CARVER FIRE DEPARTMENT

Standard Operating Guidelines

Section 3.14 – PlymoVent Exhaust System **June 15, 2013**

1.0 PURPOSE

The new Plymo-vent Exhaust System has now been installed in each of our three Fire Stations. I hope that you are as pleased with the quality of the installation and the performance of this product as I am. A lot of time and effort by many people have taken place to make this system come to fruition and for you to have exhaust-free Station environments. With a new system, comes some new responsibilities for all of us and I have spent a great deal of time thinking about what these responsibilities may be and appropriate general guidelines to go along with them.

1.1 GUIDELINES

01. Exhaust Arms: Each Station is equipped with at least one small 'exhaust arm'. This arm is to be used when testing and running small engines. This would include indoor chain saw starting, float pump testing, etc. Obviously this system will not work for every small engine we have in our inventory, but a best effort should be made to use it as much as possible. You will be trained on how to use this feature during your Station training. Once the arm is activated, the system runs until turned off. When finished and upon moving the rocker switch to the off position, the exhaust system will run for three minutes and then turn off.

02. Truck checks and apparatus starting inside the Station: The yellow exhaust hoses shall be hooked to the apparatus at all times when parked and apparatus is started and running inside the Station. You will be taught how to connect and disconnect the hoses in your Station training. I request that the hoses stay connected and system put in manual mode when starting the apparatus to conduct monthly truck checks, pump testing, etc. Once the system senses exhaust pressure, it will run for a minimum of three minutes, shutting down after no exhaust pressure is sensed.

03. Apparatus exiting the Station: The system is fully automatic and will disconnect near the entrance to the overhead door when the apparatus leaves the Station. A reasonable and not excessive speed should be used when leaving the Station for the exhaust system to work properly. This will be discussed in detail in your Station training session.

04. Apparatus backing into the Station – All except Rescue 2 and Truck 27
Once the apparatus returns to the Station and before backing up commences, a back-up person with a portable radio shall be utilized, as is our current policy. Once the apparatus's rear tires are about two feet inside the garage doorway, the back-up person shall visually indicate to the driver to stop the apparatus and hook on the exhaust hose. Once attached, the back-up person shall visually indicate to the driver to continue with the backup operation, if deemed safe. I realize that it may be easier to just back the apparatus all the way in and then hook the hose up at the end, but for now in order to meet the zero exhaust emission standards inside the Station, I request exhaust hoses be attached prior to the vehicle entering the Station. If only a single Firefighter is on the apparatus and alone at the Station, then backing up without a back-up person shall be permitted and the hose shall be connected after the apparatus is fully in the Station.

05. Rescue 2 and Truck 27 backing into the Station: An exception to the above guideline will be allowed for Rescue 2 and Truck 27. Due to the narrow conditions of these bays and the safety hazards presented by attaching the exhaust hose before backing into the station, the exhaust hoses shall not be attached on these apparatus until they are fully backed in the station.

Until further notice, I request that these guidelines be strictly followed, understanding that as we all become more familiar with the system, I will reevaluate this policy and make changes where deemed appropriate.