



Fire Training Toolbox "Free Training for Firefighters"

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## Engine Company Operations: The 2 ½ and YOU

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Far too often firefighters discount the 2 ½-inch hand-line with our current staffing levels. The simple fact is that leaving this tool on the Engine could hinder fire ground efforts in extinguishing advanced fires, or fires in specific occupancy types. The ADULTS acronym is the guideline on when to utilize the 2 ½ let us review it:

- **A:** Advanced Fire on Arrival
- **D:** Defensive Fire Operations
- **U:** Unknown Location and Extent of Fire
- **L:** Large Uncompartmented Area
- **T:** Tons of Water Needed
- **S:** Standpipe Operations

Simply put staffing plays no part in the determination of when to use the 2 ½. In fact, our staffing level dictates that we must be aggressive with our hand-line choices as we do not have the personnel to make up for tactical mistakes. For example if a fire occurs in a fire department that staffs 4-5 firefighters on an engine company if they choose an inappropriate hand-line to attack the fire they have the staffing to correct this mistake by pulling additional hand-lines. Our staffing level dictates that we must make the right decision the first time as rapidly deploying additional hand-lines may be hindered due to staffing, and filling various critical fire-ground functions with our first alarm compliment.

Now you know when and why to use here is the how.

1. **Webbing is your friend:** Every member on the hose-line should secure a piece of webbing to the line. This will allow you to use your legs to advance the line.
2. **Utilize Stream Reach:** The reach you get with the 2 ½ (tipped properly with our 50 psi smoother bore nozzle) Will give you a tremendous reach advantage. Use this reach to make an impact on the fire long before you reach the seat of the fire. This allows you to make an easier stretch to the fire area.





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3. 3. Ground Contact: When opening the line keep as much hose as possible in contact with the ground. This allows a lot of the nozzle pressure to be absorbed by the ground and not you.
4. Communication: Talking, and communicating with your crew is necessary. Use this communication to make coordinated movements so that no energy is wasted, and no effort is repeated.
5. Training: You are already on the right track by reading The Training Toolbox now get out of the "Blue Chair" and pull this line off. If the technique provided does not work for you then figure out a way to make it work.

The 2 ½ is a vital tool in today's fire service but it does us no good when it is collecting dust on the Engine. Make no mistake it is not the line for every fire, and it is very tough to do with limited staffing. However, it CAN be done with our current staffing compliment and should be deployed when the fire dictates it.

***DON'T LET YOUR FIRE GROUND SLOW YOU DOWN!***