1.0 Objective

1.1 The purpose of this guideline is to establish safe and consistent methods for testing fire department hose.

2.0 Responsibility

2.1 It is the responsibility of all Department personnel to understand the procedures documented in this Standard Operating Guideline.

3.0 General Testing Information

3.1 When testing hose, place copy of Hose Test Report (HPF-13) in the Battalion Chief office. This document will be reviewed and passed along to personnel in charge of hose.

3.2 Clean apparatus floors prior to testing.

3.3 Do not use the pump operator's side discharge ports for hose testing.

3.4 The best place to test hose is the ramp at Station #33.

3.5 Stencil hose numbers on the 4" hose on both ends and both sides.

3.6 Stencil hose numbers on the female ends of the hose, both sides, for all other hose.

3.7 Mark the center of the hose with a straight line on all hose except 4".

3.8 Touch up any hose numbers that are faded.

3.9 When re-loading large diameter hose at a test site, use a hose roller to evacuate all water and air prior to re-loading the vehicle.

3.10 When hose fails a test, mark the area with chalk, place a rag around the damaged area, and place a cardboard wire tag around the coupling with the failure problem. Dry the hose in the normal fashion and then place on the racks at Station #33. Note the failure on the Hose Test Report (HPF-13).

3.11 When recording numbers for the hose test record, make sure you document the hose size and number.

3.12 When hanging hose in the Station #33 hose tower, separate the hose as best as you can to quicken the drying process.

3.13 An exhaust fan may be used for additional air movement to speed hose drying in the tower.

4.0 Hose Testing Procedures

4.1 Secure a water supply. Lay out hose with a maximum drop of 300 feet.

4.2 Check gaskets and tighten all couplings with a spanner wrench.

4.3 Check hose for outer jacket tears, coupling damage and worn or defective gaskets. Make any repairs that are possible.

4.4 Connect the hoses to the engine. Connect nozzles or gated wyes to end of the hose.

4.5 Secure hose on the engine with a rope hose tool 10 to 15 inches from the female end of hose.

4.6 Place a piece of wood under the nozzle or gated wye to prevent chafing.

4.7 Fill hose with water and pressurize to approximately 50 psi. Open nozzle or wye and bleed all air out of the line.

4.8 Use chalk or pencil to mark the couplings to see if there is hose separation from the coupling. A 1/16" to 1/8" inch uniform movement in the hose from the coupling on newly coupled hose is acceptable. There should be no movement on previously tested hose.

4.9 After each line has had the air evacuated from it, reduce the opening of the pump panel discharge gate valve to allow for the increase to test pressure without a water volume increase.

4.10 During the pump test, have an additional 50' of 1 3/4" hose connected to an outlet and flowing water during the 5 minute test period. This will assist in keeping the pump cool during the test.

4.11 Increase the pump discharge pressure slowly to the test pressure. Monitor hose connections for leaks. Increase pressure to that required by N.F.P.A. 1962: 250 psi for cotton-jacketed hose, 225 psi for both 4" rubber-jacketed and cotton-jacketed 4" supply hose.

4.12 Maintain the test pressure for 5 minutes, checking for weeping. Maintain a safety zone of 20 feet when checking for problems.

4.13 After 5 minutes, slowly reduce the pump pressure back to the idle pressure. Shut down all discharge ports.

4.14 Open all discharge nozzles and wyes. Drain the water and disconnect all lines.

4.15 Observe marks on hose couplings to see if the couplings moved.

4.16 Roll hose and either re-load or bring it into the station for proper cleaning and drying.

5.0 Reference

5.1 Highland Park Fire Department

5.2 NFPA 1962, Standard for the Care, Use and Service Testing of Fire Hose Including Couplings and Nozzles

5.3 Highland Park Fire Department Hose Test Report (HPF-13)

Approved  Fire Chief

HOSE TEST REPORT

Date: _____ Vehicle ID: _____ Rack at Station: _____

Personnel: _____

	HOSE NUMBER	SIZE	LENGTH	IN-SERVICE DATE	PASS-FAIL	REMARKS
1						
2						
3						
4						
5						
6						
7						
8						
9						
10						
11						
12						
13						
14						
15						
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