

A flow meter measures water flow and sends a signal to a digital display control module. A nother sensing device monitors the foam pump output. Constant comparison of these two information signals by the controller ensures maintenance of the desired proportion of foam concentrate based on the water flow rate, independently of any variations in the fire pump intake or discharge pressures. As water flow increases or decreases, the foam concentrate rate of injection is increased or decreased automatically to correspond to the water flow.

Foam concentrate is injected directly into the water stream on the discharge side of the pump. It is then fed as foam solution through the fire hose and into a suitable nozzle or CAFS equipment. Since foam is injected on the discharge side of the pump, proportioning performance is not affected by external factors such as nozzles, hose diameters, length of hose lays, elevation, or incoming intake pressures. At the push of a button, the system automatically reads water flow and injects the proper proportion of foam concentrate.

FoamPro can be specified for new apparat us or retrofitted on existing ones.

So why foam? Ninety percent of today's fires are Class A in nature, but consist of modern synthetics and plastics. That's leading to flashovers occurring faster than ever due to rapid temperature increase. The benefits of using Class A foams are well documented and scientifically validated. They include improved firefighter safety; faster knockdown; excellent exposure protection; less water damage; faster cleanup; evidence preservation; reduced rekindles; and reduced environmental damage.

In areas where outside summer temperatures can become extreme - places like eastern Washington, Arizona, Texas and Florida - fire departments have reported noticeable reductions in heat-related firefighter injuries since switching to Class A foams like Novacool UEF for interior attacks on structure fires. It's the smart thing to do.

Reference

SFD Training Guide 1-1, Firefighting Foam Operations by Lt. Kurt G. Plunkett

Editor's Note: Raul A. Angulo, a veteran of the Seattle Fire Department and captain of Ladder Company 6, has more than 30 years in the fire service. He is on the Board of Directors for the Fellowship of Christian Firefighters. He lectures on fire service leadership, company officer development and fireground strategy and accountability throughout the U.S., Canada and Mexico.