

Fire Hose Threads

After the major disaster of the recent Hurricane Katrina it's nice to know that we have finally standardized fire hose so no matter where the fire truck is from they can all hook up and work together. Well it would be nice to think that anyway.

In 1932 Congress passed laws to standardize the use of 2.5 fire hose so that in times of emergency mutual aid calls all departments could hook up to each other and all work together. 2.5 fire hose shall be 2.925 major diameter and 7.5 threads per inch.

For example Richmond, Virginia uses 8 threads per inch while nearby Petersburg, Virginia uses 7 threads per inch, others in Virginia use standard 7.5 threads per inch.

Today Fire Departments across the United States use forty six versions of 2.5 fire hose. The threads per inch or the pitch varies from five threads per inch to eleven threads per inch. The outside diameter or the major diameter varies from 2.925 to 3.325.

This is why if you buy an old rig from a "bastard" department you may also want to get some fire hose from them. One thing for sure without an adaptor you won't be able to hook up to your buddies rig and pump.

Needless to say we would really have a mess if we had several major disasters at the same time. Maybe it time to really take a look at this and change to the standard thread. The cost of change may be a lot cheaper than the cost of failure at a disaster.

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