



Size-Up & Key Points

There are several ways to get a hoseline into position and operating. It is up to each fire department to preplan the residential developments in their jurisdiction, such as courtyard and garden apartments, to devise the most effective hose evolution for each occupancy.

After a fire is located, an engine company officer must determine the path to the fire—which door, hallway, or stairway should be used to reach the fire. Further, he may have to determine the best method for getting a hoseline to an upper floor, such as a stairway stretch, hoisting by rope, or carrying it up a ladder.

The length of hoseline is determined by the size of the fire building; how far it is set back from the street; and any obstructions, such as fences, landscaping, or parked vehicles, that keep apparatus at a distance from the fire building.

Single-family homes in older neighborhoods tend to be relatively small, less than 2,000 square feet, and have fairly small front yards. This is well within the range of a 200-foot pre-connect. At fires in small houses, the nozzleman usually brings the nozzle to the front door and then flakes out 50 feet of hose on the sidewalk leading to the front porch before charging the line. The hose is arranged in an “S” or a “W” to facilitate advancing through the front door and to ensure that there is sufficient hose to reach any point in the residence.

Stretch hose as close to the fire as safety permits before charging the line. Once a hoseline is filled with water, it becomes heavier and will require that firefighters be positioned along the line to keep it moving. Getting too close to a fire without the protection of a charged hoseline can result in burned firefighters and hose with a melted polyester jacket.

At fires in single-family residences, the hoseline is usually charged at the front door (photo 21), but I have seen firefighters waiting for water bail off a front porch when windows failed and fire vented toward them. Fire conditions; wind speed and direction; and hot, cracked window glass are all factors that may influence the decision of where and when to charge the line.

In a private dwelling, it usually is best to take the hoseline in the front door because it provides the shortest and most direct path to the fire. Additionally, the stairway leading to the second-floor bedrooms in most homes is at or near the front door

BEFORE ENTRY

- Optimum Line Placement
 - Considerations for:
 - Reach
 - Penetration
 - Deflection off of Walls and Ceiling
- Optimum Pump/Hoseline Pressure for Single FF Operations
 - Consider Nozzle Reaction:
 - Smooth Bore
 - Low PSI Variable Stream
 - Interior Streams must meet 150 GPM minimum
 - Optimum Hose Staging for Movement/Advancement

UPON ENTRY

- Consider Escape Path
- Effects of Flow Path
- Stay OFF Knees when Advancing
 - Risk of Burns
- If Nozzleman is SOLO
 - Body Positioning is Key
 - Stay Low
 - Knees Close to the Hoseline
 - Stay on Balls of Feet
 - Nozzle Arm’s Length out in Front
 - Prepare for Nozzle Reaction



Initial Stretch

Nozzleman - One Firefighter Shoulder Stretch

- Facing the Apparatus
- Pull Exposed Ears and the Stack above it to the Chest. This is considered the **WORKING LENGTH**.
 - The Firefighter should hold the hose against the chest as if he/she was hugging it.
- Pivot or Turn around so that the remaining hose is rolled onto the shoulder.
 - Attempt to flip the hose on the shoulder over so that the nozzle is on the bottom of the stack
- Continue moving forward until additional 15-20' of hose has been removed. (Photo 1)
- Await the backup man pulls off hose
- Walk toward the structure with the bundle on shoulder or arm
- **DROP POINT**
 - Drop Hose bundle approximately 30 feet from entry point (Photo 2)
 - Preferably in line with Entry Door
 - Flake by grabbing Nozzle and First Coupling and Walk to Entry Point (Photo 3)
- Place Hose near the entrance to the structure and flaked out to avoid any kinking in the hose



Photo 1



Photo 2

Back up - One Firefighter Shoulder Stretch

- Facing the Apparatus
- Pull Exposed Ears and the Stack above it to the Chest.
 - The Firefighter should hold the hose against the chest as if he/she was hugging it.
- Pivot or Turn around so that the remaining hose is rolled onto the shoulder.
 - Attempt to flip the hose on the shoulder over so that the nozzle is on the bottom of the stack
- Walk toward the structure while allowing the hose on the ground to stretch out and “playing out” any necessary hose to reach the entry point.
 - Once the hose on the ground has been stretched out, the hose on the shoulder will start to stretch out
- Hose remaining on the shoulder should be placed behind the Nozzle man’s hose and flaked out to avoid any kinking in the hose. (Photo 3)
- Place the coupling near Entry Point.
- Flake out Hose so that the Nozzleman lead length is placed over the remaining hose. (Photo 4)



Photo 3



Photo 4



Pre-Stage & Call for Water

- Ensure hose is properly Pre-Staged to advance prior to charging
- Call for Water (Photo 5)
 - Check Stream
- Ensure there are NO KINKS and the hose is in an Optimum Pre-Staged condition (Photo 6)
- KNOW WHERE THE FIRE IS - before Entering
 - Difficult to relocate with two Firefighters
- Don SCBA
 - 25 Second Drill



Photo 5

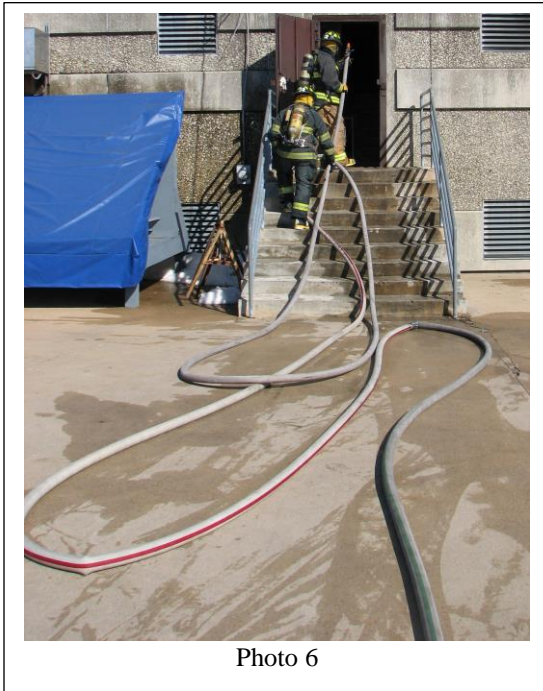


Photo 6



Advancing Hose

Nozzleman - One Firefighter Shoulder Stretch

- Advances Charged Hose Directly to Fire Location
- Pre Stages Hose and Positions for Entry into Room
 - May need to control door
 - Evaluate Fire behavior & Flow Path
 - May need to Attack from Hallway
 - May Attack Fire with No Back up man

Back up - One Firefighter Shoulder Stretch

- The Team member with the Hardest Job
 - Must do the Job of Control man and Back Up Hose man
 - Communicate with Nozzleman
- Ensure there is enough hose Pre-Staged inside
 - On the Floor
 - In the Stairs
 - In the Hallway
 - Additional Hose
 - From Stairwell
 - From Exterior
- Check Interior Areas for Kinks
 - Use Loops or Push along Walls
 - Push Hose Line to form an “S”
- Monitor Conditions
 - Suppression Operations
 - Wrap-Around Fire
 - Fire Extension
 - Smoke Changes
 - Don't Get CUT OFF
 - Monitor Hose Pressure
 - Evidence of use by Nozzleman
 - Loss of Pressure
 - Loss of Water



Attacking the Fire

Nozzleman

- If Condition Warrant – Nozzleman may Attack and Enter Fire Room
 - Best to Attack with Back up man
 - When SOLO
 - Use Walls as Leverage/Support against Nozzle Reaction

Back up

- Ensure KINKS have been addressed
- Back Up Nozzleman
- Monitor Conditions
- Communicate with Command



Shoulder to Shoulder Back Up



Shoulder to Shoulder Back Up



Shoulder to Shoulder Back Up