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TOPIC #17: MISC TOOLS

The following tools / equipment are covered:

- Bale Hook
- Pipe Wrench
- Scoop Shovel
- Pitch Fork
- Door Bar
- Ladder Belt
- Hose Clamp
- Hose Strap

Bale Hooks

Use and Operation:

Bale hooks are carried on ladder companies. They are equipped with a handle and metal hook. They are used for overhauling when baled material is used.



Maintenance:

Keep clean and free of rust. Paint as needed.

Pipe Wrenches

Use and Operation:


Pipe wrenches are carried by all ladder companies. They can be used to shut off gas at the meter or valve cock, to disconnect gas appliances from a gas line, to replace sprinkler heads, etc.

Each ladder company is issued two pipe wrenches, a large one and a small one.

When pipe wrenches are needed, both wrenches are to be brought to the place of service. Pipe wrenches operate in only one direction. Force is directed to the wrench handle, opposite the jaw opening.

Maintenance:

Keep wrenches clean and free of rust. Paint handles as needed. Lubricate the head as needed.

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SCOOP SHOVEL:

Use and Operation:

Scoop shovels are carried on ladder companies to allow for movement of materials during overhaul work on the fire ground.

Maintenance:

Keep clean and free of rust. Paint metal parts as needed.

PITCH FORK:

Use and Operation:

Pitch forks are carried on ladder companies to allow for movement of loose or bailed material during overhaul work on the fire ground.

Maintenance:

Keep clean and free of rust. Paint metal parts as needed.


DOOR BAR (SUPER VAC DOOR BAR):

Use and Operation:

- The door bar is carried on all ladder companies and is used to provide support for suspending equipment.
- It is primarily used to hold the electric ventilating fan in doorways or windows.
- The unit has swivel type rubber pads to protect the door frame, or opening, from damage.
- The unit is extended by the use of a ratchet mechanism. As the ratchet handle is operated, the unit extends to the proper length.
- A trigger on the handle releases the extension rod, when operated.
- The Super Vac door bar's basic unit has a reach of 25" to 39". An extension pipe (3/4" X 20") can be attached to the door bar, extending its reach up to 58".

Maintenance:


Care consists of routine cleaning by removing any dirt with a damp cloth. There is no need to use oil or grease on this tool.

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CLASS I LIFE SAFETY HARNESS (LADDER BELT):



- Two Class I life safety harnesses are carried on each ladder truck and one on Squad 52.
- The ladder belt should be worn around the waist and can be adjusted up to 42 inches.
- The ladder belt should be worn when working lines from ladders, when operating equipment from a ladder that requires rigorous movement or when the wind is blowing strongly.
- The ladder belt can be used as a safety strap while training tillermen.
- When being used on a ground ladder, place the hook on the rung that allows for the most effective movement.
- Only place the hook over one rung. When double rungs are present, use only the rung closest to you.
- When attaching the hook to the aerial ladder, it may be placed on a rung or on the railing to either side.
- The belt may be donned with the hook to the left or to the right. The ladder belt should be worn with the buckle to one side and out of the way when moving to the point of service and can be worn in the most advantageous position when the hook is in use.

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HOSE CLAMP:



- This tool is used to shut off water from a hose line, by pinching the line.
- It is used to replace burst sections, to change from hand held lines to cellar nozzles and to shut down a hose line for adding more hose.
- It can be used to relieve pressure on a line that is to be carried up a ladder.
 - In this operation, a man must remain at the clamp so that the clamp remains closed until the move has been effected.

To Place in Service:

- The clamp is carried to the place of service and set on ground perpendicular to the hose.
- It should be placed as close to a coupling as possible, preferably within two feet, at the most.
- Open the clamp using the clamp handle.
- Place the hose in the jaws of the clamp and use both hands on handle to shut off flow of water. When opening clamp, open it slowly.
- When opening or closing the clamp, do not stand with clamp between your legs.
- If clamp does not shut off the water effectively or slides on hose, a glove or hose strap or some other form of non-abrasive material may be laid between the hose and the jaws of the clamp to make a tighter seal.

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Notes:

The adjustable clamp can be set to fit the following hose by changing the position of the locking pin:


- #1 position- Single Jacket, 2-1/2" hose and 1-3/4" hose
- #2 position- Double Jacket, 2-1/2" fabric, light jacket hose.
- #3 position- Double Jacket, 3" hose and heavy 2-1/2" hose.



The hose clamp is carried in the proper position to fit the type of hose carried on apparatus. If the adjustable clamp is not positioned properly, the flow of water cannot be stopped and/or damage to the equipment can occur. A hose clamp does not have to shut down the flow completely. It is only necessary to control the flow well enough to effect the equipment change.

Maintenance:

The hose clamp is to be kept clean and free of rust. Use oil, as needed, so hose clamp operates freely.

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Hose Strap

Each engine company carries (4) hose straps and the ladder company's carry a minimum of (2) hose straps for ladder pipe operations.

Hose straps can be used to assist in hoisting hose, to hold hose in place to prevent it from moving and falling.

