



## **Fire Industry Association**

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# **CARE AND MAINTENANCE OF FIRE HOSES**

## **GENERAL CARE AND MAINTENANCE**

1. Hose should be stored in cool, dry and well ventilated conditions. When loaded on a fire appliance/vehicle, it should be stowed in such a way that air circulation can take place and that excessive chafing against the sides of vehicle lockers due to vibration is minimised.
2. After pressure testing (see "Care in Use"), the external surface of the hose should be examined for cuts, gouges, scorch marks and abraded areas. Proprietary repair system from hose manufacturers can be used to repair localised damage.
3. After contact with oil or chemicals, a detergent may be applied using a stiff brush and washed down using copious quantities of clean water.

## **CARE IN USE**

1. Pressure testing <sup>(1)</sup> should be carried out every twelve months and after each occasion of operational use. Each hose should be tested at a pressure of 50% in excess of the intended working pressure or at 10 bar, whichever is the greater. Areas of leakage should be repaired and re-tested (see "Hose Repair"). Irreparable hose should be rendered obviously useless, to prevent inadvertent continued use, and then discarded. Any records should be adjusted accordingly.
2. Avoid dragging hose over sharp objects or abrasive surfaces, especially when kinked.
3. Check that hose is not in contact with hot flaming debris for extended periods of time.
4. Protect the hose with a bandage where it touches the ground after leaving a pump delivery outlet.
5. Roll hose into coils rather than flaking.
6. Never bend hose at an acute angle, particularly while it is under pressure.
7. Use hose ramps on roadways to avoid vehicles running over the hose.
8. Do not allow couplings or branchpipes to be dropped onto the hose as the impact may puncture the hose lining (see "Hose Repair").

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## **MAINTENANCE AFTER USE**

### **Type 3 (Covered) Hoses**

After normal use, the hose may be wiped down with a damp cloth and stored in a cool, dry, well-ventilated place.

### **Coated and Uncoated All Synthetic Hoses**

After normal use, the hose may be washed down to remove mud grit and should be hung up to dry in a well-ventilated tower. Although synthetic hose will not rot when stored wet, contamination or corrosion of other equipment may occur in proximity to the damp coils of hose.

### **Hose containing Natural Fibres**

It is important that these hoses are dried thoroughly after use to prevent microbiological damage to the natural fibres.

Re-coupled hose should always be subjected to examination and proof pressure testing (see "Care in Use") to ensure coupling retention and to avoid blow-off during use.

### **HOSE REPAIR**

Repairs to hose should be carried out in accordance with manufacturer's repair and testing procedures. Consult the manufacturer for the appropriate repair system for your hose.

### **LIFE EXPECTANCY**

The life of a hose will vary depending upon the type, usage and storage conditions.

Older hoses that have been repaired several times could be at particular risk and the safety of operational personnel must be considered. Such hose should be subject to critical review for early replacement.

### **NOTE**

<sup>(1)</sup> Pressure testing of hose assemblies can be dangerous. Ensure personnel are suitably protected to avoid injury.

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### **DISCLAIMER**

The information set out in this document is believed to be correct in the light of information currently available but it is not guaranteed and neither the Fire Industry Association nor its officers can accept any responsibility in respect of the contents or any events arising from use of the information contained within this document.