

The Compact Load

The Hose Handler has been designed to be extremely versatile in regard to how it can be loaded and used. One of the challenges that some departments have faced while trying to incorporate all of the advantages of the pack into their operations is fitting it into existing compartment space. Fortunately, the Hose Handler is entirely capable of meeting these challenges.

Here I will describe the “*Compact Load*”. Most departments are able to use the packs immediately with no modifications since the pack has been designed to integrate with the configuration of most modern fire apparatus. The most common problem that departments have faced however is getting the packs to fit due to overall height. When the Hose Handler is loaded in the normal configuration with the nozzle on the top of the hose, the pack represents a compact streamlined cross section. However, for departments that choose to use nozzles with pistol grips (like mine) the pistol grip handle needs to point upward. This adds several inches to the over-all height of the pack. In some cases this has resulted in a tight vertical fit for existing transverse or hose bed compartments. This challenge can be easily overcome with a slight modification to the standard loading of the hose in the pack.



Above is a photo of the hose configuration for the standard method.

You can see in the photo that three flakes of the hose have been left short to fill the gap created by the nozzle bail. This configuration results in a tight compact hose pack. If, however, you need to lower the profile of the pack for compartmentation, we recommend loading it in the style depicted in the picture below.



As can be seen in this picture, all of the flakes, with the exception of the first two, have been left short to allow the nozzle to sit down into a pocket. This should gain anywhere from two to five inches of extra vertical clearance. Loading the pack in this way may result in the overall height of the hose and nozzle under the front strap to be lower than the height of the wings. If this is the case, you will have to decide if you want to:

1. Tighten the front strap down only to the point where it is even with the top of the wings. This may leave a little “play” in the flakes of hose, nozzle and gated wye. However, since the all of these components will be protected inside the wings, it should not be a problem as long as the second strap (the next one back from the wings) is tightened very firmly. The rear two straps (last strap for 6’

models) should still be left slightly loose (enough to fit your fingers under).

2. Stack enough flakes of hose under the nozzle to bring it up high enough so that the body of the nozzle is slightly above the edges of the wings. This configuration will slightly increase the vertical profile but will also allow you to tighten the front strap firmly to keep the nozzle and wye tightly in place.

I hope this article has been helpful to you. If you have any additional concerns or comments, please contact us and we will do our best to resolve any issues.

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