



SAFETY BULLETIN

Topic: Service Testing of Fire Hose

Purpose: Annual Service Testing of fire hose is required by fire department operating procedures, and by NFPA 1962, and should be performed accordingly. This bulletin serves to remind testing personnel of specific safety concerns addressed in NFPA 1962. References to 1962 are shown in ().

- **Record Keeping** – Accurate record keeping is vital for tracking the service test history and damage / repair history of a hose. (Ch. 5).
- **Marking** – In order to maintain records, each length of hose must be marked with a unique identification number. (Ch. 5, A5.1.2.1, A5.1.2.2). We recommend stenciling with Marsh stencil ink.
- **Inspect** - Prior to testing, inspect the hose and couplings for physical damage. (4.6, 6.2, A.4.6.3.2). Condemn any hose which fails inspection and tag.
- **Test Pressure** - Determine the correct service test pressure as indicated on the hose. Contact the manufacturer for the correct pressure if the stencil is not legible.
- **Setup** (Ch. 7)
 - Select a test site that will not expose people or property to injury or damage in case of a failure.
 - All hose under test must be of the same pressure rating.
 - Do not exceed 300 feet in any single test line.
 - Each test line shall be laid out straight.
 - Testing shall be performed on as smooth a surface as possible to avoid abrasion and minimize warp.
 - Place the discharge end of the hose uphill of the pressure source to facilitate air removal.
 - The discharge ends of the hoses shall be secured to prevent whipping in case of a failure.
 - Storz couplings with 3-part collars secured by screws must have the screws re-torqued to manufacturer's specifications before testing. (6.2.12). See the Storz Manual on our website for specific instructions on Snap-tite (All-American) couplings.
 - Select bleeder caps and nozzles with a pressure rating equal to or greater than the test pressure.





- Testing (Ch. 7)
 - Before testing, review safety precautions with all personnel. Clear unnecessary personnel from the area.
 - When filling take care to bleed air from the hose.
 - **WARNING:** Compressed air dramatically increases the potential energy in the test hose and can significantly increase the violence of a hose failure.
 - When service-testing hose, personnel should assume that a failure will occur and take precautions accordingly. *Service testing involves significant pressures that must be respected.*
 - While pressurizing the hose to test pressure, keep all personnel clear. If possible, keep the engine between personnel and the test hoses.
 - Do not walk the hose until after the stabilization period is complete.
 - When walking the hose...
 - Wear designated PPE.
 - Stay 15 feet to the left of the hose while facing the free end.
 - Do not stand facing the free ends of the hoses. A detached coupling can travel with significant force and velocity.
 - Do not stand on the right side of the hoses.
 - Do not stand less than 15 feet from the hoses.
 - Do not straddle the hoses.
 - If leaks or defects are detected, depressurize the hose before inspecting and tagging them.

