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## Report of the Week

No fun and games when someone puts a windshield out.

11/12/2009

**Report Number:** 09-959

Report Date: 10/29/2009 21:10

### Synopsis

Flow testing damages rescue unit.

### Demographics

Department type: Paid Municipal

Job or rank: Lieutenant

Department shift: 24 hours on - 48 hours off

Age: 25 - 33

Years of fire service experience: 11 - 13

Region: FEMA Region IV

Service Area: Urban

### Event Information

Event type: Training activities: formal training classes, in-station drills, multi-company drills, etc.

Event date and time: 06/10/2001 15:00

Hours into the shift:

Event participation: Told of event, but neither involved nor witnessed event

Weather at time of event: Clear and Dry

Do you think this will happen again?

What were the contributing factors?

- Situational Awareness
- Horseplay
- Human Error
- Decision Making

What do you believe is the loss potential?

- Lost time injury
- Minor injury
- Property damage
- Life threatening injury

### Event Description

Our truck company decided to test the flow capabilities of our newest aerial truck. While the ladder was elevated and flowing water at about 800 GPM, one of the new lieutenants thought it would be funny to trap the rescue company in their unit with the water stream. The elevated stream broke the grill of the apparatus, broke the windshield, and sent a FF to the hospital with minor injuries.

### Lessons Learned

Horseplay should not be tolerated especially from officers who should know better.

No fun and games when someone puts a windshield out.

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### **Discussion Questions**

Once you have reviewed the entire account of 09-959 and the related reports, consider the following:

1. What type of "culture" would you say set the stage for the events in 09-959?
2. How much water (in pounds) was thrown at the rescue unit if the rescue was hit for 30 seconds?
3. Does your department provide new officer training that discusses the consequences of horseplay?
4. What would happen to a lieutenant in your department if he/she engaged in the actions described in 09-959?
5. Contact your department's risk management office, and obtain an estimate for the damage described in 09-959. Consider the injuries as treatment in an emergency department then the firefighter being sent home for the remainder of the shift.

### **Related Reports**

05-326

06-468

07-917

08-087

Note: The questions posed by the reviewers are designed to generate discussion and thought in the name of promoting firefighter safety. They are not intended to pass judgment on the actions and performance of individuals in the reports.