

SAN DIEGO FIRE RESCUE DEPARTMENT
TRAINING AND EDUCATION DIVISION
TRAINING BULLETIN

NO.: 20-02
DATE: June 15, 2020
TO: All Personnel
FROM: Willy Melendez, Battalion Chief, Training & Education Division
SUBJECT: Tank-to-Pump Valve
SUBMITTED BY: Captain James Laing, Driver Training Officer

Introduction: Before 1995, fire apparatus were not required to have a “check valve” or “automatic clapper valve” to prevent backfilling of the tank once the pump was being supplied from a hydrant, relay pumper, or another water source. The San Diego Fire-Rescue Department Standard Operating Procedure is to close the tank-to-pump valve once water is introduced into the pump to prevent water backflowing into the tank. Since 1995 NFPA 18.3.3 states, “An automatic means shall be provided in the tank-to-pump line that prevents unintentional backfilling of the water tank through that line.” The introduction of this “automatic clapper valve” on all fire apparatus should prevent backflowing from the pump into the tank at an excessive rate.

Description: Even with the installation of this “automatic clapper valve,” it is still the best practice and the San Diego Fire-Rescue Department SOP to close the tank-to-pump valve once water is introduced from a hydrant, relay pumper, or another water source. This is commonly performed on the Change-over, Manifold, Standpipe, and Reverse hose lays. There is a possibility that if your water supply is not able to keep up with the amount of water being demanded and your tank-to-pump valve is left open, you could slowly drain the tank without recognizing it. The tank is your emergency supply if something happens to the water supply.

Training/Implementation: Once water supply is established into the pump either by a hydrant, a relay pumper, or another water source, the tank-to-pump valve shall be closed. This is not new or a change in the current SOP's but is reinforcing the importance of performing this operation while pumping.



Please direct any questions to Captain Jim Laing, Driver Training Officer, jlaing@sandiego.gov or (619) 692-4981.