



**TECHNICAL BULLETIN
No. 0121**

**Hose Testing Information and
Requirements per NFPA 1962**

This Technical Bulletin explains that fire pumps on fire department apparatus are not designed and should not be used for service testing of fire hoses; however, if the fire pump on a fire department apparatus is used, procedures listed in NFPA 1962 **MUST BE FOLLOWED**. These Warnings and Cautions are now part of the Waterous Fire Pump Operation and Maintenance Instructions.

Fire Hose Testing

 **WARNING**

Hose Testing Hazard. May result in serious personal injury.

Due to a potential for catastrophic hose failure during service testing of fire hose, it is vital that safety precautions be taken to prevent exposure of anyone to this danger. Fire pumps on fire department apparatus are not designed for and should not be used for service testing of fire hoses. Hose testing machines should be used for service testing of fire hoses.

NFPA 1962 *Standard for the Inspection, Care, and use of Fire Hose, Couplings, and Nozzles and the Service Testing of Fire Hose* provides requirements and testing procedures for service-testing fire hose at least annually. NFPA 1962 includes procedures for service testing with either a hose testing machine or with a pump on a fire department fire apparatus.

 **WARNING**

Pressure Hazard. May result in serious personal injury.

If a fire pump on a fire department apparatus is used for service testing of fire hoses, the procedures in NFPA 1962 **MUST be followed** including the use of a fire department gate valve with a ¼-inch (6 mm) hole drilled through the gate installed between the fire apparatus discharge outlet and the hose test layout to prevent a volume surge from the pump in the event a hose bursts during testing.

During fire hose testing with a fire pump on a fire department fire apparatus, the fire pump is required to be operated at high discharge pressure with little or no flow out of the apparatus.

 **WARNING**

Scalding Water Hazard. May result in serious burns.

If a fire pump on a fire department apparatus is used for service testing of fire hoses, pump discharge water must be circulated through a by-pass system or discharged through a slightly open discharge valve, or some other provision must be used to prevent overheating. If the pump runs for a few minutes without adequate flow through the pump, water may be heated enough to scald someone when a valve is opened.

CAUTION

If a fire pump on a fire department apparatus is used for service testing of fire hoses, operating the pump at high discharge pressure with little or no flow may result in severe damage to the pump.

NOTE: The information in this technical bulletin was current at the time of printing. Waterous reserves the right to change this information