

July 31, 2001

To Whom It May Concern:

The Westside Fire Rescue in the year 2000, purchased from Hub Fire Engines a Ford 550 equipped with an 8500 Snuffer Unit. This apparatus has become an integral asset to our day-to-day operations within our fire business. It has surpassed our expectation with several aspects of operations but specifically the ease of use and the applications makes this a user-friendly unit within our department. The following are several accounts of the specific incidents that the benefit of the Compressed Air Foam System has come to play.

- Interface applications are the most abundant use of the Compressed Air Foam System. As fire departments can appreciate, "Interface" applications with the limited amount of water supplies that are available make the unit more versatile for crews and initial knockdowns. Crews now can apply the foam more aggressively but safely with the understanding that the Compressed Air Foam System can supply more suppression ideas through foam that regular plain water has in the past. The foam increases the supply of the suppression line to as much as 10 times the amount of water. Secondly, with the crews using tools to produce effective guards around an interface fire the foam can continue to blanket the fire area reducing the potential for rekindles from deep-seated fire. Since the Compressed Air Foam System hose lines are lighter in weight, the crews have less fatigue as a result of the line being filled with air and not the weight of water. The Snuffer Unit also allows for longer hose line applications in the bush, allowing the pump operator to allow the unit to produce foam and not the need to calculate hydraulic concerns for specific water applications.
- The suppression techniques using a Compressed Air Foam System line quickly can knock down a vehicle fire from the engine compartment, passenger compartment or storage compartment. Again, the Compressed Air Foam System line can reduce the need for large amounts of water. Recently, the department had a vehicle fire that involved a large passenger van and trailer on a highway out of the district. The fire had additional concerns with regards to exposures to the interface area and the departments travel time. Being out of district the only one unit was assigned to the fire and the Snuffer Unit and the Compressed Air Foam System line suppressed the fire and the crews were able to overhaul the trailer preventing a very large potential of an interface fire. With a plain water application most apparatus would have been without water in a short time frame.
- During structure fires the Snuffer Unit is assigned Rapid Intervention concerns and thus goes to all structural fires in the district. The Compressed

Air Foam System has allowed for specifics with structural fire fighting that would be reduced with plain water. During a residential fire with individuals trapped in the dwelling the crews were able to concentrate on their primary search as the Compressed Air Foam System line kept the fire in check. In a fire that had already consumed half the house upon arrival. The other aspect of structural fire fighting that allows crews to take care of specific concerns is again exposures. With buildings that are already consumed with fire behaviors exposures is a priority. During a recent warehouse fire that had a heavy hold within the building crews were able to protect exposures that were adjacent to the building, not allowing any radiant heat damage from the Compressed Air Foam being applied to side of the building.

The Snuffer Unit has brought several needed aspects to our fire department for means of suppression for all aspects of fire incidents. Compressed Air Foam System is the way of the future for all departments and all aspects of fire related activities including overhaul and investigations. The Snuffer Unit built by Hub Fire Engines and the utilization of Compressed Air Foam Systems must certainly be considered for your fire departments specifications when you are due to purchase your next apparatus.

Sincerely,

Dean Colthorp
Assistant Chief