

GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS Standard Operating Procedures		
Functional Area: SUPPORT SERVICES/FIRE SERVICES	Reference Number: IVN09-0003	Revises Previous Effective Date: NEW
Subject: MAINTENANCE/FIRE HOSE TESTING		
Authority: WETHERINGTON/HODGE	Effective Date: 4/01/02	Page 1 of 4

I. POLICY:

This standard regulates the acceptance of new sections of fire hose and establishes procedures for conducting the annual service tests. It was promulgated to provide a reasonable degree of assurance that the fire hose, couplings, and nozzles used by the Department will perform as designed.

II. APPLICABILITY:

All Department of Corrections in State and County Fire Departments.

III. RELATED DIRECTIVES:

NFPA Standard 1962

IV. DEFINITIONS:

NONE

V. ATTACHMENTS:

NONE

VI. PROCEDURE:

A. (Test Procedure)

1. Prior to testing, each section of hose shall be subjected to a physical inspection to determine whether it is free of debris; exhibits any evidence of mildew or rot; or is damaged from chemicals, burns, cuts, abrasion, and vermin. Any section of hose that fails the physical inspection shall

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immediately be placed out of service and sent to the hose shop for repair.

2. Hose shall be tested by using the pump of a reserve engine. The test area shall be relatively flat and free of any objects that might damage the hose.
3. The service test for hose of less than five inches in diameter shall be conducted as follows:
 - a. Connect the hose to an engine. Hose shall not be attached to any discharge at or adjacent to the pump operator's position.
 - b. The total length of any hoseline in the test layout shall not exceed 300 feet. Hoselines shall be straight and without kinks or twists. Hose that has been repaired or decoupled shall be tested one section at a time.
 - c. Connect the engine to a hydrant.
 - d. Connect a nozzle or shutoff device to the end of the hose. The appliance should be secured to prevent an uncontrolled reaction in the event of a hose rupture.
 - e. Fill the hoseline to be tested with water and bleed off all trapped air.
 - f. Close the nozzle and increase the pressure to 50 psi. Check for leakage. Tighten couplings as necessary. Mark the location of the couplings with a suitable marker.
 - g. Clear the area and increase the pressure slowly until the pressure reaches 250 psi for a service test or 400 psi for an acceptance test if manufactured prior to July 1987. Hose manufactured after July 1987 shall be tested to the pressure marked on the hose jacket. Hold for five minutes. Inspect for leaks or damage. Remember: Never straddle a hoseline! Consult NFPA 1962, *Standard for the Care, Use and Service Testing of Fire hose Including*

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Couplings and Nozzles, if you have any questions about this matter.

- h. Bleed off pressure on conclusion of the test.
 - i. Mark all hose that passes the test with the month and year.
 - j. Record the test date, etc. in the permanent hose record.
 - k. Hose that fails the test by bursting or leaking or because of coupling failure due to slippage or leakage shall be tagged and placed out of service.
 - l. After the test, all hose shall be cleaned, drained, and dried before being placed in service or storage.
4. Tests for five-inch supply line and sections of soft suction hose shall follow the same procedure outlined in Item C., above, except that the service test pressure shall be 200 psi and the acceptance test pressure shall be 400 psi. Ensure that the hose is service tested while lying flat.
 5. Booster hose shall be tested to 110 percent of its maximum working pressure.
 6. Hard suction hose shall be tested on an annual basis using a dry-vacuum test of 22 inches hg for 10 minutes. If used under positive pressure, the test shall be repeated using 165 psi of water pressure.
 7. Nozzles and other appliances shall also be inspected during the annual fire hose service test to ensure that the nozzles and appliances are undamaged, clear of obstructions, and fully operational. Any nozzle or appliance found to be in disrepair shall be red-tagged, removed from service, and sent for repair.

B. RESPONSIBILITIES

1. The Station Chief shall be responsible for:

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- a. Ensuring that all new sections of fire hose purchased by the Department are designed and constructed in accordance with the provisions of NFPA 1961, *Standard on Fire Hose*.
 - b. Conduct an acceptance test on each section of fire hose before it is placed in the hose inventory. The test shall comply with the provisions of NFPA 1962, *Standard for the Care, Use, and Service Testing of Fire Hose Including Couplings and Nozzles*.
 - c. Schedule and supervise the annual service test. Every section of fire hose in the stations inventory shall be tested in accordance with NFPA 1962.
 - d. Conduct a service test after a section of hose has been repaired.
2. Station Chiefs shall be responsible for all fire hose assigned to their command. Any section of fire hose that is discovered to be defective, is improperly marked, or has an out-of-date test shall be taken out of service.