2012 LODD

To Date:

18

The Case of the Missing FDC

"The garbage man doesn't get excited when he turns the corner and sees trash. You shouldn't get excited when you turn the corner and see fire. Expect a fire on every run."
Andy Fredricks

We all know that for years metal thieves have been stealing the fitting on FDC's across the country. Just recently fire inspectors in western Washington found thieves had stolen equipment that impacted over 6 departments. This would create a sizeable frustration when arriving on scene to find out your primary method of getting water up elevation is gone.

In a similar fashion, what if a car accident has damaged the FDC and the car fire had spread into the building? How can we still attack the fire with a sizeable GPM?

One option is to lay supply line up the stairwell. Another option is to use the ladder company as a vertical standpipe. Both take time to deploy and the truck is limited in reach. Both however, are viable options.

Another option is to stretch a line to the interior outlets and pump back into the system. (See picture at left) The clapper on the exterior Siamese will prevent water flow outside (unless extremely damaged by vehicle) and will provide water to the standpipe system. The overall GPM's will be reduced (single 2 ½" line), but still capable of fire attack flows. This tactic would also work if upper floor crews were calling for more pressure and everything outside looks good (no kinks, good water supply, etc). The problem may be the internal workings of the Siamese valve restricting flow. Connecting to the interior outlet will not work if the lower floors have pressure-regulating valves.

Stay Safe!