



Keeping Apparatus Equipment Secured

Over the years, we have added new equipment to our apparatus to make us more effective as firefighters. We have more buckets of foam, more hose cross-lays and a virtual emergency room stored on our apparatus.



As equipment needs have increased, storage space has remained relatively static. Almost every item has accidentally found its way onto the roadway at some point. Our citizens dutifully return equipment to the stations with tales of compartment doors swinging open unexpectedly and of tools bouncing off of a bumper or step. Hose loads have a habit of exiting the engines at inopportune moments.

A pre-connected hose fell from the hose bed of a fire engine while responding to a fire in Pennsylvania. The loose nozzle acted as a whip as the engine traveled down the street and struck and killed a nine year old girl.

Recognizing that each apparatus is different and carries equipment in varying configurations, TFACA training and safety recommends the following actions:

- Contact the Central Shop if you need straps, cords, webbing, brackets or other items to secure equipment for routine storage.
- Check compartment latches and rollup doors frequently - especially after station tours and before departing an emergency scene.
- Similarly, check bumpers, steps, and top-side storage areas to make sure all equipment is firmly in place.
- Do a 360° walk-around the apparatus before departing an emergency scene.
- At greater alarm fires, consider having large quantities of rolled hose transported to the station by one of the support vehicles on scene.
- Consider carrying smaller quantities of rolled hose in a hose bed if it cannot be properly secured.
- Make sure the hose bed cover is properly secured and in good condition.
- Equipment, other than that on the standard equipment list should not be added to the vehicles without authorization.

MOST IMPORTANT: Be sure YOU are protected by a seatbelt while the apparatus is moving!