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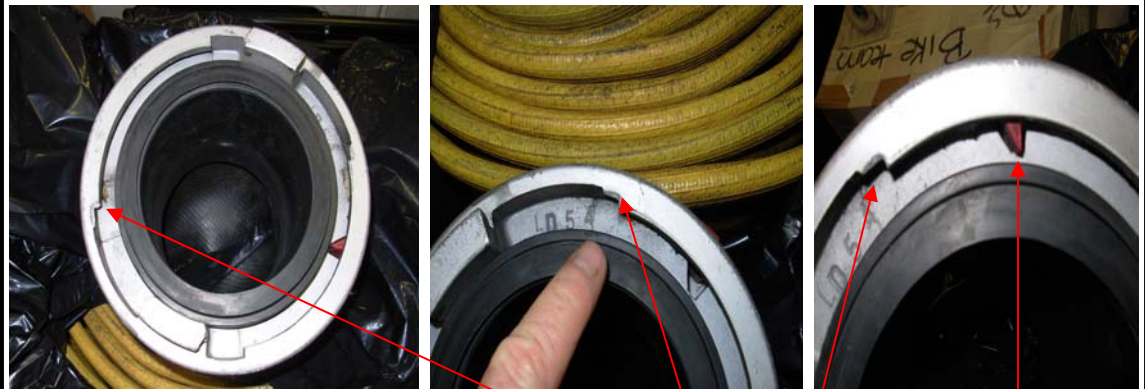
BROWARD SHERIFF'S OFFICE DEPARTMENT OF FIRE RESCUE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES



SAFETY BULLETIN EQUIPMENT FAILURE INVOLVING PONY LINE COUPLING

SB 10-01

SAFETY BULLETIN



Point of failure of quarter
turn guides of coupling

No Damage
to Lock

Incident and Investigative Findings:

On April 21, 2010 the crew from engine 14 was completing their morning apparatus checkout and during this time a training drill was conducted which included an operation involving a transfer from tank water supply to hydrant supply through the engine's pony line connection. The gaskets for the jaffery and the pony line were checked and the hose was connected by hand to the jaffery, no spanners were used. When connected, the driver engineer heard a click then shook the hose to determine it was secured to the jaffery. After approximately 15 minutes of pumping under hydrant pressure, the driver engineer noticed a small stream of water coming from the jaffery to pony line coupling connection, then the jaffery coupling connection abruptly separated and both gaskets dislodged during the separation.

During the equipment failure investigation, the pony hose coupling was inspected and no damage was noted to the locks. The quarter turn guides were evaluated and found to have damage that would be consistent with the hose forcefully disconnecting under pressure. This damage was noted to the end of the guide. It was determined that the abrupt separation of the pony line from the jaffery occurred due to the coupling not seating in the locks properly.

Prevention and Safety Recommendations:

Fire rescue apparatus employing a jaffery valve connection should have the jaffery valve connection installed on the opposite side of the pump operator's panel, which location will provide a safe separation of the driver from the pressurized hose.

Training on water supply and hose line operations should be provided, including the proper routine checkout of the related water supply hose and coupling equipment (i.e. gaskets, coupling locks, hose condition).

It is important for the safety of the Driver Engineer that hose line connections to the jaffery valve are made with provided spanners, and that verification is made that the coupling locks are secured in the closed position prior to transferring from tank water to hydrant supply.

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