



RUSSELLVILLE FIRE DEPARTMENT
POLICY MANUAL

Policy Number:
Section:
Original Date:
Revised Date:

PURPOSE

The purpose of this Standard Operating Guideline is to establish a uniform procedure for testing all hose on the Russellville Fire Department in accordance with NFPA standards.

POLICY

It is the responsibility of all Russellville Fire Department personnel to be familiar with the following guidelines covering the proper procedures for making sure all hose is properly tested and maintained for service.

Records for all RFD Hose shall be kept by the Fire Administration, and shall be updated at least once per year, and after extensive repairs.

The following procedures shall be in accordance with NFPA 1962 Standard for the Care, Use, Service Testing and Replacement of Fire Hose, Couplings, Nozzles, and Fire Hose Appliances.

Hose testing shall consist of detailed inspection of all hose and couplings. The hoselines shall be charged to the pressures for the lengths of time specified in this procedure.

Verification of Hose Section Information

Prior to testing, each section of hose shall be inspected for the appropriate identification number. If an identification number has not been assigned to a section of hose, a new number shall be stamped to the collar of the couplings on both ends of the hose so that the number is legible from either side of the hose when it is laid out (do not stamp number on the swivel). Along with the identification number, the manufacturer and part number, vendor, size, length, type of hose, construction, date received and date put in service, date of service test, repairs and new length if shortened, actual damage, exposure to possible damage, reason removed from service, reason condemned, and indication that the hose has been removed from service or condemned within the warranty period because of in-warranty failure shall be recorded.

Tagging of Out of Service Hose

If a section of hose is taken out of service or condemned, the section shall be rolled with the male coupling on the outside of the roll, and tagged with a red tag. The reason for taking the hose out of service shall be marked on the red tag. The section of hose shall be taken to Central Fire Station. Any maintenance done on the section of hose shall be recorded in the Fire Department Hose Records Database.

Care and Inspection of Couplings

After each use, and during the hose service test, all couplings shall be inspected for damaged threads, corrosion, slippage on hose, out-of-round, swivel not rotating freely, loose external collar, internal gasket condition, and other defects that impair operation. Defective couplings shall be removed from service and repaired or replaced.

Approved

Fire Chief



Care shall be taken not to drop the couplings on pavement or other hard surfaces that may cause damage to the swivel or exposed threads. If the hose is rolled, and placed in storage, the male coupling shall be protected by being placed inside the roll.

Care shall be taken to prevent vehicles from driving over couplings.

Whenever couplings are attached or reattached to hose, the hose shall be service tested.

Care and Inspection of Gaskets

The gasket in couplings and nozzles shall be inspected for presence, tight fit, and lack of deterioration. If defective, it shall be replaced with a new gasket.

Service Testing of Hose

Each section of hose to be service tested shall be inspected in accordance with the above guidelines prior to testing. Any section of hose that fails inspection shall be taken out of service. A list showing all section identification numbers in the test layout, date, and time shall be made prior to service testing.

Each length of hose to be tested simultaneously shall be of the same service test pressure, and, collectively, shall be considered the hose test layout. The hose test layout shall be straight, without kinks or twists. (NFPA 1962 suggests the hose test layout should not exceed 300 feet for any one line. NFPA 1962 also suggests that hose that has been repaired, or recoupled shall be tested one length at a time.)

Prior to charging, each coupling shall be marked with a black permanent ink marker on the hose where it inserts into the coupling.

When charging each line in the test layout, care shall be taken to remove all air from the hose before the nozzle is closed and pressure is raised. The development of test pressures introduces a serious accident potential if air remains in the system.

Prior to bringing the hose to full test pressure, charge the test layout to 40 psi for a period of time long enough to visualize all sections for leaks or defects. Any defective hose discovered at this time shall be taken out of the test layout, and removed from service, marking the sections as specified above. The black lines placed at the couplings shall be visualized to reveal possible slippage of the couplings.

Prior to bringing the test layout to full pressure, all personnel shall stand back at a safe distance to avoid being struck by a runaway hose line, if a section of hose breaks.

Personnel shall wear helmet and gloves at a minimum as protective equipment during hose testing.

Pressures and Times

Hose Diameter	Pressure	Time
1 3/4"	300 psi	3 minutes
3"	300 psi	3 minutes
5"	200 psi	3 minutes

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The pump operator shall charge the test layout slowly, watching for large leaks or breaking sections of hose. If a section of hose breaks, the line shall be shut down immediately, and the failed section of hose removed from the test layout and taken out of service. Once the failed hose is removed, the remaining test layout shall be recharged to complete the test restarting the time for that particular line.

Once the testing time has expired, the lines shall be shut down. Before disconnecting each section, one last inspection of each section shall be performed to look for slippage of couplings or any other obvious defects.

All successfully tested hose shall be rolled to remove residual water, and either reloaded on apparatus, or placed in hose storage with the male coupling rolled inward.

Approved

Fire Chief

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