


East Lake Tarpon Special Fire Control District

	<i>SOP 930 Hose Service Testing</i>	
	Implementation Date: 11/2000	Revision Date(s): 01/27/2009
		Reviewed Date(s):
	Forms or Attachments: None	

PURPOSE: To perform hydrostatic testing on all in-service (including reserve) hose to determine suitability for continued service. The guideline is referenced from NFPA 1962 (1993 edition), providing Service Testing of Fire Hose, and is intended to provide a reasonable level of safety for users of fire hose and a reasonable degree of assurance that the hose and couplings assemblies will perform as designed.

1. In-Service hose will be inspected and service tested at least annually. All 5.0 inch diameter hose will be tested in March. All remaining hose will be tested in April.

2. Each length of hose to be tested simultaneously will be of the same service test pressure and, collectively, will be considered the hose test layout. The total length of any hose line in the hose test layout to be service tested will not exceed 300 feet.

3. Electric hose tester to be used for testing.

4. Hose Service Test Pressures and Duration will be as follows:
 - a. Test to pressure stamped on hose per NFPA 1962 (2003 Edition).

5. Physical inspection of fire hose will verify that it has not been vandalized, is free of debris, does not have mildew or rot, or damage by chemicals, burns, cuts, and abrasions.

6. Couplings will be kept in serviceable condition. During service testing they will be visually inspected for the following: damaged threads, corrosion, slippage on the hose, out of round, swivel not rotating freely, missing lugs, loose external collar, internal gasket wear or damage, and any other defects that might impair operation.
7. Marks will be placed at the back of the couplings and observed for slippage during the test. If the coupling slips, the hose fails the test.
8. Care will be taken to remove all air from the hose before the nozzle or test cap is closed and the pressure raised. The development of test pressures introduces a serious accident potential if air remains in the system.
9. If, during the test, a section of hose is leaking or a section bursts, the service test will be terminated, and that length of hose fails the test. The test layout will be drained, and the defective hose removed from the test layout. The service test will be restarted and completion achieved for the test when five (5) minutes of uninterrupted test duration is achieved.
10. All hose failing a physical exam, bursting, leaking, or having couplings that fail because of slippage will be tagged, removed from service, reported to the Support Services officer for repair, or discard.
11. After five minutes at the service test pressure, the pump will be shut down at proper pressure, the hose test valve opened, the pressure allowed to equalize with the source, and each nozzle or test cap valve opened to drain the test layout.
12. Minimum protective gear to be worn during Hose Service Testing will be bunker helmet and gloves. In compliance with NFPA Standard 1962, 5-2.11, the inspecting personnel walking the test layout to inspect for leaks, will be at least 15 feet to the left side of the nearest hose line in the test layout. The left side of the hose line will be defined as that side that is to the left when facing the free end from the pressure source. Personnel will never stand in front of the free end of the hose, on the right side of the hose, or closer than 15 feet on the left side of the hose, or straddle a hose in the test layout during the test.
13. Hose records for all hose tested will be documented on form 930.1, and forwarded to the Support Services Officer.

14. (REFERENCE NFPA 1500 4-3.1.2) Hose loading operations be performed on moving fire apparatus only when there is compliance with all of the following conditions:

a. There shall be an employee, other than those employees loading hose, assigned as a safety observer. The safety observer shall have an unobstructed view of the hose loading operation and be in visual and voice contact with the apparatus operator.

b. The fire apparatus shall be driven only in a forward direction at a speed of 5 mph or less.

c. No employees shall be allowed to stand on the tail step, sidesteps, running boards, or any other location on the apparatus while the apparatus is in motion.

d. Employees shall be permitted to be in the hose bed, but shall not stand while the apparatus is in motion.

e. Prior to the beginning of each hose loading operation, the situation shall be evaluated to ensure compliance with all the provisions of the standard operating procedure. If the standard operating procedure cannot be complied with, or if there is any question as to the safety of the operation for the specific situation, then the hose shall not be loaded on moving fire apparatus.