



National Fire Fighter Near-Miss Reporting System  
Featured Report: April 2009

**Report Number:** 09-0000433

**Report Date:** 04/22/2009 11:09

**Synopsis:** Coupling disengages during hose testing.

**Demographics**

**Department type:** Paid Municipal

**Job or rank:** Training Officer

**Department shift:** 24 hours on - 48 hours off

**Age:** 52 - 60

**Years of fire service experience:** 14 - 16

**Region:** FEMA Region VI

**Service Area:** Suburban

**Event Information**

**Event type:** On-duty activities: apparatus and station maintenance, meetings, tours, etc.

**Event date and time:** 04/21/2009 16:00

**Hours into the shift:** 9 - 12

**Event participation:** Witnessed event but not directly involved in the event

**Weather at time of event:** Clear and Dry

**Do you think this will happen again? Yes**

**What were the contributing factors?**

- Procedure
- Equipment

**What do you believe is the loss potential?**

- Life threatening injury

### **Event Description**

Our crew was performing annual hose testing on a concrete street in an industrial park. The manufacturer recommends that five inch LDH should be tested at 200psi for five minutes. During the first test, a coupling disengaged from the hose being tested. As the two sections of hose disconnected, the affected hose catapulted approximately 25 feet into the air. The retaining ring came off the hose and flew about 50 feet from the test site. The locking mechanism on the hose fragmented when the hose slammed back onto the concrete. This sent pieces flying 10 feet from the position of the hose.

Before pressuring the hose, all of personnel positioned themselves away from the hose. Considering the distance debris traveled, they could have been struck had it not been for the direction of travel of the debris.

### **Lessons Learned**

When testing hose, all personnel should don the PPE required for hose testing.

All personnel should not be in an area where they could be struck by fragmented parts in the event of a failure.