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To Whom It May Concern,

I've been a Fire Fighter for 40 years. My career has included crash rescue, shipboard, structural and wildland fire fighting. Since 1987 I've been involved with the local volunteer fire department.

I've used protein, fluoro-protein and AFFF foams in various apparatus from fully dedicated foam crash trucks to our new compressed air foam truck.

The compressed air foam unit is a totally impressive way to combat fires in today's environment of multiple sources of combustibles. It absorbs heat, decreases flame production faster than anything I've used before in fire fighting both in structural and wildland settings.

The hose is easy to handle, much lighter than with water alone.

Our experience in structural fire fighting has been limited to the burning of a barn and a shed as training. Both buildings were allowed to burn completely at the end of the training sessions. We did several attacks at different stages of the fire including full involvement. The knockdown ability and heat absorption of the foam was really evident during these exercises.

Wildland experience, to date, consisted of two round bale fires which the unit brought under control efficiently and effectively in a short period of time. As everyone knows a deep seated round bale fire is difficult to extinguish. The Compressed Air Foam worked well at extinguishing these fires.

We also used the CAF unit on two vehicle fires. They were fully involved and within twenty (20) feet of an occupied structure. The knockdown was immediate with total heat absorption. The greatest advantage of the CAF unit is the containment of fire, protecting the exposures thus reducing further property losses.

My overview of the CAF unit is one of endorsement based solely on the experience of our fire department.

Jack Merrill