

POINT PLEASANT BEACH FIRE DEPARTMENT

Stretching and Operations Hoselines

Standard Operating Guideline

Purpose:

Stretching and operating hoselines is the primary function of an engine company. All members must realize the importance of the initial line stretched at a structural fire. The majority of structural fires are controlled and extinguished by this initial line.

Hoseline Placement:

First Hoseline

The first line generally should be placed between the fire and any persons endangered by it. This is accomplished by stretching the hoseline via the primary means of egress, usually the main stairway. This tactic:

- Provides a base for confining and controlling the fire.
- Allows occupants to evacuate via the stairs.
- Allows members to proceed above the fire for search.

In most cases the first line is stretched via the interior stairs to the location of the fire. The purpose of this line is to protect the primary means of egress for occupants evacuating the building and to confine and extinguish the fire. If it is determined there is no life hazard in the building, the first line is positioned between the fire and the most severe exposure. The most severe exposure does not necessarily mean where the fire is likely to spread. Lines must be stretched to protect life first and in the absence of a life hazard, the first line should be placed to protect the greatest amount of property.

When placing a hoseline to protect an exterior exposure, it should be positioned so that the stream can be used alternately between operating on the exposure and the fire. When using streams to protect exposed buildings, the water should be applied onto the building's surface for best results.

Second Hoseline

Unless otherwise ordered, the second line is placed to back up the first line. This tactic is used for the following reasons:

- To provide a back-up to the first hoseline in case of a burst length in the first hoseline.

- To provide a second line to be used simultaneously with the first hoseline if fire conditions warrant.
- If the second line is not needed on the fire floor, it can be advanced to the floor above. The second line stretched must consist of sufficient hose to cover the floor above.

Third Hoseline

Depending on the occupancy and the fire conditions, a third hoseline may be required. Unless otherwise ordered, this line may be stretched to:

- Cover a secondary means of egress.
- Adjoining building to protect exposures.
- Prevent vertical extension.

Other Hoseline Placement Guidelines

Difficulty might be encountered at some fire situations in conducting a direct attack through a fire compartment doorway due to a heavy volume of fire, wind conditions or forcible entry problems. A possible tactic to overcome these problems is to utilize a rooftop or portable ladder to conduct a fire attack into the fire compartment. Before this is initiated, members in the compartment must exit to a safe area of refuge and the compartment door must be closed in order to preserve the integrity of the hallway and interior stairs.

Another tactic is to enter an adjoining compartment and operate the hoseline through small holes in the common partition wall. Several small holes strategically located along the length of the common wall at approximately waist level might allow stream penetration into a majority of the rooms in the fire compartment.

Hoselines shall not be operated in opposition to each other.

Permission must be obtained by the IC before exterior hoselines are directed into a fire building.

Immediate notification must be given to the IC when a situation is discovered that requires the positioning of an additional hoseline.

When a hoseline is determined to be operating ineffectively, the IC must be notified.

In order to assure efficient and timely stretching of the first attack line, the services of the first two engine companies may be utilized. Regardless of staffing, the pairing of engine companies will in most cases result in a more rapid

and efficient hoseline stretch and provides for continuity of the hoseline attack in the event emergency relief of the first engine is required.

Unless the presence of a confirmed life hazard requires the immediate stretching of a second line, the second engine shall augment and assist the first engine. In one and two story structures, where the amount of hose required is four lengths or less, the need to assist on the first hoseline is not as great and engine companies are generally capable of stretching and operating individually. In such cases, the officer of the second engine company should make contact with the officer of the first engine company to ascertain if their assistance is required.

Once the fire is located and the decision is made by the first arriving units to confine or extinguish the fire, orders must be given for the stretching of hose lines. The type of stretch, size of hose, and number of lengths will depend on many factors:

- Location and severity of fire.
- Type of building or outside fire involved.
- Source of water.
- Type of hose loading on apparatus.

Estimating the Stretch

When the orders are given to stretch a handline, a rapid estimation of the number of lengths required to reach the seat of the fire is in order. The general rule for estimating the number of lengths in the fire building is:

1 length per floor + 1 length for the fire floor.

Hoseline Operation:

Fire Attack Techniques

Knowledge of the floor layout is the most valuable asset to a nozzle team advancing under heavy fire and/or smoke conditions. If the smoke is not banked down to the floor, a quick glance at floor level before opening the nozzle can give the nozzle firefighter and officer an indication of the floor layout. From this position, obstructions such as furniture, debris or other obstacles which could impede the advance of the nozzle team may be evident. The glow of the fire may indicate the direction and distance the team has to advance. Once the line is opened, any visibility will be lost until adequate ventilation is accomplished.

The nozzle should be cracked open as the nozzle team waits for water. The sound of exhausting air will indicate water is on the way, and any air in the line will be expelled. The line must be bled before the fire attack begins.

Never enter the fire area with an uncharged hoseline. However, the hoseline should be stretched as close to the fire area as possible before being charged. An uncharged hoseline is stretched more rapidly and it is less fatiguing than attempting to move a charged hoseline into position.

All members should operate on the same side of the line. When the door to the fire area is opened members should be low and to one side of the opening, to let the pent up heat and gases vent prior to advancing.

Once the line is advancing, keep it moving toward the seat of the fire. In order to reduce the chance of burn injuries and ensure rapid knockdown, the nozzle team should move aggressively but deliberately.

Let the reach and penetrating power of the stream do the work, especially in large area buildings or when several rooms are involved in fire.

The stream should be operated "out front and overhead". The water should be deflected off the ceiling and upper walls. The nozzle firefighter should hold the nozzle at arms length to allow for maneuverability and change of nozzle direction.

As the fire darkens down, the angle of the stream may be lowered to directly cool burning solid fuel material.

Do not open the nozzle on smoke, try to get as close to the fire as safely practical without risking burn injury.

Do not crowd the nozzle.

As the advance is made, listen for crackling of fire, look for a glow of fire in the smoke, and feel for heat.

Listen to the sound of the stream as you sweep the nozzle across a room or area. The sound of the water striking a wall or partition will change if an opening such as a door or window is encountered. This opening might lead to a room or a hallway leading to another group of rooms where fire might still be burning.

Once the fire appears to be knocked down consider shutting down the nozzle to let the smoke and steam lift. Be prepared to reopen the nozzle at any moment.

Even with the use of bunker gear, the floor should be swept with the stream as you advance to cool any burning material and prevent knee and leg burns. This action will also sweep broken glass and other debris from the path of the advancing hose team.