

GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS Standard Operating Procedures		
Functional Area: SUPPORT SERVICES/FIRE SERVICES	Reference Number: IVN09-0004	Revises Previous Effective Date:
Subject: MAINTENANCE/FIRE HOSE		NEW
Authority: WETHERINGTON/HODGE	Effective Date: 4/01/02	Page 1 of 3

I. POLICY:

This standard establishes guidelines for the maintenance and storage of fire hose. It was promulgated to:

- 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. APPLICABILITY:

All Department of Corrections State and County Fire Departments.

III. RELATED DIRECTIVES:

NFPA 1961 and 1962

IV. DEFINITIONS:

NONE

V. ATTACHMENTS:

NONE

VI. PROCEDURE:

A. (Cleaning)

- 1. 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

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damage, mold and mildew, an damage due to chemical contact and excessive pressures.

2. Each section of fire hose shall be inspected and cleaned after each use. All dirt, oil and other foreign matter should be carefully removed by either clear water, a brush, or a mild soap or detergent. The hose should then be rinsed thoroughly.
3. After being cleaned, sections of fire hose should be properly dried unless the hose is of single-jacket, rubber construction. Rubber hose may be loaded wet after it has been cleaned. It is still possible, however, 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.

B. REPAIR

1. Whenever a section of hose is taken out of service for repair, it shall be cleaned, dried, and properly red-tagged. The tag shall include a description of the defect.
2. All female hose couplings need to be fitted with gaskets. Couplings should be inspected periodically, and gaskets that have deteriorated or are missing should be replaced. A stock of spare gaskets is maintained in the workshop at each fire station for this purpose.
3. Petroleum products should not be used on threads or any part of a coupling.
4. To prevent permanent damage, the hose on each apparatus shall be reloaded every six months unless the entire load has been laid at a fire or for training. During one of the reloads, the annual hose test will be conducted.
5. 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 hoseline. In such a case, the line should be charged to reduce the likelihood of damage.

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C. STORAGE

1. While the bulk of the spare hose inventory shall be stored at a single location, each station shall be assigned an inventory of spare hose of varying sizes as storage space and the master inventory permit.
2. After the hose has been properly cleaned and dried, the spare sections shall be rolled for storage. The hose should be rolled with the male coupling inside, then placed on a hose rack until it is needed.
3. Hose racks shall be placed in well-ventilated areas and out of contact with direct sunlight.
4. Hose shall not be stored out of doors or left on drying racks.

D. RESPONSIBILITIES

1. The Station Chief shall ensure that each section of fire hose is permanently marked and numbered.
2. Station Chiefs shall maintain a complete record of all fire hose assigned to their company or station. The record shall include the date a section of fire hose was received, test records, in-house repairs, and the date a section was sent to the hose shop for repairs. This information shall also be included as a part of the company log.
3. Drivers shall be responsible for maintaining the proper quantity of fire hose on their apparatus. Hose loads shall be maintained in a neat manner.