

Operating Guideline # 805

Winter Operations

December 9, 2019



PURPOSE:

The purpose of this Operating Guideline (OG) is to establish guidelines for cold-weather operations to prevent accidental freezing of hoselines, pumps etc.

GUIDELINE:

1. At all cold-weather incidents where the pump will not be used for firefighting, pump operators shall engage the pump, open the “tank to pump” valve and “tank fill” valve and circulate water through the pump in order to prevent freezing. In windy conditions, it may be necessary to “tarp” the upwind side of the pump. Pump panel heaters shall be engaged if so equipped.
2. During cold ambient temperatures, supply and attack lines must flow water at all times once they are charged to prevent freezing.
3. The flow rate must be sufficient to prevent the forming of slush, which will plug attack line nozzles or supply line inlets thereby increasing the danger to attack crews. To prevent this, all attack lines must be kept flowing.
4. Attack lines which are in use in the interior of a structure shall be flowed into drains (tubs, sink, etc). If an attack line is no longer required in the interior it will be removed to the outside and kept flowing in a suitable direction to prevent flooding of the scene or apparatus.
5. If lines are laid in excess of what is required, they must remain uncharged until it is determined that they are needed.
6. When filling tankers from hydrants, the fill lines shall be kept flowing if at all possible at a rate enough to prevent freezing.
7. Personnel should direct flowing lines so as to prevent flooding and freezing of the work area and adjacent roads as much as possible.
8. All master stream devices including deck guns, must be drained after each use to prevent freezing.
9. Caution should be used to identify areas around the incident site where ice accumulations can create hazardous conditions. Sand (or similar) should be utilised to increase traction and prevent slips, trips or falls. On public roads, the authority having jurisdiction (Public Works) should be requested to provide this service.

RESPONSIBILITY:

It is the responsibility of all members to comply with the provisions of this OG and particularly that Company Officers (supervisors) and firefighters (workers) ensure that they adhere to their duties in accordance with the provisions of this document and the Occupational Health and Safety Act.

REFERENCES:

- Occupational Health and Safety Act (RSO 1990, c. 0.1)