to the records storing procedure.

### REFERENCES

- NFPA 1962 Standard for the Care, Use, Inspection, Service Testing, and Replacement of Fire Hose, Couplings, Nozzles, and Fire Hose Appliances, 2013 Edition

### RELATED GUIDELINES

Records Storage Procedure.

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