

Washington Township Fire Department Standard Operating Procedure

Division 500: Maintenance
Section 503: Fire and Rescue Tools & Equipment
Subject 503.04: Hose Testing
Supersedes:



Approved By:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "M. J. [unclear]".

Date: April 22, 2010

Date Last Reviewed:

Page: 1 of 2

PURPOSE:

This procedure describes processes for testing fire hose that results in a higher degree of reliability and dependability in equipment used to combat fires. Further, conducting the annual service test for existing fire hose and the acceptance of new fire hose are performed according to the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) Standard 1962, *Standard for the Inspection, Care, and Use of Fire Hose, Couplings, and Nozzles and the Service Testing of Fire Hose*. Moreover, this procedure makes clear how hose testing can be conducted in a safe manner.

RESPONSIBILITY

It is the responsibility of all members of the Washington Township Fire Department to follow this procedure. Further, members are expected to renew and re-establish their understanding of this procedure.

PROCEDURES

Visual Inspection

Visually inspect each section of hose to determine if it is free of debris, exhibits any evidence of mildew or rot, or is damaged from chemicals, burns, cuts and/or abrasions. Remove from service any section that fails the visual inspection.

Hose Test Machine

Use the Department approved hose test machine to evaluate hose. Make certain that the test area is free of anything that could damage the hose. The area should be relatively level or with a slight inclination towards the free end (nozzle) of the hose to facilitate exhausting trapped air. Ensure that the hose is lying flat and straight.

Since safety is the number one priority, stand clear of hose when it is under pressure. If you suspect or sense a problem, release pressure and correct problem. Wear helmets and gloves while hose test is in progress. While inspecting hose during the test, walk along the left side¹ of the hose. Never straddle hose that is under pressure.

Conduct the hose service test as follows:

1. Connect a water source to the hose test machine.
2. Connect hose to the hose test machine.
3. Do not test hose line that exceeds 300 feet. Keep lines as straight as possible and without kinks or twists. Repaired or re-coupled hose must be tested one section at a time.

¹ The 'left side' is determined by facing the free/nozzle end, with the test machine to your back.
503.04 Hose Testing

Subject 503.04: Hose Testing

Date: April 22, 2010

Page: 2 of 2

4. Assure that hose identification numbers/letters are legible. The numbers/letters should be visible on both sides and ends of the hose.
5. Remark hose identification numbers/letters as needed.
 - a. Identify hose in the following manner:

A – 1 ¾"	D – 5"
B – 2 ½"	P – Pony Section
C – 3"	H – 2" High-rise
6. Connect a nozzle or shutoff device to the end of the hose.
7. Fill the hose line with water and bleed off all trapped air.
8. Close the nozzle and increase the pressure to 45 psi. Check for leaks. Tighten couplings as necessary. With a suitable, water resistant marker, place a line on the hose next to the coupling that indicates the coupling moved during testing.
9. Shut off water supply and increase pressure slowly to the service test pressure² marked on the hose. Hold for 3 minutes **after** the test pressure *stabilization period*³.
10. Inspect for leaks or damage while remaining at least 15 feet away (on the left side.)
11. Bleed off pressure upon conclusion of test.
12. Record the test date in the permanent hose record.
13. If the hose fails the test:
 - a. Apply a red Repair Tag.
 - b. Remove the hose from service.
 - c. Send the hose to Maintenance for repair.
 - d. Revise the hose card on the vehicle to match the hose load.
14. Notify the Lieutenant in charge of hose records when the repaired hose section is returned to service.

References

National Fire Protection Association
Standard 1962 - *Standard for the Inspection, Care, and Use of Fire Hose, Couplings, and Nozzles and the Service Testing of Fire Hose*, Chapter 7, 2003 edition

² When testing hose manufactured before July, 1987, consult NFPA Standard 1962 for the correct test pressure.

³ The *stabilization period* is 1 minute per 100' of hose being tested, e.g., 3 minutes of stabilizing for 300' of hose.