

# **HYDRAULIC TOOL STANDARD OPERATING GUIDELINE**

**DATE APPROVED: AUGUST 2007**

## **I. Scope**

This standard sets the safety guidelines to be followed while operating a hydraulic-powered rescue tool.

- A. Prevent accidents, injuries, and deaths that might result from the misuse or improper operation of hydraulic-powered rescue tools.
- B. Prevent damage to hydraulic-powered rescue tools that might result from misuse or abuse.

## **II. General**

- A. Members that respond to fire and emergency medical incidents are responsible for knowing how to properly and safely operate hydraulic powered rescue tools.
- B. Chief Officers shall train the members to properly and safely operate the hydraulic powered rescue tools assigned to our apparatus.
- C. An officer shall immediately stop any unsafe or improper operation of a hydraulic powered rescue tool and make the adjustments and corrections necessary to safely accomplish the assignment.
- D. Members shall inspect the hydraulic-powered rescue tools after every use to ensure that they are functioning properly. Tools found to be unsafe or malfunctioning shall be removed from service and be properly tagged. The Fire Chief shall be notified of any problems found.

## **III. Operating Procedure**

- A. Before operating a tool, always inspect the tips to make sure that the appropriate tips are being used and that the retainer pins, if used, are in place.
- B. Place the power unit as level as possible, on a salvage cover, connect the hoses, but do not start the power unit until the tool operator gives the command to do so.
- C. Remember that it takes two people to operate the tool: one person to operate the tool and another person to operate the power unit.
- D. To start the power unit, connect it to a power source, and then flip the off/on switch to the on position.
- E. To stop the power unit, flip the off/on switch to the off position.
- F. Safety precautions:
  - 1. Full protective clothing shall be worn while using a hydraulic powered rescue tool during actual rescues as well as training exercises.
  - 2. Items of protective clothing that are appropriate shall be worn while operating a tool for the purpose of inspection or maintenance.
  - 3. Always work on the outside of the tool. Never insert your hands or other parts of your body between the jaws or tips of the tool.

4. Cover and protect the victim, and always explain to them what you're doing, if possible.
5. If fluid comes in contact with any exposed skin area, be sure to wash it off immediately.
6. If a fluid spill does occur, immediately clean any floor area or painted surface to prevent a fall or damage.
7. Hose should be laid out in such a manner as to prevent damage from sharp objects, vehicles, etc.
9. Always stop a power unit prior to disconnecting a hose.
10. Do not use the cutters to cut a steering column or any piece of metal with a free end, since it may become a projectile. Cutters are designed to create a compression fracture rather than to cut.
11. At a motor vehicle collision, always have a charged hose line to protect against the possibility of a fire.
12. Rotate personnel to avoid fatigue.
13. Guide and hold the tool; do not force it. Don't strain against the tool; rather, work with it.
14. Always respect the tool.