



# SHROPSHIRE

## Fire and Rescue Service

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**BRIGADE ORDER  
TECHNICAL  
NO. 4**

**PART 2**

**SUCTION HOSE**

## PART 2 – SUCTION HOSE

### PURPOSE

Suction hose is designed to resist external pressure and is used exclusively between the water supply and the pump. Since it will withstand both internal and external pressure it can be used either from open water or pressure fed supplies.

### STRATEGIC AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

Strategic Aim 1 “Reduce the risk to life and material loss from fire and other emergencies in the community” and Corporate Objective “Reduce the incidence of fire deaths and injuries”.

### ROLES, RESPONSIBILITIES AND REVIEW

The **Risk and Safety Manager** is responsible for ensuring this Order is implemented across the Brigade.

The **Officer in Charge** will be responsible for the day to day operation of the Order.

The **Operational Equipment Officer** will review this order annually in *August* and as and when organisational changes take place.

## **DESCRIPTION**

Suction hose possesses sufficient strength to withstand external air pressure, without collapsing, when a vacuum has been created inside.

All suction hose on appliances is 100mm diameter and 3 metres long.

All hose is manufactured from heavy duty PVC reinforced with a high tensile carbon steel helix. Suction hose is designed to work at temperatures ranging between -15°C and 65°C.

Suction hose is made with a smooth internal bore. The weight of 100mm hose is 3.3 Kgs per metre.

## **ISSUE AND LOCATION**

All Pumping Appliances carry suction hose. Dependent on stowage capacity, the appliance will carry 4 lengths which when coupled together will give up to 12 metres of hose.

## **RESERVE STOCK**

The minimum reserve suction hose stock will be four lengths of 3m. This will be kept in the Brigade reserve store on Shrewsbury Fire Station.

## **USE**

Suction hose is always connected to the pump of an appliance at the pump connection. When used from open water the basket and strainer should always be immersed to a minimum of 3 times the diameter of the basket and positioned up stream if pumping from a river.

A line should always be attached to suction hose, firstly to assist taking the weight and secondly, to assist retrieval of hose to make up or clear debris from around the basket.

## **SAFETY**

Due to their length and construction, suction hose are unwieldy to carry and position. Personnel should take care when handling, checking particularly when turning where danger exists of striking other Firefighters.

After use, suction hose should be drained by cracking open the coupling at the pump and allowing water to drain out before lifting from open water.

## **MAINTENANCE AND TESTING**

Care and maintenance is relatively simple. After use, the hose should be washed through, the coupling threads and washers checked and the hose itself inspected for any apparent cuts or abrasions.

The hose should be subjected quarterly to the vacuum test previously described in the Fire Service Drill Book and now set out in Technical Bulletin 1/94.

All suction hose should be examined on acceptance, quarterly and after operational use.

Defective washers should be replaced. Collars and threads should be lightly lubricated if necessary.

Damaged hose should be reported to Technical Services.