

SCFA – Training Bulletin 23-11

Considerations for Nozzle Selection

SMOOTH BORE NOZZLE

Pros: Operate at low nozzle pressures (50 PSI), less prone to clogging, solid stream punches through high heat with less air movement to disturb thermal layering, a course stream when nozzle is partially open can provide some hydraulic ventilation

Cons: Lower pressures may allow hoseline to kink, no option for varied stream patterns

FOG / COMBINATION NOZZLES: Fixed pressure (automatic), fixed gallonage, selectable gallonage

Pros: Provides adjustable discharge patterns from straight stream to wide fog, various flow rates, wide fog pattern can provide protection for FFs, can be used for foam application, hydraulic ventilation and dispersing vapors, broken stream is preferred when fighting fire involving energized equipment

Cons: Debris can clog nozzle, higher nozzle pressure required (100 PSI), broken stream moves more air causing mixing of thermal layers and increasing steam production

BROKEN-STREAM TYPE: Piercing nozzle, Cellar nozzle (Bresnan or Rockwood)

Effective for water application in concealed spaces, attics, cocklofts, and cellars/basements. Allows water application through a small opening limiting flow path possibility



Fire Department Actions

- Perform a 360 degree sizeup: Location of fire? Volume of fire? Building features?
- Select size of handline and nozzle type based on conditions encountered and tactics to be used
- Is nozzle pressure a consideration? Reaction force? Standpipe?
- Getting water on the fire as quickly as possible is the goal

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