

RISK COMMUNIQUÉ

Sample Hose Loading Policy

Hose loading operations can be very hazardous and have contributed to a number of deaths and serious injuries. The department should have a policy addressing hose loading operations which should also be reinforced in training.

Hose loading

Emergency vehicle drivers should never move the apparatus until he/she is absolutely certain of the whereabouts of all personnel. Personnel involved in hose loading operations can be permitted to ride on the moving apparatus so long as the following conditions are met:

- The hose loading procedures shall be in written form and all personnel involved should be trained in the procedures.
- There shall be an individual, other than those loading hose, assigned as a safety observer. The safety observer should have an unobstructed view of the hose loading operation and be in visual and voice contact with the apparatus operator.
- Non-fire department vehicular traffic should be excluded from the area or should be under the control of authorized traffic control persons.
- The fire apparatus should only be driven in the forward direction and no more than 5 mph.
- No personnel should be allowed to stand on the tailstep, sidesteps, running boards, or any other location on the apparatus while it is in motion.
- Personnel may be in the hose bed but should not be standing while the apparatus is in motion.