TOPIC #21 ESTABLISHING SUPPLY LINES – FRONT SUCTION

Front Suction:

Front suction is a term used for the short length of ***5"*** hose carried at the front intake of pumpers. The Front Suction is attached to the intake, at the front of the pumper that is controlled by a keystone valve. The ***5"*** section is equipped with Stortz couplings at each end. One end is connected to the pumper and the other is fitted with a Stortz to 4-l/2"F, NST adapter, as well as, a 4-1/2"M, NST to 3"F,CST adapter.

When a company arrives at the scene of a fire, if a hydrant is available close to the emergency, the front suction is used as the supply line. The FAO spots the pumper far enough from the hydrant to allow for a smooth arc to be formed by the hose when the front suction is charged. This distance should eliminate the formation of kinks in the front suction supply. The distance may vary slightly, from pumper to pumper, depending on the length of the hose. FAO's should familiarize themselves with each apparatus. The apparatus should be placed in a strategic position, in order not to block traffic and to allow access for incoming companies to maneuver into their proper positions.

The connection should then be made:

1. Pull off all of the front suction hose and drag it to the hydrant.
2. Remove the proper cap and connect the hose to the largest possible discharge on the hydrant, using adapters if necessary.
3. Tighten all other hydrant discharge caps, if not in use.
4. The hydrant is turned on all the way.
5. Check for kinks.
6. Open the keystone valve or intake valve

Note:

1. On high pressure hydrants, a diverter line will be set up as soon as possible
2. On angular faced hydrants, use the discharge nearest the apparatus.
3. Only one apparatus should be connected to a hydrant at any one time, unless ordered to do so by the Incident Commander.
4. Protect the Front Suction supply line by supporting points that may come in contact with the ground with a chafing block.