

LAFD Tactical Decision Games

March 2006 – Water!!

With the equipment on my engine I would utilize gravity to maintain a modest water supply from the reservoir to my pumper. A 50-foot section of 4-inch hose with a strainer would be stretched to the edge of the reservoir and then reduced down to a 150-foot section of 2 ½-inch hose. This hose would then be attached to any desired 2-½ inch outlet. Once the pumper is ready the 2 ½-inch hose is then charged until no air bubbles are seen leaving the 4-inch hose in the reservoir. At this point the 2 ½-inch hose is then clamped and the discharge bled so that the hose can be hooked up to the desired 2-½ inch inlet. Once the 2-½-inch line is hooked up to the desired inlet, the inlet can slowly be opened to allow the force of gravity maintain the siphoning of the supply water from the reservoir. At this point it is up to the engineer to not exceed his incoming water supply. If the discharge flow does exceed the flow of the supply the 4-inch supply line at the edge of the reservoir the threat of cavitation becomes a reality because the 4-inch hose will most likely begin to collapse and then limit the supply of water coming into the pumper.

* Note – If your department carries hard suction hose utilize it instead of the 4-inch soft suction and the threat of your hose collapsing will be minimized.

Equipment Needed:

- 50 feet of 4-inch soft suction
- 150 feet of 2 ½ inch hose
- Hose clamp (for 2 ½-inch hose)
- 4 inch male to 2 ½-inch female adapter
- 1 Class A Pumper
- 2 firefighters to stretch hose and keep an eye on the operation

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