

# **FIRE HOSE STANDARD OPERATING GUIDELINE**

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## **I. Scope**

This standard establishes guidelines for the maintenance and storage of fire hose.

- A. Establish guidelines for the proper care of fire hose.
- B. Establish a procedure for promptly repairing damaged sections of fire hose.
- C. Create and maintain an inventory of spare fire hose that can be placed in service whenever it is needed.

## **II. Cleaning**

- A. The life expectancy of a section of fire hose is determined by the care it receives. Hose is susceptible to mechanical injury, heat and fire damage, mold and mildew, and damage due to chemical contact and excessive pressures.
- B. Each section of fire hose shall be inspected and cleaned after each use. All dirt, oil, and other foreign matter shall be carefully removed by clear water, a brush, or a mild soap or detergent. The hose should then be rinsed thoroughly.
- C. After being cleaned, sections of fire hose should be properly dried with the exception of large diameter hose (LDH). It is possible, for mold to develop if wet hose is stored for a long period of time without proper drying. This may result in damage to the hose.

## **III. Repair**

- A. Whenever a section of hose is taken out of service and sent for repairs, it shall be cleaned, dried, and properly tagged out-of-service. The tag shall include a description of the defect.
- B. All female hose couplings need to be fitted with gaskets. Couplings should be inspected periodically, and gaskets that have been deteriorated or are missing should be replaced.
- C. Petroleum products should not be used on threads or any part of a coupling.
- D. To prevent permanent damage, the hose on each apparatus shall be reloaded during the annual hose test, unless the entire load has been laid at a fire or for training.

- E. As a general rule, no vehicle should drive over a hose. During an incident, however, it may become necessary for an emergency vehicle to drive over a hose-line. In such case, the line should be charged to reduce the likelihood of damage, with the exception of LDH. It is not recommended to drive over large diameter hose while charged.

#### **IV. Storage**

- A. After the hose has been properly cleaned and dried, the spare sections shall be rolled for storage. The hose should be rolled with using the donut roll.
- B. Hose racks shall be placed in well-ventilated areas and out of direct sunlight.
- C. Hose shall not be stored out doors or left on the drying rack for extended period of time.