



Montgomery County Fire and Rescue Fleet Operations

It is that time of the year when we all need to think of potential apparatus failures during extreme cold weather and what we can do to prevent as many failures as possible. Low temperatures and wind can bring down pump temps to freezing and below. Please review and pass along with all staff as a reminder of what can happen in cold weather. Below the picture are guidelines to follow including storage of engines, tankers, and brush trucks when bringing units to CMF after hours in cold weather.

Here is a picture after a short time in the weather. Think about where the water may be exposed and either drain it fully (which is difficult) or keep it moving. The gauges on the pump panels are connected with small lines and will freeze up lines and break gauges much faster than the larger discharge in the pictures below.



Please share within your respective organizations:

The following are reminders for apparatus operations during extremely cold weather. If you have any questions, contact Bob Smith at CMF.

Please follow the guidance below from CMF about treating our apparatus in extreme cold weather:

- Leave all apparatus parked inside unless going to or returning from an incident
- Leave the pump wet unless **all** of the water can be removed (blown out) which is very difficult
- If the pump is dry, close the drains and valves prior to leaving the station (so these do not freeze in the open position)
- Place the engine into pump gear while the engine is sitting on the scene of every incident
- Place the pump into pump gear every time the engine returns to the station to confirm that the pump is operational
- Keep charged hose lines cracked open to keep water flowing after the line has been taken out of use
- Check for ice build-up on all discharges between the valve and the cap
- Ensure all aerial waterways are fully drained and leave drains and valves open
- Drain all air tanks to release moisture

- There has to be a balance between the need to wash off road treatment chemicals while not having the door seals freeze. If you wash the doors, wipe down the door seals.
- If you need to drop off an engine, tanker, or brush truck after hours from November through March (or any time outside temps are below 32 degrees): **Park these units in the apparatus storage bay.** If there is no room indoors, contact the DOC to on-call CMF Technician to assist.
- If you are having a unit towed to CMF, have the DOC/Battalion Chief notify the on-call Technician to arrange indoor storage.