TOPIC #6 FROZEN HYDRANTS

FROZEN HYDRANT PROCEDURES:

When a hydrant is found to be frozen, special procedures must be followed in order to keep the hydrant in service. If you remove a discharge cap and discover that the hydrant is frozen:

1. With one discharge open, stand clear of all discharges and do not lean over the bonnet.
2. Attempt to turn the hydrant on. Do not use excessive force.

3. If the hydrant can be turned on:

    a. Allow the water to flow at a slow rate, until all of the ice is removed.
    b. Turn the hydrant off and observe the hydrant, to ensure the flow has completely stopped.
    c. Use a hydrant pump to remove all of the remaining water in the barrel.
    d. Replace the discharge cap.
    e. Record the address of the hydrant and report its condition to the Company Officer.
4. If the hydrant can not be turned on:
    a. Replace the discharge cap.
    b. Place a red "Out of Service" tag on the hydrant.
    c. Record the address of the hydrant and report its condition to the Company Officer.

Hydrants that can not be thawed by the inspector shall be thawed as an Engine company operation.

USING AN ENGINE COMPANY TO THAW A HYDRANT:

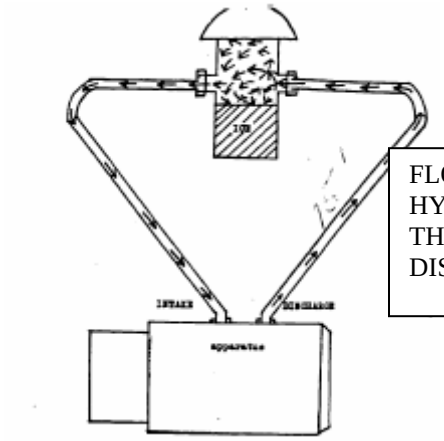
Engine companies are issued special equipment for thawing frozen hydrants. This equipment consists of two, fifteen foot, sections of 2-1/2” hose, with female fittings on both ends, The District Chief will assign an Engine company to assist Truck companies with thawing operations.

If a frozen hydrant must be thawed by an Engine company, the following steps will be followed.

1. Make sure there is a path through which water can flow between two discharges of the hydrant.
2. Connect one 15' section of 2-1/2" hose to a discharge on the pumper.
3. Connect the other end of the first section to a discharge on the hydrant.

4. Connect a second 15' section of 2-1/2" hose to an intake on the pumper.
5. Connect the other end of the second section to a discharge on the hydrant.
6. The engineer will pump water through the hydrant, at 100 psi., until the hydrant is thawed. The combination of the temperature of the water in the tank and the friction created by the pumps will render the hydrant serviceable in a short period of time.

Note: regular 2-1/2" hose can be used but will have to be adapted to complete the circle.



FLOW WATER THROUGH THE HYDRANT BY CIRCULATING THROUGH THE PUMP BETWEEN A DISCHARGE AND THE INTAKE

Additional Tips:

- Some companies have had success with small torches to thaw hydrant caps and/or create passage ways for water flow using the above procedure
- Some companies place rock salt in the barrels of hydrant that cannot be stopped from leaking to assist in avoiding freezing