

## THE FAUX STRETCH

A drill by Christopher Huston

What if you could take a drive in the district, stop a building and say “Guys, we are on the scene of a garage fire on the Charlie side of this structure, stretch some lines and show me what you would do!”

To perform some hands on scenarios in the streets all you need is a few rope bags and some imagination. To get started, match your rope bags to your pre-connects. For example Engine 22 has 2 speed lays of 200 feet and a rear discharge of 250 2.5 inch. We will need 650 feet of rope in 3 bags, matching those specifications.

To start, tie a barrel knot on one end of the hose, this will be the nozzle end (or use a nozzle). Next, measure the



rope at the first 50 foot mark and tie a butterfly knot. You will want to do this at every 50 foot mark. The reason why comes later. At the other end of the rope tie a figure 8 on a bight and clip a carabiner to it.

Do this for every rope bag that will mimic your pre-connects. The butterfly knots are couplings, which will serve to hook up a carabiner if the line is needed to be shortened.

To run this drill the Firefighter will choose the bag that



matched the line they would stretch. The end of the bag with the carabiner and figure 8 on a bight is attached to the engines discharge (cap chain would work or another anchor point). The rope is stretched just as you would stretch the line. If the line is too long, simply find the butterfly knot and using a carabiner attach it to the discharge. If the line is too short and needs to be extended, grab another bag and add “lengths” as needed using carabiner to connect the butterfly “couplings.”



Critique the drill. What went right, what could be better.

You can also do this evolution for supply lines. Using the rope bags the driver can estimate “making the hydrant” and laying in. Of course laying in should be when it is 200 feet or less.

Two main objectives occur with this drill.

- 1) Firefighters get practice stretching and estimating stretches.
- 2) Officers can see average hose lengths needed in any given neighborhood or area.