

Operating Guideline # 812

Standpipe System Response

December 9, 2019



PURPOSE:

The purpose of this Operating Guideline (OG) is to describe the actions to be undertaken by fire department staff when responding to an incident in a building that is equipped with an internal Standpipe Hose System (SHS).

GUIDELINE:

1. When responding to any large commercial, industrial, residential or assembly type building, firefighters should always consider the possibility that the building contains a Standpipe Hose System (SHS) for use by firefighters for fire suppression activities.

2. As a general rule of thumb, where a SHS is going to be used by fire crews, a priority for the first arriving pumper will be to “support” that system by supplementing the water supply. A hydrant should be selected for operational water supply, and the SHS Siamese (fire department connection) should be supplied via two 65mm hose lines at a pressure of at least 1000kPa (150 psi) – higher pressures may be necessary for some buildings to compensate for height.

NOTE: the interior of all building Siamese connections should be visually inspected for debris prior to use. DO NOT remove debris by hand (re: needlestick, cut hazards) but rather flush with water where practical.

3. Fire hose inside hose cabinets should NOT be utilized by operational crews as a general rule of thumb. The hose in these cabinets may not have been subject to regular testing and is often susceptible to damage due to vandalism etc.

4. All SHS cabinets are equipped with 38mm discharge outlets and some larger buildings also contain connections for 65mm hose. Regardless of which outlet is chosen for interior operations, crews should ensure that the outlet is operational *before* connecting hose to it by flowing water through it until the water flows “clear” to remove any debris that may have accumulated in system piping.

5. In some higher buildings (i.e. – condo’s apartments), the SHS connections inside the hose cabinet may be equipped with a pressure limiting device that can interfere with the efficient operation of fire department hose lines. Care should be taken to identify these and take the appropriate steps to ensure proper pressures can be achieved for fire department operations.

6. Firefighters should employ departmental apartment/hi-rise hose packs for use inside these buildings, and the use of straight bore nozzles is preferred where these are available.

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7. In some high buildings (i.e. – condo's and apartments) it may be necessary to connect to SHS systems on floors below the fire floor IF the common hallway on the fire floor is contaminated by smoke/heat. If this must be done, crews must be cognizant that stairwells being used to advance hose from floors below will also become contaminated by smoke, so care should be taken to prevent building occupants from utilizing these particular stairwells for evacuation. Additional supplies of attack hose will also be required because of reach considerations.

8. Where a SHS has been used for an operational response, the Incident Commander SHALL notify the building owner who is responsible for checking the system and restoring it to operational readiness.

RESPONSIBILITY:

It is the responsibility of all Departmental staff to adhere to the provisions of this Operating Guideline.

REFERENCES:

- Fire Officer's Handbook of Tactics, third Edition, John Norman, Penwell Publishing
- Engine Company, John Salka, Penwell Publishing
- Ontario Fire Code
- MLFD OG 701 – Incident Command
- MLFD OG 708 – Size- up Considerations
- MLFD OG 821 – Multi-Unit Dwellings
- MLFD OG 807 - Incidents in Sprinklered Buildings