

Operating Guideline # 304

Cold Weather Pump Operations

September 30, 2019



PURPOSE:

The purpose of this Operating Guideline (OG) is to establish guidelines to protect fire pumps from freezing and the prevent deterioration of diesel engines.

GUIDELINE:

General

1. A diesel engine will not remain at operating temperature during periods of idling as the engine cools down. When this occurs the pump compartment heater will not produce sufficient heat to keep the pump, lines, gauges etc. from freezing. Pump heaters are to be turned on in the late fall (October) and turned off again in the late spring (April).
2. Any time fire apparatus equipped with diesel engines are stationary (parked) and not “working”, the engine RPM shall be maintained at 1500 R.P.M.
3. If the outside temperature is below 0°C the main pump will be engaged. An engine speed of 1500 RPM will be maintained and the tank-to-pump and tank-fill valves shall be opened allowing the water in the tank to circulate through the pump to keep the pump from freezing.
4. The engine temperature gauge as well as the pump compartment will be monitored.
5. For more efficient operations during the winter months, a fuel conditioner will be added to the fuel tanks of each diesel fuelled apparatus and in the diesel fuel storage tank.

RESPONSIBILITY:

It is the responsibility of all Emergency Operations Division staff to comply with the provisions of this Operating Guideline.