

Purpose: This policy establishes the guidelines and explanations for use of the Plymovent Vehicle Exhaust Systems located in the Gouglerstown and Grill Stations of the CTFD.

Administration: The station captain of the respective stations shall have primary responsibility for administration of this policy along with the Deputy Chief of Health and Safety.

Plymovent Vehicle Exhaust Systems:

The Plymovent Vehicle Exhaust Systems have been installed at the Gouglerstown and Grill Stations to protect the health and safety of all internal personnel and visitors, and must be used as instructed to fulfill current NFPA 1500, 2002 edition guideline. The following information shall outline the procedure for proper handling and operations of the Plymovent Vehicle Exhaust System. In connection with this procedure all basic safety regulations (State and Federal) regarding vehicle operations shall be followed.

Policy and procedure for exiting station:

1. Upon starting vehicle, system fan will automatically start and it will turn off automatically based on the setting of the timer mechanism located in the Plymovent control box.
2. Vehicles shall exit stations at a safe speed as required by this manual to prevent injuries to personnel inside the station and possible damage to the exhaust system.
3. All personnel shall stay clear of the exiting vehicle and exhaust system. The hose moves with the vehicle along the track or rail and detaches from the tailpipe as the system's trolley engages the uncoupling valve (uncoupling valve may be adjusted on track or rail based on type of vehicle and exiting speed). After grabber nozzle detaches from tailpipe, hose will retract to a normal resting position. Personnel riding on apparatus shall use safe exiting procedures as outlined in 4.15. The Plymovent Vehicle Exhaust Removal System is a moving system when connected to a vehicle, and in-station personnel must stay clear of its traveling path to ensure their safety.

Policy and procedure for entering station:

1. Upon returning to station, designated signal person shall retrieve hose and grabber nozzle and bring it to the inside threshold of the overhead door, guiding vehicle into station (signal person must be visible to the driver at all times). The signal person shall stop the driver when the exhaust pipe of the vehicle is at the inside threshold of the overhead door.
2. The signal person shall make the hookup of the Vehicle Exhaust Removal System when the vehicle stops. This procedure is as follows:
 - a) Stand at the inside threshold of the overhead door with exhaust hose in front of you.
 - b) Slide the grabber exhaust nozzle over the tailpipe adapter until front of grabber nozzle rests against flange of the tailpipe adapter.

Note: the arrow on the grabber nozzle must be at the top center of the tailpipe when connected, then press the black button on the manual inflation valve, until fully inflated, then back the vehicle to its designated parked position in the station.

Non-Moving system operation:

1. For operation of a vehicle inside the station the switch on the control box must be turned to the MANUAL position before starting any vehicles. System fan can operate for as long as any vehicle engine is running as idle. In addition, any vehicle may be accelerated up to 1500 rpm for five (5) minutes as long as the switch is turned to the manual position. When the vehicle is turned off, the switch on the control box must be turned to the OFF position and the switch will automatically spring to the AUTO position.

Maintenance of the Plymovent Vehicle Exhaust System:

1. The screen, located at the nozzle, shall be checked monthly for debris.
2. The compressor tank shall be checked and drained monthly.
3. The Plymovent Exhaust System shall be serviced once a year by a certified service technician.
4. Any problems or malfunctions shall be reported immediately to the Deputy Chief with the responsibility of facilities.

References:

NFPA 1500 (2002)