

5.2 FIRE HOSE REEL SYSTEM

BCA: E1.4
Reference: AS 2441

PURPOSE

Fire hose reels are provided to enable occupants to undertake initial fire extinguishment.

REQUIREMENTS OF THE EQUIPMENT

Fire hose reel systems must:-

- Provide sufficient hose reel length to enable every part of the floor or storey on which it is installed to be reached by laying the hose along normal lines of access throughout that floor; and
- Be provided with a water supply rate of at least 0.33 litres/second for 19 mm hose (AS 2441).
- Be provided with a water supply rate of at least 0.41 litres/second for 25 mm hose (AS 2441).

METHOD OF OPERATION

The occupants of the premises should be able to operate the system:-

- By locating any fire hose reel within the building.
- By following the operating instructions displayed on the fire hose reel.

It is essential that all staff personnel on the premises are trained in the safe and efficient operation of fire hose reels

MAINTENANCE CHECKS

It is recommended that the relevant building surveyor should require that fire hose reels be maintained at six-monthly intervals to AS 1851-2005 Section 14.

Note: Where a pump set is installed to supply the required water pressure to the fire hose reel system, the frequency of inspection and testing shall be carried out weekly as per the requirements of AS 1851- 2005 Section 3.

Maintenance work involving inspections, testing and servicing, has been specified by AS 1851-2005 at the following frequencies:-

- Six-monthly
- Yearly
- When defects are detected

The maintenance and inspection may be carried out by the owner. The owner may delegate this function to another person or body where necessary or appropriate.

It is essential that the hose is rewound in even layers, the nozzle re-engaged correctly in the interlock, the valve shut off, and the hose de-pressurised by opening the discharge nozzle. Close the nozzle when de-pressurised.

Any defects found should be reported to management and the necessary repairs or replacement carried out as soon as possible, to ensure the equipment is ready for use if needed. In addition, a label showing the date of service and a description of the fault should be attached to the side plate of the faulty fire hose reel.

Whenever the system is disabled for maintenance or modifications, special precautions should be implemented as detailed in AS 1851-2005 Section 1 Clause 1.14.

MAINTENANCE RECORDS

A log book, showing the location and identifying marks or numbers for each fire hose reel on the premises, must be established. In addition, AS 1851-2005 Section 4 requires each hydrant to have a tag attached to it, showing the dates on which the six-monthly, yearly and five-yearly procedures were carried out.

The following information must be recorded:-

- a) The date of each inspection carried out; and
- b) Any defects found; and
- c) On the tag attached to each fire hose reel, the date of each inspection.

It is recommended that log sheets to record the completion of the maintenance are developed from the tables for fire hose reel system as specified in AS 1851-2005 Section 4.