

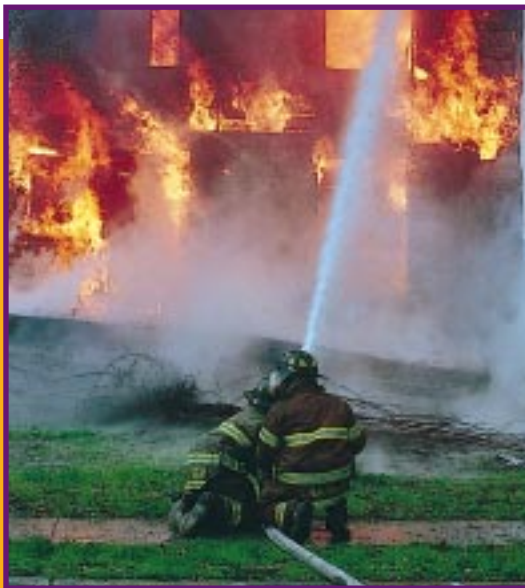
# TASK FORCE TIPS

A QUARTERLY PUBLICATION

SPRING 2001



## Innovative Solutions to Tough Firefighting Challenges



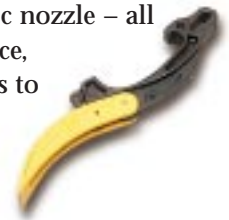
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**V**oted the #1 HOTTEST FIREFIGHTING TOOL this year, the Res-Q-Rench is a direct result of Task Force Tips’ innovative design and manufacturing capabilities. The ability to integrate multiple functions into a lightweight, inexpensive, and easily carried tool is what sets this TFT solution apart from all other competitors.

- **Stainless steel seat belt cutter**
- **Carbide tip window punch**
- **Simple pry-bar**
- **Spanner wrench for 1" through 5" hose couplings**
- **Oxygen cylinder shut-off**
- **Residential gas shut-off**

As with the Res-Q-Rench, TFT excels in multifunction product integration. The PROpak combines accurate foam injection with a choice of foam application nozzles as well as providing simplified operations. And now, TFT has introduced the Blitzfire, an integration of TFT’s unique Slide Valve shut-off, the patented SafeTak II safety shut-off valve, and our new MaxForce 500 gpm automatic nozzle – all designed to provide maximum performance, maximum safety, and Innovative Solutions to Tough Firefighting Challenges!



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# WELCOME



**A**rrggghhhhhh, not another newsletter!! “I don’t have time for another newsletter, magazine, or anything else that consumes my valuable time.” This thought must have crossed your mind while seeing this first issue of *Task Force Tips*. Everyone is inundated with demands on his or her time in these fast-paced times; my personal commitment to you is that we will not waste yours!

This newsletter is designed to provide timely and highly-accurate information on fire streams management issues. We are fire streams experts; every day of our professional career is spent “rubbing elbows” with fire service professionals like yourself. We want to help *YOU* by putting together the valuable information that this affords us in concise, accurate, and easy techniques you can use to improve your fire ground operations.

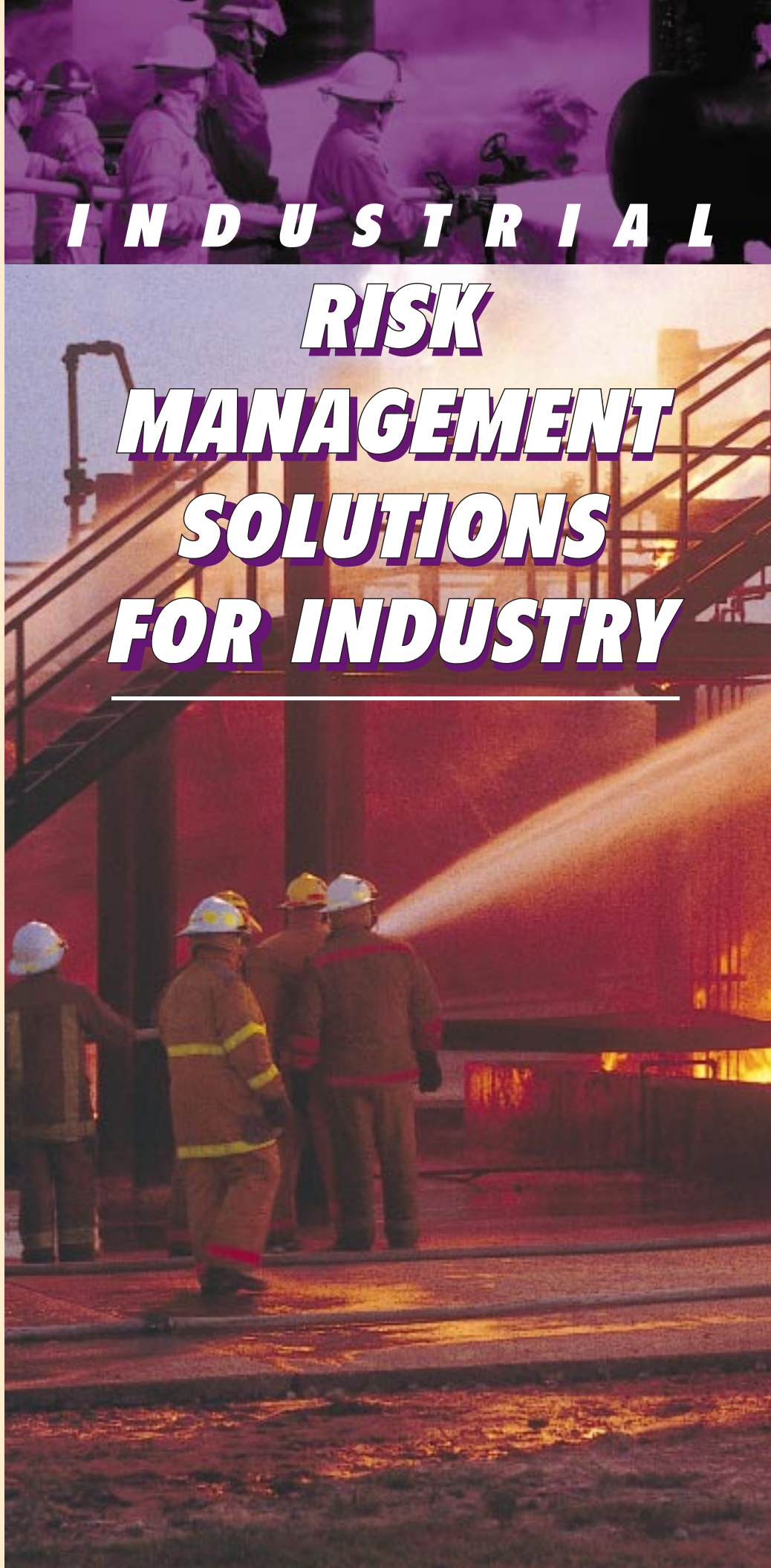
As fire suppression duties have become an ever-decreasing portion of our daily emergency responses, the need to provide timely fire streams management training has taken on added importance. From fire ground hydraulics issues to foam applications to the creation of high-rise bundles, an overwhelming need exists to cut through the mounds of individual opinion and editorial fluff. *Task Force Tips* will become a resource to help you separate fact from fantasy when it comes to fire stream topics.

If you would like your own personal copy of *Task Force Tips*, please register your mailing information on our WEB site, [www.tft.com](http://www.tft.com). Each quarter will bring you continuing information from the experts in fire streams management equipment design. Thanks for reading our newsletter and let me know if you have any suggestions for future issues. My commitment to you is that we will provide accurate, timely information. Please let me know if we are not meeting this commitment.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Stewart McMillan".

**Stewart McMillan**  
President



**I**nnovation in industrial fire suppression equipment has taken a new twist with the introduction of the TFT Protector station monitor and the patented MasterFoam self-educing foam nozzle. Designed for maximum performance and minimum maintenance, this fire pounding combination now protects some of the world's most hazardous high dollar petro-chemical processing units.

The Protector fixed station monitor integrates several of TFT's well-respected and time-tested component designs. Manufactured from either aluminum or brass alloys, the units are then ultrasonically cleaned, the aluminum is hard coat anodized, and then both are powder coated for ultimate protection from corrosion and ultraviolet light. Unique polycarbonate seals allow the units to require virtually no grease and only limited maintenance over the entire life of the monitor.

Task Force Tips, Inc. has integrated a 3" stainless steel ball shutoff directly into the rotational base of the Protector. This integration eliminates the need, weight, and cost of an additional valve in the final assembly and provides a visual indicator of the valve position. Even a fixed gallonage nozzle can be integrated in the monitor's outlet section,



eliminating the problems associated with removal of nozzles from active monitors. Rated at 1250 gpm maximum flow, the unique innovative features of this monitor provide maximum flow performance with minimal internal losses.

The MasterFoam nozzle is TFT's patented self-educing foam nozzle. Designed for maximum reach, outstanding stream quality, and foam injection accuracy, the MasterFoam even comes with an optional low-expansion foam attachment for increased foam aspiration. Offered in either 350, 500, or 750 gpm configurations, the MasterFoam can provide stream reach up to 190 feet. Injection rate selections – 0.5%, 1%, 3%, and 6% – come with every unit and the heavy-duty, rubber, foam pickup tube will handle years of UV rays without degradation.

If risk management and fire protection are a prime concern at your facility, and you are looking for maximum performance and reduced replacement and maintenance costs, consider the new Protector/MasterFoam package. Contact TFT's industrial products manager for additional information or a demonstration unit.

## U P C O M I N G S H O W S

### **Fire-Rescue East**

*Feb 2-3, 2001  
Jacksonville, FL  
Robert Brown, SE  
Regional Manager, and  
DEMO VI will be  
in attendance*

### **Fire Rescue West**

*Feb 3-8, 2001  
San Jose, CA  
Rod Carringer, Vice  
President of Sales and  
Marketing, will be  
teaching "Foam  
Operations for Dummies"*

### **ISU Winter School**

*Feb 17-18, 2001  
Ames, IA  
Dave Burns, North  
Central Regional  
Manager, and DEMO III  
will be participating in  
class presentations*

### **Fire Department Instructors Conference**

*Feb 26-Mar 4, 2001  
Indianapolis, IN  
TFT staff from around the  
country and corporate  
headquarters will be  
in attendance*

### **Wisconsin State Fire School**

*Mar 16-17, 2001  
Steven's Point, WI  
Andy Plofkin, Midwestern  
Regional Manager, and  
DEMO VII will be  
in attendance*

### **Duneland School of Emergency Response**

*Mar 31-Apr 1, 2001  
Chesterton, IN  
TFT corporate staff  
members will provide  
numerous classes*

### **Industrial Fire World**

*Apr 4-6, 2001  
Houston, TX  
Paul Neeley, TFT  
Industrial Product  
Manager, and  
Jerry Pilarski, Southern  
Regional Manager, and  
Demo IV and Demo V will  
be in attendance*

# Maximizing Your Fire “Kickin’ the Red Drag

**I**t isn't often that a new product comes to the fire suppression market with such immediate customer acceptance and excitement. The Blitzfire has captured tremendous attention among fire service professionals worldwide as a tool designed to solve most of the common fire stream management problems.

In many agencies, the current training and response emphasis has moved more toward providing emergency medical assistance. This effort and focus have left many of us ill equipped and ill trained to deal with the fire suppression challenges that face us every day.

The Blitzfire portable monitor fills the need of safely providing maximum flow with the limited manpower resources that face many departments.

*The Blitzfire can offer you some of the following benefits:*

- *An integrated slide valve, much like TFT's handline nozzles, will provide total nozzleman flow control. The operator can gate the stream during manned usage or allow the unit to be used as an unmanned device. Unlike a ball shut-off, the slide valve causes no stream turbulence when the flow is reduced and always produces a hard-hitting straight stream.*
- *With a rated flow of 500 gpm, the Blitzfire is ideally suited for pre-connected 2½" or 3" attack lines and can be deployed with only a limited number of firefighters.*
  - *50' of 2½" line + 138 psi pump pressure=500 gpm from the Blitzfire.*
  - *150' of 3" line + 132 psi pump pressure=500 gpm from the Blitzfire.*

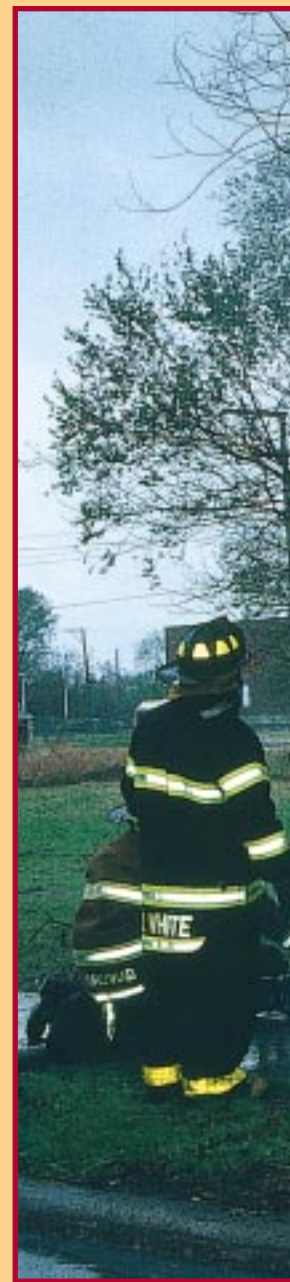
- *Blitzfire provides a low (10 degrees above the ground) attack angle giving the operator the ability to “go in the front door” safely with a high fire flow. The 20 degree side to side (40 degrees total) and up to 50 degree elevation angle gives maximum maneuverability for rapid fire knockdown.*
- *As firefighter safety is a number ONE priority, the SafeTak II shut-off valve helps prevent the potential safety issues of an unstable or uncontrollable flowing monitor. The patented SafeTak II safety shut-off provides a margin of operator safety NOT FOUND in ANY OTHER monitor manufactured today.*
- *When mounted in the supplied mounting bracket, the Blitzfire can be pre-connected on the rear tailboard and easily deployed by a single firefighter for rapid initial attack.*
- *The Max-Force Dual Pressure 500 gpm automatic nozzle will provide maximum reach and penetration in the 100 psi operational mode or, with the flip of the switch, can provide maximum flow in the low-pressure setting.*

Since most successful fire attacks involve providing a needed fire flow to the seat of the fire, having a tool that can do this safely and effectively with limited personnel solves most of our fire stream challenges. That's why there is so much excitement surrounding the release of the Blitzfire.

*Contact TFT for any of the following technical and training information:*

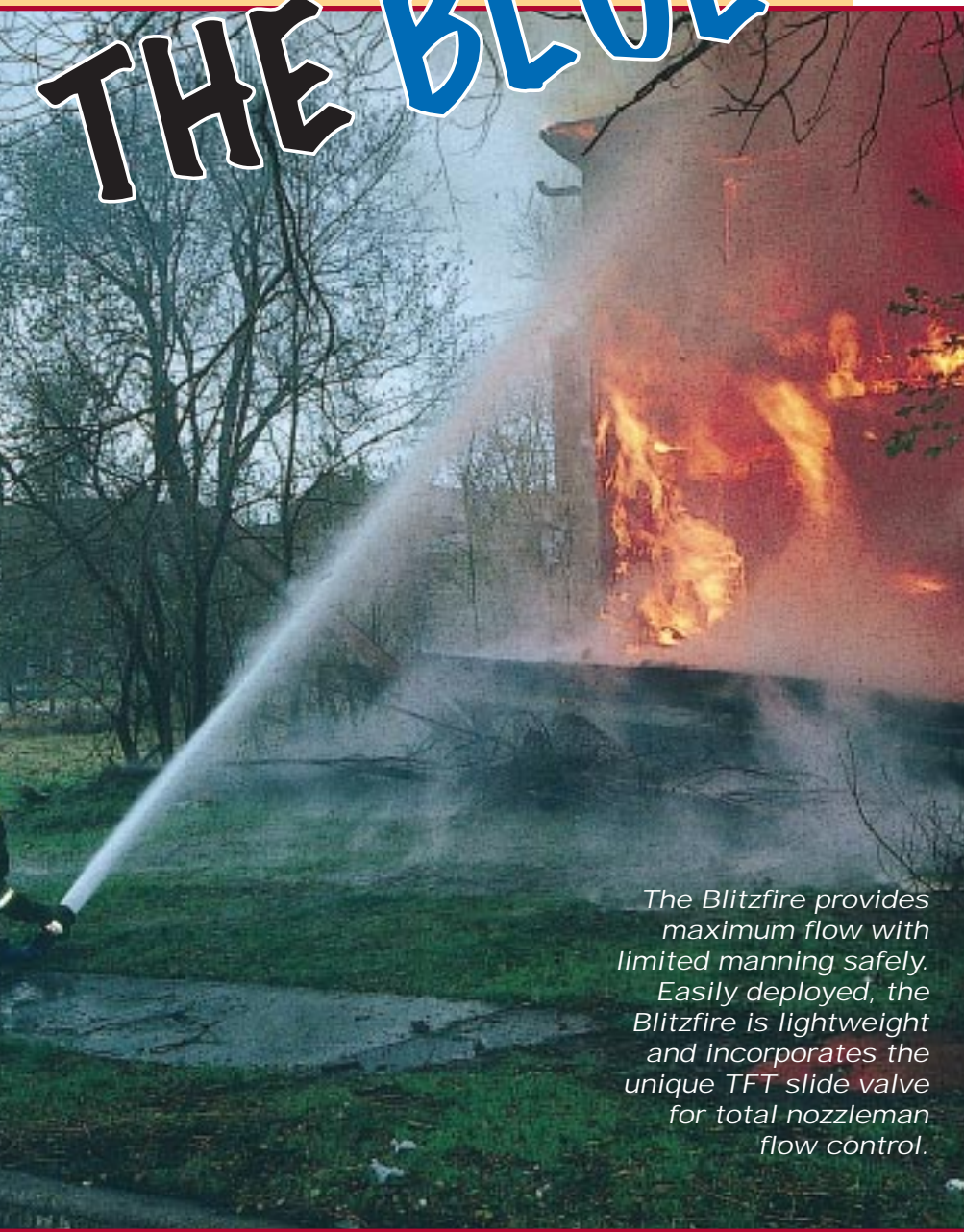
- *Blitzfire Product Video*
- *Blitzfire six-page Color Brochure*
- *Blitzfire Operations Manual*

[www.tft.com/products/blitzfire/](http://www.tft.com/products/blitzfire/)



# Attack – or on’s Butt”

## THE BLUE ONE



*The Blitzfire provides maximum flow with limited manning safely. Easily deployed, the Blitzfire is lightweight and incorporates the unique TFT slide valve for total nozzleman flow control.*



# Class A Foam Operations Offer Unique SOLUTIONS!

*This TFT nozzle is equipped with a multi-expansion foam attachment. Offering maximum reach and penetration or maximum foam expansion, these attachments are a perfect choice for the use of Class A foam on auto fires.*

VISIT US ON THE WEB AT  
[www.tft.com](http://www.tft.com)

**A** recent report from the *Fire Apparatus Manufacturer's Association* indicated that 34% of all new Pumpers and Rescue Pumpers delivered in the last reporting period had either a Class A manual, Class A automatic, or a combination Class A&B automatic foam injection system installed on the truck when delivered from the manufacturer. Also noted, was that 5% of those same apparatus had CAFS (compressed air foam systems) installed at the time of delivery. The reports also indicate that the growth of Class A foam systems on trucks continues to increase. Why?

Though considered a wildland firefighting tool for many years, it was normally relegated to structural pretreatment in advance of running fires, or for use in mop-up operations, or as a water enhancement in aerial operations. Today, Class A foam applications have emerged as another tool in our firefighting arsenal to make our jobs safer and more productive.

***Here are just a few of the positive benefits fire suppression agencies find when working with Class A foam.***

**1** ***At 0.1% to 0.3% mix rate, Class A foam concentrate will greatly reduce the surface tension of water allowing it to film and soak into fuels more quickly. During initial structural attack, instead of water beading up and running off of the hot fuels, the foam solution films and sticks, allowing for more complete cooling and extinguishment.***

**2** ***At 0.5% to a 1% mix rate, a thick foam blanket can be applied to a structure to insulate the fuels underneath and reflect a large portion of the radiant heat from a nearby fire. This makes a Class A foam blanket a highly effective tool for exposure protection. Often, one thick foam application can take the place of hours of water application, saving many gallons of water.***



**3** ***In mix ratios as low as 0.1%, Class A foam will also have a positive impact on reducing the friction loss in hoselines. Since a Class A foam solution reduces the surface tension of water, it also allows water to more efficiently be moved through our hand-held hoselines. This benefit will provide increased flows of a more effective solution at the same engine pressure.***

TFT offers over 16 different varieties of foam nozzles and attachments to meet every Class A foam operational need. The PROpak is also our self contained Class A foam injection and application system, and with nearly 10,000 units delivered in over 5 languages, is the industry standard of rapid Class A foam application.

***Task Force Tips, Inc. offers the following tools to help your department better understand this valuable firefighting tool.***

- ***Class A Foam Workbook***
- ***TFT Foam and Flow Slide Chart***
- ***Guide to Nozzles***
- ***NFPA# 1145 – Guide for the Use of Class A Foams in Manual Structural Fire Fighting***

# NEW PRODUCTS

**T**hough NFPA standards are an important component of protective clothing specifications or a fire apparatus bid, the same level of interest in standards is rarely shown during the specification of fire fighting nozzles. As a nozzle manufacturer, the NFPA Standard #1964 (1998 edition), is our industry's accepted minimum standard.

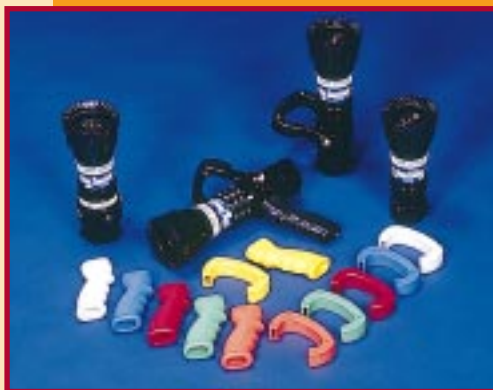
Few fire departments have the ability or human resources to keep up with all of the pending and accepted standards that govern our profession, yet the NFPA #1964 Standard is one that has a great effect on the design and operation of currently manufactured TFT nozzles. When used as a tool, this document can provide any fire suppression agency with basic operational information and certification that the selected equipment has been manufactured and tested to criteria outlined in the standard.

## Key Elements of the NFPA Standard #1964 (1998 edition):

- **Previous editions of this document based all nozzle performance on 100 psi base nozzle pressure. Fixed or selectable gallonage nozzles were allowed to flow at their rated 100 psi pressure, up to 10% over the stated flow. For automatic nozzles, the base nozzle pressure was allowed to vary from 85 psi up to 115 psi throughout its stated flow range. In both of these instances, NO changes have taken place in the newest edition of the standard. The big change comes in the fact that 100 psi is no longer the only recognized standard base nozzle pressure. In the new edition, any nozzle pressure is acceptable as long as the previously stated flow and pressure criteria are met. This major change now allows low pressure and dual pressure nozzles to be acceptable under the new standard.**
- **To be truly compliant with all aspects of the standard and to provide certification, a nozzle manufacturer must offer complete testing documentation. This documentation should cover all aspects of the standard, including environmental tests for UV resistance, corrosion/salt spray, freezing and heating, and operational tests such as rotational torque values of fog patterns and shut-off handles, drop tests on charged and uncharged hose lines, and flow and shut-off criteria. Without this documentation made publicly available, the nozzles cannot meet the standard.**



TFT's broad line of fixed and selectable gallonage nozzles, which offer colored pistol grips, stainless steel spinning teeth, and a stainless steel ball shut-off, can be configured for break and extend operations.



TFT's newest MIDMATIC automatic nozzles can be specified in either 100 psi or 75 psi operational pressure and include the unique slide valve for total nozzleman flow control.



Dual Pressure Mid-Force nozzles offer a user selectable operating pressure of 100 psi for maximum reach and penetration or low pressure mode for maximum flow.

Task Force Tips, Inc. is proud to offer over 80 models and combinations of nozzles that meet and exceed the criteria set forth in NFPA #1964 Standard on Spray Nozzles (1998 edition). All of our test criteria, documentation and certifications can be found on our WEB site at [www.tft.com](http://www.tft.com)



**Mike Grcich**  
Service Manager

H-LUBE-KIT is a complete kit for maintaining your nozzles. It includes an instructional video, BREAK-FREE lubricant, basic tools, and service and maintenance posters.

Cost \$37.44



**Q:**

**Can an individual fire department send in a TFT or KK nozzle for repair directly, or does it have to be sent in by an authorized dealer?**

**A:**

All TFT and KK products can be sent in directly to Task Force Tips, Inc.. Our normal service policy is less than 24 hours, so many departments find this is the quickest way to obtain service on TFT products. When sending nozzles back, you MUST supply the following information: 1) Description of the problem (if known), 2) A return address, 3) A contact name, 4) A DAYTIME phone number. Nozzles should be shipped to Attn: Service Department, Task Force Tips, Inc., 2800 E. Evans Avenue, Valparaiso, IN 46383-6940.

**Q:**

**Can I do my own maintenance and repairs on TFT nozzles?**

**A:**

Repair parts and service procedures are available for those wishing to perform their own repairs. All Task Force Tip nozzles are factory lubricated with high quality silicone grease. This lubricant has excellent washout resistance and long-term performance. If your department has unusually hard or sandy water, the moving parts may be affected. Foam agents and water additives contain soaps and chemicals that may break down the factory lubrication. The moving parts of the nozzle should be checked on a regular basis for smooth and free operation. All nozzle maintenance and operational manuals are available by contacting Customer Service at (219) 462-6161 or going on-line to [www.tft.com](http://www.tft.com)

*If the nozzle is operating correctly, then no additional lubrication is needed.*



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