

TASK FORCE TIPS

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Task Force Tips Newsletter
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So..... When Did We Stop Caring about SAFETY?



A typical 1¾" Handline nozzle flowing 150 gpm @ 100 psi exhibits about 75 lbs. of nozzle reaction. A 2½" flowing 300 gpm about 150 lbs., a Blitzfire portable monitor at 500 gpm about 250 lbs., and a Crossfire portable monitor flowing 1250 gpm will have over 600 lbs. of nozzle reaction in straight stream.

Yet, even with a good understanding of the reaction forces and safety concerns involved in higher flowing appliances, it's rare to see a picture of a monitor in use that has been positioned and secured properly. It's far more common to see the elevation safety stop, a standard safety device on all monitors, pulled with the stream lowered well below the thirty-degree angle. Often the outcome of these actions is personal injury or property damage. Ultimately, the cost to any jurisdiction of a firefighter injured in a preventable accident such as a runaway monitor or something as simple as not using a seatbelt in an apparatus can be enormous. Yet, these accidents happen every day as common sense is often clouded by the emotions of the moment.

The point is...these accidents DO NOT have to happen when the most basic fireground rules and deployment procedures are followed. They also don't have to happen if the equipment used provides an extra margin of

safety for the operator. In the case of TFT's unique 1250 gpm-rated Crossfire portable monitor, while it includes warning instructions as well as the typical safety tie-down strap, it also provides the next level in personnel safety. The exclusive automatic safety shut-off mechanism found in the Crossfire immediately restricts about 90 percent of the appliance's flow and reduces reaction force should the unit tip and become unstable.

Much like the Crossfire portable monitor, the unique Blitzfire personal portable monitor takes integrated safety even one step further, with a patented shut-off mechanism that quickly closes the internal slide valve at the first sign of instability. Unlike competitive models that have recently entered the market, which MUST be tied down for safe use, the Blitzfire is truly designed as an aggressive attack tool. The key to the Blitzfire's popularity is the internal safety valve and its AUTOMATIC function.

For the same reason, it's nearly impossible to get some firefighters to wear a seatbelt in a fire truck. There will always be instances when high-flowing appliances are placed in service in an unstable or unsafe manner. Often the difference between a fireground injury or damage and an uneventful operation can be the integrated safety systems designed into TFT's high flowing appliances.

It's about time that safety MATTERS – not only in the apparatus on the way to the incident, but also during suppression activities with high-nozzle reaction appliances. Task Force Tips is the only manufacturer of portable monitors to offer integrated automatic safety shut-off mechanisms.

For additional information on the Crossfire and Blitzfire portable monitors, contact TFT's customer service group and request the new "Monitor Systems and Masterstream

Nozzles" catalog #4 or visit www.tft.com and enter the WEB KEY CODE XC for additional information.

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WELCOME

In this issue of the TFT newsletter, you will have the opportunity to review some of the new, innovative products we recently introduced to fire and emergency service providers worldwide. This is an exciting time at Task Force Tips with our entry into the remote-controlled monitor business, product line extensions in our large diameter hose hardware offerings, as well as the introduction of our revolutionary in-line foam eductor series. As a company long known for innovation, Task Force Tips remains dedicated to the design, development, and manufacture of rugged equipment that meets and exceeds our customers' expectations.

As fire suppression agencies re-evaluate their high-rise and low-pressure fire streams management operational guidelines, there are several key elements that need to be considered when making important equipment decisions.

Target Fire Flows

With all of the confusion over nozzle choices, operational pressures, and applicable national standards, as firefighters, we often lose sight of the most basic fire ground reality. It's about the FLOW – gallons per second applied into the fire space absorbing BTUs. Mother Nature and the Fire Tetrahedron are very unforgiving when it comes to inadequate fire flows. First and foremost, before any hardware choice can be made, target fire flows need to be established for maximum performance.

Operational Pressures

Identifying pressure limitations in pumper operations or in fixed-system designs is equally as important as choosing a nozzle with a 100, 75, or 55 psi operating pressure. While FLOW (gpm) is the key element in fire fighting operations, PRESSURE (psi) is the energy that provides the hard-hitting reach and penetration of a straight stream or the wide protective fog pattern. It requires the perfect balance of FLOW and PRESSURE to assure that your team has the right system to achieve rapid suppression.

Hose Size, Design, and Performance

A nozzle choice should never be made without evaluating the entire fire streams delivery system first. From pump to fire, how attack hoses perform under low-pressure operations can vary greatly. Friction loss, kink resistance, weight, and durability all need to be tested in practical scenarios to completely understand the overall performance of your nozzle choice.

Even with hundreds of fixed, selectable, automatic, dual-pressure automatic, and low-pressure nozzles from which to choose, the process can be as simple as 1-2-3-4.

1. Establish your target fire flow delivery rates (often 150 gpm minimum).
2. After practical testing, determine the size, length, and style of attack hose.
3. Choose the nozzle style and nozzle operating pressure that provide maximum stream performance to your initial attack crew.
4. Establish a pump discharge pressure that will supply the target fire flow. (Nozzle Pressure + Friction Loss of the Hose at the Target Flow = Minimum Pump Discharge Pressure).

If your department needs assistance in determining the right nozzle choice for your operations, please contact your local authorized TFT dealer, one of our regional managers, or the Hydraulics Hot-Line 800-348-2686.

Regards,



Stewart McMillan
President

Want to Check out TFT's Complete Show Calendar? Simply log on to www.tft.com and click onto the "Events" Section for more info.



UPCOMING SHOWS



Texas Association of Fire Educators

January 8-14
San Antonio, TX

Visit with Jerry Pilarski, South Regional Manager, and take a look at TFT's complete line of dual pressure nozzles. From 70 up to 500 gpm, Jerry will show you how to maximize your fire streams performance.

FDSOA Apparatus Spec & Vehicle Maintenance

January 16-19, 2005
Orlando, FL

Louisiana Fire Chief's Association

January 21-22, 2005
Baton Rouge, LA

Long Island Fire Rescue EMS Mega Show

January 29-30, 2005
Uniondale, NY

Stop by and visit with members of Cottrell Associates and get the full scoop on the new Handline Up-Grade package. Designed to fit TFT Handlines produced as far back as 1987, this Up-Grade kit replaces the complete front end and adds a new color-coded shut off.

Firehouse World Expo & Congress

January 31-February 3, 2005
San Diego, CA

Firehouse World Expo

February 1-3, 2005
San Diego, CA

2005 Winter Fire School & Equipment Expo

February 4-6, 2005
Columbia, MO

Stop by and see Ron Prast and the fine folks at Towers Apparatus. See what's new at TFT. For more information, call 573-882-4735.

Pierce Dealer Showcase

February 6, 2005
Appleton, WI

Fire Resource East

February 10-12, 2005
Jacksonville, FL

North Dakota Fire School

February 24-27, 2005
Bismark, ND

This Jumbo Valve Can Handle Jumbo Flows



The Jumbo Gate Valve offers rugged durability and large flows with minimal loss.



TFT's unique wedge-shaped stainless steel valve reduces wear on the sealing gasket.



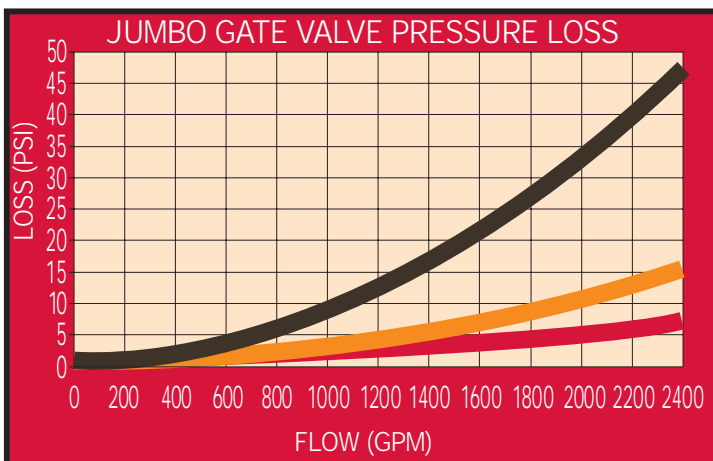
The Jumbo Gate Valve on a pumper intake provides simple operation from either a pressurized source or from draft.

When flows up to 2000 gpm are needed for high-volume fire suppression operations, the Jumbo Gate Valve from TFT is the perfect choice for low-friction loss, simple operation, and rugged durability. Designed for the harsh fire ground environment, this unique valve system offers features found in no other competitive valve.

- Over 106 models provide any combination of Storz or Threaded hose connection from 3" to 6", and all are rated at 250 psi operational pressure and are hydrostatically tested to 900 psi.

For additional information on the unique Jumbo Gate Valve, or any of over 500 large diameter hose hardware products, contact TFT Customer Service and request Catalog #5 Water Delivery Hardware & Accessories, the LDH Hardware Video, or visit www.tft.com and enter WEB Key Code AG for additional on-line information.

- Unique stainless steel wedge gate design provides low-wear, reliable bi-directional sealing, and is ideal for use with either a pressurized water supply or from draft.
- Triple-coat process uses poly-impregnation, hard coat anodizing and powder coating to provide maximum corrosion resistance to the lightweight aluminum castings.
- Patent-pending polymer ring coupling attachment method provides electrical isolation to prevent galvanic corrosion and allows for simple coupling changes.
- Quick acting, field adjustable pressure relief valve operates from 50-250 psi for positive hose and pump protection.
- 30-degree inlet elbow incorporates an air/water drain and allows hose connections to be made with minimal kinks and coupling stress.



- GATE VALVE WITH 4" ELBOW AND STORZ CONNECTION
- GATE VALVE WITH 5" ELBOW AND STORZ CONNECTION
- GATE VALVE (WITHOUT ELBOW) WITH 5" STORZ

TEACHING YOUR OLD DOG NEW TRICKS

The Hurricane RC and Extend-A-Gun RETROFIT



Since 1995, over 8000 manually operated Extend-A-Guns have been installed in apparatus to maximize the operation of our most powerful fire streams management tool...the pre-piped deck gun. Now, with operator safety being a major focus of new NFPA apparatus standards, the day of a firefighter climbing to the top of the truck to operate a deck gun may be coming to an end.

Whether it's issues of safety or limited staffing, getting "big water" on the fire is a labor-intensive process that often precludes the use of this important tool. Taking all of these issues into consideration, it's obvious why remotely controlled deck guns are quickly becoming a standard component of many modern fire apparatus. A perfect example of how this emerging technology can solve critical safety and staffing issues is the combination of Task Force Tips' new Hurricane RC remote controlled monitor and the exclusive Extend-A-Gun RC3.

Recently, a project truck was completed to showcase how one department set out to maximize their initial attack capabilities and are "teaching their apparatus some new tricks."

PROJECT APPARATUS Liberty Township Engine 1911

PROJECT SCOPE
Replace manual Extend-A-Gun and Crossfire manual monitor with a remotely controlled Extend-A-Gun RC3 and Hurricane RC monitor.

PROJECT ACTIVITY

- Replace manual Extend-A-Gun with remote controlled unit. The bottom portion of the Extend-A-Gun plumbing does not need to be changed. The inner sleeve slips out after removing two bolts, and the new remote control sleeve slips in and bolts in place. No plumbing changes are necessary.
- Establish the electrical connection and mount the Extend-A-Gun RC3 operational control box in a convenient location.
- Install the Hurricane RC to the top of the Extend-A-Gun RC3 unit.
- Establish the electrical connection and mount the operational control box, tether control, and radio frequency controllers.
- Perform flow and operational tests.

PROJECT SUMMARY

With minimal labor required, Engine 1911 now has complete remote control monitor capabilities, including the use of radio frequency, tethered, and panel-mounted control units. Now a high-volume stream can easily be put into service with limited staff, and no longer is an operator required to stand on top of the truck to direct the gun.

For additional information on TFT's full line of high performance remote controlled equipment, contact Customer Service, 800-348-2686, and request Catalog #4 "Monitors and Master Stream Nozzles" or visit www.tft.com.



New eductors available with either 2 1/2" or 1 1/2" inlet



Unique two-piece design



"Auto Flush" feature offers quick and complete flushing of residue



Large pickup tube and metering head for accurate proportioning

All Eductors are NOT Created EQUAL

TFT's NEW In-line Eductor Series

For generations, the design and function of a common in-line foam eductor has remained relatively unchanged...until now.

When agent delivery experts from TFT gathered to discuss improving the form and function of in-line eductors, the following issues were identified as being KEY problems with current competitive models that had to be corrected in future designs.

INJECTION ACCURACY

With the introduction and use of the much thicker ARC (alcohol resistant concentrate) foams currently available, competitive models lack the ability to accurately educt 6 percent and, often, even 3 percent concentrations.

FLUSHING OF CONCENTRATE

Competitive models, even when indicating in their operational manuals that they need adequate flushing after each use, routinely cease to function when key components get gummed up with residual foam concentrate.

SIZE AND SHAPE

Current competitive models are nearly impossible to easily disassemble and store or inspect.

After extensive design and development, accuracy and field-testing, as well as operational review, the new Task Force Tips in-line foam eductor series solves the problems that plague competitive models.

- With percentage choices of 0.25 percent, 0.5 percent, and 1 percent for Class A foam concentrates, and 1 percent, 3 percent, and 6 percent for AFFF and AFFF-AR Class B concentrates, the incredibly accurate TFT eductor has been calibrated and field tested to National Foam's "Knockdown®" Class A foam, and National Foam's "Universal Gold®" AFFF-AR foam. The foam pickup tube and metering head are proportionally larger to easily and accurately pick up the thicker foam concentrates.
- TFT's new "Auto-Flush" feature allows easy and complete flushing of the metering head and pickup tube with a simple push of the button.
- The unique design of the metering head disconnect feature allows the head to be removed, inspected, or stored, even when the body of the eductor remains in a charged hoseline. By assuring easy removal, even with a gloved hand, the problems associated with storing an eductor, with the cumbersome pickup hose in a truck compartment are solved for forever.

For additional information on the new TFT in-line eductor, or any of over 50 foam injection and application related products, contact Customer Service, 800-348-2686, and request Catalog #6 "Foam Application and Injection Equipment" or visit www.tft.com.

These NEW Products Really DO Suck... Foam That Is!

TFT's FOAM SOLUTION Application Package



Masterfoam



Eductor



PRO/pak

It's a given anymore that firefighting is as much about providing emergency medical assistance as it is about pulling lines and attacking the fiery red dragon. With fire suppression duties becoming a dwindling portion of our overall responsibility, most firefighters will admit that even less attention is given to their department's ability to establish and maintain a foam application operation. Yes, we all know NFPA recommendations offer input on how the first due engine company should be outfitted to provide a minimum 15-minute foam application, but when faced with a complex incident, this task is often relegated to the local Haz-Mat team. All too often, these teams are typically less equipped to deal with a flammable-liquids incident than the first arriving companies.

From the simplest auto accident with fuel on the ground, to over-the-road trucks, rail tank cars, bulk storage facilities, pipelines, and petro-chemical processing units, a potential incident can happen anytime and in any jurisdiction. Even though the threat of domestic terrorism is always in the back of our minds, the reality is that most major incidents involving flammable liquids happen during transit on state and local roads, interstate highways, and rail lines. Review of the accident investigation reports on the National Safety and Transportation Board web site, www.nts.gov, will confirm that no emergency service agency, large or small, rural or urban, is immune from the effects of a major hazardous materials incident.

To help fire suppression agencies cope with the daunting task of establishing and maintaining a foam application operation, Task Force Tips has created a special FOAM SOLUTION package that includes equipment to handle anything from the smallest spill up to 7500 sq. ft. of burning hydrocarbon fuels. This new package includes the proven PRO/pak foam injection and application system, TFT's unique new in-line foam eductor, and the reliable and accurate Master Foam self-educating nozzle. This injection equipment, when combined with TFT's low-pressure nozzles and multi-expansion foam attachments, offers simple operation, high application performance, and outstanding finished foam quality.

- Supplied by either a 1" or 1½" line and flowing up to 12 gpm of foam solution, the PRO/pak is ideal for vapor and fire suppression of hydrocarbon fuels up to 120 sq. ft. in size.
- The new Eductor Series, with TFT's exclusive AUTO-flush feature, is designed for suppression of hydrocarbon fuels from 600 sq. ft. up to 1250 sq. ft. in size, depending on your choice of 60, 95, or 125 gpm version.
- The Master Foam self-educating nozzles can deal with suppression of hydrocarbon fuels from 3500 sq. ft. up to 7500 sq. ft. in size, depending on your choice of the 350, 500, or 750 gpm version.

These application rates are based on the use of a U.L. listed AFFF foam concentrate on hydrocarbon fuels. For alcohol type fuels, application rates would reduce the area of coverage by 50 percent, and a U.L. listed AFFF-AR type foam should be used.

From the smallest spill to a major incident, the FOAM SOLUTION "package" provides simple, easy-to-use, foam injection and application equipment for a fraction of the cost of an on-board foam proportioning system. When combined with your U.L. Listed AFFF or AFFF-AR foam concentrate and any combination of TFT nozzles and multi-expansion foam attachments, it creates the perfect "systems" approach to foam applications. Add a little hands-on training with some inexpensive and environmentally friendly Class A or training foam, and you can quickly improve your department's capability to deal with both local hazards and potential terrorist targets.

For more information on this unique TFT package, refer to the Price and Specifications Book, Color Catalog #6 (Foam Application and Injection Equipment), or www.tft.com. For additional foam training materials, including the exclusive Spill Response Slide Chart, contact TFT customer service.

Monsoon HITS Minneapolis

**TFT's New Remote Control Monitor
Takes the City by Storm**



*Monsoon with
Stacked Tips*



*Monsoon RC with
Masterstream 2000*



Extend-A-Gun RC4

Now, when the tones go off and the emergency lights come on, the Minneapolis Fire Department will be responding with one of their new General Safety/Rosenbauer 2000 gpm custom pumpers equipped with the Task Force Tips Monsoon RC. Easily handling the engine's 2000 gpm capacity, the Monsoon remotely controlled monitors provide incredible water flow delivery, minimal friction loss, and unparalleled stream reach and quality.

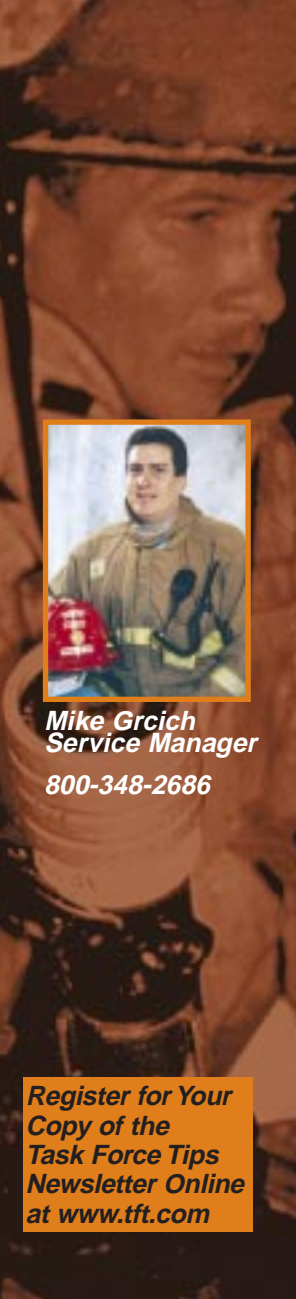
With the day of the firefighter operating a master stream device from the top of an apparatus coming to an end, the development of rugged and reliable remote control monitors and Extend-A-Guns has taken a high priority in TFT's engineering group. Whether it's issues of safety or lack of staffing, the use of a remote control appliance for either an aggressive initial attack, or a defensive operation gives the fire ground commander a powerful new tool in the fire suppression toolbox.

The Minneapolis/General Safety design extends a 4" waterway from the mid-ship pump to the rear driver's side of the engine where the Monsoon RC is mounted. Controls for the monitor are integrated into the pump panel and can be operated from the rear of the apparatus with a 30-foot tethered control box. Both locations provide an outstanding view of fire ground operations, and allow the operator to take full advantage of the incredible reach of the Monsoon RC's stream.

- *The Monsoon RC's unique waterway design eliminates performance-robbing friction loss and unwanted turbulence. From 300 gpm up to 2000 gpm, TFT's MasterStream 2000 automatic nozzle or the exclusive laser-engraved stacked tips provides industry-leading stream performance.*
- *Water-resistant electrical motors, wiring, and electronic controls are all designed for rugged year-round fireground operations without corrosion and failures due to moisture.*
- *Every installation offers the choice of either flush mounted, tethered, or TFT's exclusive radio frequency controls.*
- *The Monsoon RC also offers an exclusive user programmable oscillation function for use without operator intervention, as well as an automatic "stow" function when fire flow operations are completed.*

In Minneapolis, where fire flow performance is measured in gallons per minute delivered within the first moments of arrival at a fire scene, the new Monsoon remote controlled monitors offer a level of performance found NO WHERE ELSE. For maximum reach, incredible stream quality, firefighter safety, and rugged durability in all fireground conditions; the Monsoon series of manual and remote control monitors are the new industry leaders.

For additional information, contact TFT customer service and request Catalog #4 – Monitor Systems and MasterStream Nozzles – or visit www.tft.com and enter WEB KEY Code YRC for additional information.



Mike Grcich
 Service Manager
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Q:

I saw a news release that stated we could now buy a Handline Upgrade package for our older Handline nozzles? Where do we get these?

A:

Targeted at full-size 50-350 gpm TFT Handlines with a slide valve shut-off produced from 1985 through January 2004, this exclusive upgrade package is designed for easy installation in the field, and will bring an old nozzle up to current NFPA-compliant performance. The upgrade package will have complete instructions and the parts necessary to easily make the conversion – some basic tools will be required. Tip-Only versions of the older Handline series will not accept this upgrade. The package includes a new factory-tested front end (including a new style pressure control mechanism and labeling), as well as a new polymer color-coded shut-off

Dual-Force	95-250 gpm	100/55 psi operational pressures
Dual-Force	95-250 gpm	75/45 psi operational pressures
Handline	95-250 gpm	75 psi operational pressure
Handline	95-300 gpm	100 psi operational pressure

handle kit. Four models will be available and can be ordered through your local authorized TFT dealer.

After conversion, with a complete new front-end, pressure control mechanism, labeling, and a new color-coded shut-off handle, the nozzle will also receive an extended five-year warranty. The upgrade package will contain a “new” serial number, and when this number and the “old” serial number of the old nozzle front end are supplied to TFT Customer Service, the new warranty period will begin.



Q:

While visiting the TFT Web Site, I noticed something called Clearance Corner. What is it, and can our department buy directly from TFT?

A:

First, the Clearance Corner is a collection of new and factory-inspected used equipment that is for sale directly to Fire Departments at greatly reduced prices. Often these items come from our trade show inventory, our fleet of demonstration vehicles, or from fire training academies as they change equipment each year. Secondly, your department can access these products following this simple procedure:

- Request registration to the web site and follow the link back when you receive your registration e-mail.
- Click on Clearance Corner, and you will see a description, picture, and pricing of nozzles and equipment available. The offerings on Clearance Corner often change daily as items are sold or added.
- Payment can be handled either with a department purchase order or credit card.
- You will receive a confirmation of the transaction and shipping.



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