

The Hybrid Load

The hybrid load is an exciting new method of using the “Hose Handler” to provide even more functionality for your engine or truck.

The pre-connected lines on most engines consist of a pair of 1 ¾” lines that are pre-connected to discharge outlets either in the transverse hose compartment or out of the back of the hose bed. These lines, known as pre-connects or strike lines, may be anywhere from 150’ in length up to 400’ depending on the department’s needs. They are most commonly made up of 1 ¾” hose but may be 1 ½”, 2” or 2 ½” or in rare cases two sizes combined in the same load.

Regardless, the purpose of these lines is to provide a quick attack load that may be pulled and charged rapidly. The hybrid load developed by us uses the Hose Handler pack to consolidate the top 100’ of the hose load into an easy-to-deploy and versatile package. To accomplish this the Hose handler needs to be loaded with one minor modification; the female coupling (normally placed at the very front of the pack) will need to be placed at the rear of the pack extending about 8” past the small rear handle with the opening facing rearward. This picture shows how that load would look:



The rest of the pack is then loaded by the normal method. To make up the pre-connect hybrid load, simply load the hose bed as you normally would minus the last 100' of hose. Then the prepared Hose Handler pack sits directly on top of the previously loaded hose and the female coupling at the back of the hose pack connects to the male coupling at the top of the hose load as seen in this picture (picture shown outside the hose bed for clarity):



This configuration provides several advantages:

1. The entire load is easier to pull out of the bed due to the large strap handle provided on the front of the Hose Handler.
2. When pulling the load and advancing it to a fire building, you can easily carry the hose pack over your shoulder right to the door. Once there, the pack can be dropped and unclipped providing 100' of hose that is automatically flaked out and ready to charge. When charged, the hose is then much easier to pull into the fire building because most of it is neatly arranged right at the door.
3. In situations where you do not need the entire length of hose in the pre-connect (like vehicle fires on the freeway), the hybrid load allows you to easily pull just 100' of hose, disconnect it from the rest of the pre-connect, and then connect and charge from the pump panel. We especially like this use of the pack to avoid the having 200' or more of hose lying in the dirt on the side of the freeway in heavy traffic.

4. If you are carrying the Hose handler already as a high-rise pack or hotel bundle, then having two more on the pre-connects gives you extra flexibility at a true high-rise or hotel incident where extra hose lengths are going to be a must on the fire floor. With four Hose Handlers each engine could deploy 400' of hose that is packed up and easily carried to the fire floor either over the shoulder or over the pack.
5. For departments that like to load 300 or 400 feet of hose into their pre-connects, two or even three Hose Handlers can be stacked on top of each other interconnected. This gives the company officer a wide range of choices in which length of hose to deploy. Since each length is connected at the same place (right at the rear of the pack) there is no hassle in finding and disconnecting where you want the break to be.
6. Spare, pre-loaded hose packs can be kept at the station so that when the call is over the engine can be placed back into service in a matter of minutes.

I hope the hybrid pre-connect load is something that your department can benefit from. We make the Hose Handler in several sizes to fit perfectly on your engine and with your hose. If you need any assistance or would like to order Hose Handlers for your department, please contact me at (916) 276-2470 or order directly off the web at greateralarmfire.com.

Sincerely,

Tim O'Brien