U.S. Fire Administration / National Fire Academy

Coffee Break Training

Topic: Aircraft Fueling Hose Inspections

Learning objective: *The student shall be able to explain the fire code requirements for inspecting aircraft fueling hoses for potential problems.*

Modern airports are busy places. Aircraft of all sizes, luggage tugs, food service vehicles, security and fire apparatus, utility trucks, and fuel servicing equipment are constantly on the move around the terminals.

Fueling apparatus like the one pictured here are special hazards for the operator, who must take steps to ensure that the chances of an aircraft fuel spill are minimal. Because the fueling hoses often get dragged across pavement or asphalt, they must be inspected regularly to identify and correct leaks.

Hoses should be inspected each day before they are used. They must be extended from the rack or reel "as it normally would be for fueling" and checked for evidence of blistering, carcass saturation or separation, cuts, nicks, or abrasions that might expose reinforcing material and for slippage, misalignment, or leaks at couplings.

Once each month, the hose should be fully extended from the vehicle and given a thorough inspection as described above. The hose strength within 12 inches of the couplings should be checked by pressing the hose circumference to reveal soft spots.

Nozzle screens should be checked for rubber particles that might indicate there is potential deterioration inside the hose.

Any hose that shows sign of damage from dragging, vehicle impact, deterioration, or other causes should be removed from service and not used again until it is repaired and hydrostatically tested.

For additional information, refer to NFPA 1, *Uniform Fire Code*™, Chapter 42; *International Fire Code*®, Chapter 11; and NFPA 407, *Standard for Aircraft Fuel Servicing*.