



# Training Bulletin

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## Pulling the Proper Size Line



The tool that puts out fire is the hose line. Nothing is more fundamental when it comes to firefighting. The hose line delivers your water, and yet as basic of an operation as this is, firefighters sometimes find themselves not pulling the correct size handline for the job. Instead, we may default to our staple hose line for every fire that we fight.

We pull our preconnected hose lines as our first hoselines off the truck, and they are usually 1 ½- or 1 ¾-inch. It is our default action; but we cannot become complacent when it comes to fire. So, what if the fire requires more water? What do firefighters do then? A lot of times, we pull off multiple hoselines to help with the demand of more water on the fire. This is an okay plan if we have the staffing to do this and the water supply available to supply all these extra hoselines, but it is not very effective or efficient in our initial actions with limited manpower upon arrival.

There is an old saying that still bears true to this day: small fire = small water, big fire = big water. With a proper size-up, the first-arriving officer should be able to determine that either small water or big water is needed.

To overcome the fears or misconceptions of the larger hose lines and pulling them off as an offensive weapon, training is the answer. There are a few different techniques that can be used to aid with pulling off the hose line, flaking it out, and advancing it into a structure with just two firefighters. It does not take an army of firefighters to move or advance a 2 ½-inch hose line. By practicing these different techniques, firefighters will become more proficient with this certain skill and in the long run, become more effective and efficient with their actions.

Source: <https://www.fireengineering.com/firefighter-training/firefighter-basics-pulling-the-proper-size-line/>

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