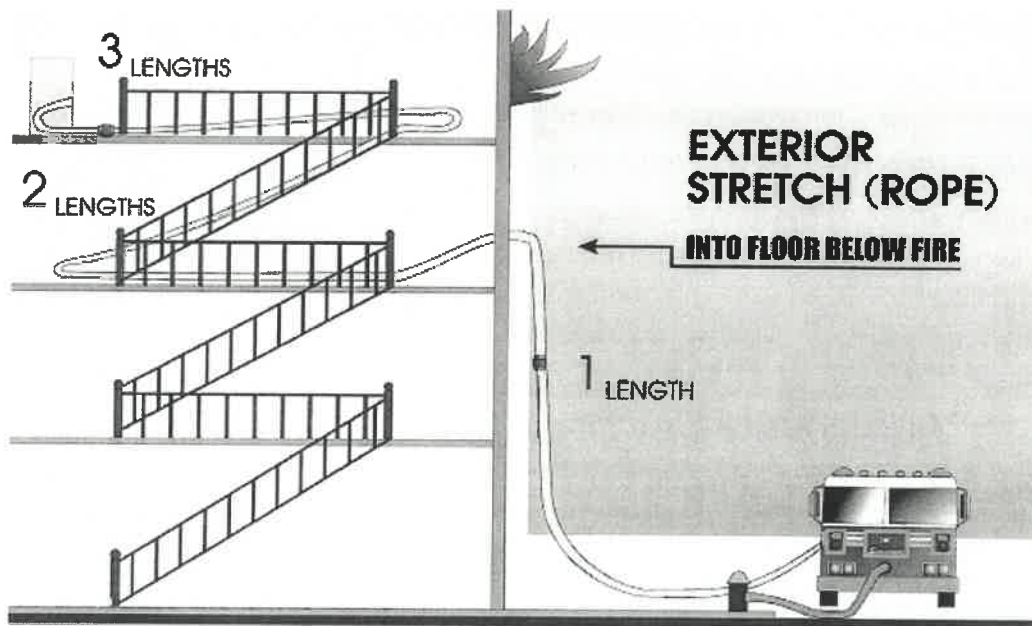
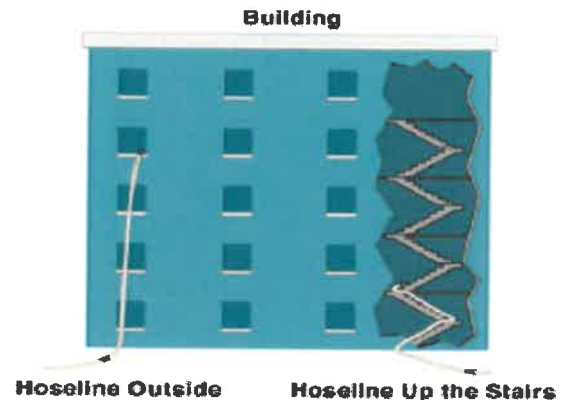

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HANDYLINE - EXTERIOR ROPE STRETCH

- Engine companies should carry 100 feet of 3/8 inch nylon rope to be used for a quick, efficient stretch to upper floors or roofs. This rope can be used to haul the line:

- To roofs of low buildings.
- In vacant buildings when interior stairs are missing or damaged and would present a hazard in supporting an interior stretch.
- In buildings with the staircase winding around an elevator shaft.
- At fires requiring three lines, when the interior stairs already have two lines on them.
- When pre-plan or previous knowledge indicates its use.
- In non-standpipe large apartment buildings.
- Also stretching hose up fire escapes.




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- Utility Rope Stretch Via Stair Shaft Window in Buildings with Stairs That Wrap Around An Elevator.
 - In order to reduce the number of lengths required and speed up the stretch, the line can be hoisted via stair shaft windows with the utility rope. If the fire is below the third floor, the line is stretched up the stairs.
 - The officer's initial size-up will determine if this type of stretch would be beneficial. Knowledge of the building, the location of the fire, and availability of stair shaft windows will assist in making this determination.
 - The line is stretched as follows:
 - The officer proceeds to the floor below the fire with the rope, selects the window to be used, and communicates this information to the back-up firefighter. The rope is deployed from this window.
 - Sufficient lengths must be brought into the building and the folds arranged near the window selected by the officer. The nozzle firefighter attaches the rope to the nozzle, places the nozzle outside the window, and then proceeds to the floor below the fire.
 - The backup firefighter will join the nozzle firefighter when relieved by the the apparatus operator or another firefighter. The back-up firefighter must remain at the window until enough line is hoisted to ensure that the line does not get hung up. Once the line is charged, the back-up firefighter will check for kinks and join the nozzle team.

OPERATIONAL CONSIDERATIONS USING UTILITY ROPE


- Before the utility rope is deployed, look out the window and check for obstacles or obstructions such as air conditioners, clotheslines, overhangs or setbacks which might interfere with the rope.
- Hinged windows which open outward can prove difficult and similar windows on intermediate floors may have to be closed to prevent the line from getting hung up.
- If difficulty is encountered in raising a window, remove glass from sash.

***IT MAY BE EASIER TO STRETCH OUTSIDE 'vs' INSIDE IN CERTAIN
BUILDINGS WITH 2-1/2" HOSE TO A GATED WYE***

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- The hose must always be secured once hoisted and charged.
- A firefighter must hold onto the hose when it is charged to avoid losing any hose over the side due to the jump in the line when pressurized.
- **NEVER SECURE THE LINE AT THE COUPLING – THE COUPLING IS THE WEAKEST PART OF THE HOSE.**
- Teamwork is essential for success.
- You can hoist the hose by the nozzle or in a 50' bundle (depending on distance) – generally the weight of the hose is too much to hoist the entire 50' bundle a distance over 3-4 stories.
- Ensure safety of personnel – don't stretch to the fire floor and not have a pathway to retreat. If the fire is still active – stretch to the floor below with the rope and give yourself a safety exit.
 - **FLOOR BELOW IS THE SAFEST ROUTE!**



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LOCATIONS WHERE A ROPE STRETCH MIGHT BE BENEFICIAL

PARKING GARAGE



OUTSIDE BALCONY



ROPE STRETCH IN ACTION ON FIRE ESCAPE

