



ROBERTS CREEK VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

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To Whom It May Concern:

We were made aware of the virtues of compressed air foam systems (CAFS) early in the 90's when a neighboring fire department (Schelt VFD) purchased a then "state of the art" unit from Mallory. At the time we could see that this equipment was the way of the future. Now the future is here and we have embraced this new technology wholeheartedly.

We took possession of a Hub Snuffer 8500HD on a 4wd, two door, 2000 Ford F550 chassis in October 2000. The CAFS unit is run hydraulically by a PTO driven pump on the truck's transmission. This setup saves fuel and maintenance, as only one engine is needed. The greatest savings are realized in the extra available cabinet space because it is half the size of the self-powered units and 500 pounds lighter. With this additional space and weight carrying capacity we were able to incorporate two fully enclosed 150' hose reels which have proven to be tremendously effective due to the many minutes saved in getting the "white stuff on the red stuff". The ease of picking up after the fact is also worth mentioning. Just push a button and reel it in. The Snuffer doesn't require the after use flushing and purging of foam lines and injectors recommended by other manufacturers.

Engine 51 is now the first truck out of the hall and responds to all calls from structure fires to MVA's. The ease of use and rapid setup time of this unit make it ideal as a first response apparatus. It's small footprint and 4wd allow it to access many locations out of reach by our full size pumpers. Should the need arise this unit will prove invaluable as a wildfire response truck. The 300 gallons of onboard water, when expressed as finished foam, is equal to the knock down properties of approximately 3000 gallons of plain water, a welcome benefit when used in areas of limited access to a water supply. When one considers it's firefighting capability combined with the fact that the air compressor can be utilized to power air chisels, wrenches and air over hydraulic extrication tools, dedicating a cabinet to "first responder" medical supplies makes this a formidable highway crash/rescue truck.

In closing I'd like to say that there are many manufacturers offering CAFS units and the acquisition of any one of these would be an asset to a department, especially an under-staffed rural department on a tight budget. After comparing various units in action and first hand experience with ours I have no hesitation in recommending the Hub Snuffer. The quality of manufacture and dedication to service shown by Hub Fire Engines, I might add, is second to none. It should also be noted that adoption of CAFS technology doesn't absolve the need for knowledge of basic firefighting and fire behavior/suppression theory. Nozzle techniques and pump operations differ enough from conventional apparatus that proper training is vital.

Sincerely,

Bruce Searle
Fire Chief - RCVFD