

Test Your Knowledge

PROMOTIONAL SCENARIOS FOR THE COMPANY OFFICERS

Engine Co. Ops: 1-3/4" Hoselines

Being able to “call the stretch” is the responsibility of the engine company officer. This concept requires the officer to direct his/her firefighters using the following steps:

- **The Lengths** – Advise your members of how many lengths you want stretched. When identifying a number, be mindful of property setbacks, long vestibules, as well as the floor and location you need to get the hoseline too.
- **The Diameter** – Advise your members of what size hoseline you want stretched. As a general rule, most departments use 1-3/4" hoselines for residential building fires and 2-1/2" hoselines for commercial building fires.
- **The Placement** - Tell your company where you want the hose line to go. (i.e. “interior stair”, “alley between the fire building and exp, B”, etc.)
- **The Hoselines objective** – Inform your company of your hoseline objective(s) (example: “back up Engine 1”, “protect the B exposure”, “to floor above for fire extension”, etc.)



Read the test question below and provide your answers in the workspace. The answer key can be found on page two.

Test Question:

As a Company Officer in charge of Engine Co.1, you order your firefighters to stretch a 2-1/2 “ hose line to the building utilizing the “*Calling the Stretch*” concept. What are the reasons for ordering a 2-1/2” hose line in situation pictured?

Workspace:

Engine Company Operations — 1-3/4” Hoselines; Answer Key

This size hoseline is primarily used for residential building fires. Fires that involve room and contents within a private dwelling or a multiple dwelling will generally require the use of the 1-3/4 inch hoselines. But stating, or just using that rationale is not enough. In a promotional exam, assessors will often want the candidate to justify or clarify their actions. Specifically, why did you choose this size hoselines?

As a guide, consider using the following acronym: **COLS**

- **C**ompartmentalized areas/rooms generally associated with a private or multiple dwelling. (*Large square footage homes may alter this thought*)
- **O**ccupant life hazard and the need to get water on the fire ASAP.
- Low to Moderate Fire **L**oad generally associated with residential structures.
- **S**peed and **M**obility associated with the stretch of that particular size hoselines.



Michael Terpak is a 35 year veteran of the fire service and a Deputy Chief with the Jersey City Fire Department. Terpak travels extensively around the country lecturing on fire related topics. He is the founder of Promotional Prep, a NJ based consulting firm designed to prepare firefighters and officers for promotional exams. He is the author of three bestselling books including *Fireground Operational Guides* (with DC Frank Viscuso, PennWell 2011). The book features a universal tactical worksheet for structure fires and operational guides for over 70 incidents that range from water, gas and electrical emergencies to multiple-alarm structure fires. (available at FireOpsOnline.com)