


Montgomery County Fire and Rescue Service FIRE CHIEF'S GENERAL ORDER

FCGO: 17-14

November 20, 2017

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TO: All MCFRS Personnel
FROM: Fire Chief Scott E. Goldstein 
SUBJECT: CAFS Use and Compressor Operation

This FCGO replaces and rescinds FCGO 10-03

During firefighting operations when there is no expectation of using the Compressed Air Foam System (CAFS), pump operators shall switch the CAFS Compressor to "OFF". This is a change from the previous practice of placing the CAFS compressor in "Standby" mode. This change is being made so that CAFS compressors are not operated above the manufacturer's recommended pressure range.

Unit Officers have discretion to choose the extinguishing agent that is most appropriate for the circumstance:

- Class A Foam Solution is recommended for use on initial interior attack, Class A fires, and deep seated fires.
- CAFS is permitted at the discretion of the Unit Officer for initial interior attack and is recommended for overhaul and/or exposure protection.

The following maintenance items must be completed to ensure the proper functionality of all foam systems:

- On a weekly basis, the CAFS compressor must be operated at 100 psi for a period of 30 consecutive minutes. Care must be given to ensure proper circulation of water through the pump for pump and CAFS compressor cooling purposes.
- On a monthly basis, a Class A Foam Solution line must be flowed for a period of 5 minutes.
- On a monthly basis, a Class B Foam line must be flowed for a period of 1 minute. The line and the Class B Foam system must also be properly flushed.

For further questions about Operations contact the Chief of the Division of Operations. For questions about CAFS maintenance, contact the Fleet Operations Manager.