

ESCAMBIA COUNTY FIRE-RESCUE

Rules, Policies, and Guidelines

1225.015

Annual Hose Testing

Implemented: 2/14/11

Revised: 04/18/17



Patrick T. Grace, Fire Chief

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PURPOSE:

To ensure that all Fire Department hose and associated hose appliances are tested annually in accordance with an accepted standard as provided by the Insurance Services Office (I.S.O.). This testing will reduce the possibility of fire hose failure during its use in emergency incidents

OBJECTIVE:

To provide a uniform system for numbering and testing of fire hose, fittings and nozzles and systematically recording the test results in Firehouse.

SCOPE:

All Personnel

HOSE IDENTIFICATION

All new hose issued from the warehouse will be marked at both ends no more than 4 feet from the couplings and entered into Firehouse. **Do not** alter the hose numbering. For older hose that has already been numbered according to the old system, **do not** alter the hose numbering. Whether old or new hose, if it is not already linked to your station and/or apparatus, you only need to change the station number and linked apparatus in Firehouse's master inventory. There is no longer a need to change the inventory ID number to match the station to which the hose is currently assigned.

Example:

For detailed, step-by-step instructions for entering Hose Record Data, please refer to the "Inventory Master Record Entry" users guide, under Firehouse Software at

<http://www.myescambia.com/employees/firehouse-reporting-software>

HOSE TEST PROCEDURES

1. All hose and couplings must be free of dirt and debris before testing.
2. Conduct a visual inspection of hose while preparing it for test and prior to charging with water. The following defects noted during the inspection would exclude the hose from being tested.
 - Abrasions
 - Mildew or rot
 - Burnt hose jacket
 - Worn hose jacket, be sure to inspect area immediately behind couplings for this condition
 - Dried, cracked or broken gaskets



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- Damaged couplings: e.g., out of round
- All large diameter hose with bolt on couplings should be checked utilizing a torque wrench.

3. Test Procedure

- Choose a remote or protected area.
- Connect pumper to hydrant using an intake on side of apparatus opposite the pump panel.
- All connections are to be spanner tight.
- Attach up to 300 feet of the hose to be tested to the discharge outlet on the side opposite the pump panel.
- All hose appliances (wyes, adapters, valves etc.) shall be tested annually by inserting them in various layouts of hose while preparing the 300 foot lengths for testing.
- attach a nozzle to the male coupling of the last length.
- A water-soluble marker is used to mark and draw a line around the circumference of the hose. It should be as close as possible to the butt at each coupling. A movement of 1/8 inch or more during the pressure test would indicate the butt and the hose are separating. If this happens, place the length out of service.
- Close the nozzles.
- Charge the pumper
- Bleed the air from the nozzles until all air is drained and water flows freely. close the nozzles.
- Place one firefighter to the left of the hose, facing the hose at a safe distance and out of the line of fire if a coupling should fail.
- Officer should assure that all other members are positioned at a safe distance away. These members should be used to secure the area during the test.
- All attack hose (1.75 inch, 2.5 inch, 3 inch and double jacketed high pressure 5 inch) shall be tested at 300 psi for 5 minutes and all supply hose (rubber jacketed 5 inch) shall be tested at 200 psi for 5 minutes.
- Officer orders pump operator to gradually increase pressure, until test pressure is reached on the pump panel gauge.
- Once desired test pressure is achieved gate down the discharge allowing only enough opening to maintain the test pressure.
- Test pressure shall be maintained for five minutes and gradually reduced to hydrant pressure.
- Pump discharge is closed.
- Nozzles and drains on pumper are opened to bleed the remaining water.

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- Hose is examined for:
 1. Damage to hose jacket
 2. Hose separating from butt
 3. Other damage

- Defective hose or fittings must be taken out of service and reported to the warehouse.

RECORD KEEPING

All hose shall be inventoried in accordance with the numbering system described in the "Hose Identification" section of this S.O.G. The computerized inventory shall record the following:

1. Hose identification number
2. Original purchase or "In Service" date
3. Size and length of the section of hose
4. Each year's annual hose test results
5. Any comments regarding hose damage or maintenance