

Chimney gear – technical information

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Owner: **Assistant Director, Property and TSS**
Responsible work team: **Fleet Liaison Engineering & Equipment Team**

Contents

1 Introduction 2
2 Description 2
3 Safety precautions..... 3
4 Operating instructions 3
5 Maintenance and testing..... 3
6 Defects..... 4
7 Associated material 4
Document History 5

1 Introduction

- 1.1 This policy describes the chimney gear and explains its operation, maintenance and testing.
- 1.2 One set of chimney gear is allocated to every station. This should be carried on PL's at one appliance and Pumps at two appliance stations.



LFB Image id 178001

2 Description

- 2.1 The chimney gear consists of a hose with a rose type chimney nozzle and extendable rods allowing the nozzle to be extended up a chimney, shaft or ducting to extinguish a fire, where access would be difficult with a conventional hose and branch.
- 2.2 A complete set of chimney gear comprises of the following:
 - Stirrup pump.
 - 10m length of 12.5mm hose.
 - Rose type chimney nozzle attached.
 - 12 x 81cm chimney rods.
 - Chimney mirror.
 - Chimney rod bag.
 - Chimney gear bag.
- 2.3 The **stirrup pump** operates on a simple bucket and plunger type principle and has only three moving parts. Attached to the pump is a stirrup for the operator to stand on to keep the pump steady when operating the plunger.
- 2.4 The **rose chimney nozzle** consists of two light alloy castings screwed together. The dome shaped head has a number of pairs of small jet holes recessed around the edge of the casting set at opposing right angles. The base casting has a tail that the tubing is connected to and a screw thread to connect a chimney rod.
- 2.5 The **chimney rods** are bamboo canes, 81cm in length, with a brass male screw thread connector at one end and a female screw thread connector with a locking pin at the other.

3 Safety precautions

- 3.1 Full structural firefighting PPE should be worn when using this equipment.
- 3.2 Appropriate RPE should be considered when operating this item of equipment.
- 3.3 This piece of equipment should only be used or tested by operational personnel.
- 3.4 When extending the rods and when using the mirror be aware that hot embers and debris may be dislodged.
- 3.5 Firefighters should not look directly up a chimney from the hearth because of the risk of falling soot, embers or debris. Personnel should utilise the chimney mirror to inspect the flue.
- 3.6 Care should be taken to prevent injury and unintentional fire spread and/or damage.
- 3.7 Nitrile gloves (available on POMS V2481/2/3) must be worn when applying Lithium grease.

4 Operating instructions

- 4.1 Before commencing operations with chimney gear, a suitable salvage plan should be put in place to protect the contents of the room.
- 4.2 Connect the hose to the stirrup pump discharge pipe and place the pump in a bucket of water.
- 4.3 Connect the first two chimney rods to the rose chimney nozzle (with hose attached).
- 4.4 Place the nozzle ready to extend into the affected area.
- 4.5 Pressurize the hose by operating the stirrup pump.
- 4.6 Advance the rose nozzle into the affected area by adding additional rods to extend the line.
- 4.7 Operate stirrup pump as required, making sure that the bucket is continually topped up with water.

5 Maintenance and testing

- On acceptance
 - After use
 - Quarterly
- 5.1 Inspect the hose and the rose for damage, making sure that the rose nozzle is securely fastened to the hose.
 - 5.2 Inspect general condition of the stirrup pump; make sure the strainer cover is clear.
 - 5.3 Check security of the handle and operation of the plunger rod, lightly grease the plunger rod if required using lithium grease (POMS id: S9880).
 - 5.4 Connect hose to stirrup and place in a bucket of water. Operate the stirrup pump ensuring an adequate spray is obtained at the rose nozzle.
 - 5.5 Check for leaks. Note that the stirrup pump operates more effectively once its internal parts are wet. There may be some initial leakage until this occurs.
 - 5.6 Inspect the rods for damage. Inspect the screw threads and the locking mechanism by connecting two rods together.
 - 5.7 Ensure the mirror is clean and not excessively scratched.

- 5.8 Check condition of the chimney bag.
- 5.9 If cleaning is required, clean with a mild detergent ensuring that its completely dry before re-stowing.
- 5.10 If heavily contaminated clean in accordance with Policy number 707 - The control of infection and infectious diseases policy.
- 5.11 Tests to be recorded on appropriate standard test card.

6 Defects

6.1 Chimney gear is classed as Category 'B' equipment and defects should be reported on POMS. Component parts are supplied by the V&E contractor and H&L depending on the item (as described below):

- Stirrup pump S9153.
- Chimney rod S9235.
- Chimney mirror S9369.
- Hose with rose branch HL008.
- Bag, chimney/drain rods HL040.
- Bag, chimney gear HL134.

7 Associated material

7.1 To be read in conjunction with the following material where necessary:

- Policy number 540 – Manual handling operations procedure.
- Policy number 598 – Provision and use of work equipment.
- Policy number 617 – Personal protective equipment at work procedure.
- Policy number 707 – The control of infection and infectious diseases policy
- Policy number 724 – Appliance inventories and operational readiness
- Policy number 759 – Respiratory protective equipment – protection against particulates – operational procedure
- Policy number 834 – Fires involving chimneys and ducting
- Policy number 977 – All incident considerations - NOG
- Policy number 982 – Fires in buildings - NOG
- Policy number 985 – Operational safety management - knowledge skills and competence – NOG
- Policy number 1000 – Fire contaminants

Document History

Assessments

An equality, sustainability or health, safety and welfare impact assessment and/or a risk assessment was last completed on:

EIA	16/08/21	SDIA	L - 17/08/21	HSWIA	04/06/18	RA	NA
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Audit trail

Listed below is a brief audit trail, detailing amendments made to this policy/procedure.

Page/para nos.	Brief description of change	Date
Page 1 Para 1.1 Para 1.6	Responsible work team from EFET to FLEET Minor change to allocation Alteration of wording.	14/03/2012
Page 1	Responsible work team changed from Engineering Fleet and Equipment Team to Fleet Liaison Engineering and Equipment Team.	30/10/2012
Throughout	Premier FireServe has been updated to 'the service provider'.	12/12/2012
Page 4	'Subjects list' and 'security classifications' - template updates.	09/12/2014
Throughout Section 6 Section 7	Additional content added, please read to familiarise. Service provider changed to V&E contractor. Associated material added.	20/04/2015
Page 1 Page 3, para 3	This policy has been reviewed as current with changes made to department name. This is to reflect the replacement of the London Fire and Emergency Planning Authority to London Fire Commissioner. Section 3.6 -Information regarding nitrile gloves added.	18/05/2018
Throughout	This policy has been reviewed as current with minor amendments. Please read to familiarise yourself with the content.	18/08/2021
Throughout	Cross reference links updated.	23/06/2022
Throughout Para 3.2 Section 7	Reviewed as current with the following changes made. Additional information added. Additional associated material added.	12/08/2024

Subject list

You can find this policy under the following subjects.

Chimney gear	Hoses and hosereel
Technical information	Stirrup pump
Rose chimney nozzle	Chimney rods

Freedom of Information Act exemptions

This policy/procedure has been securely marked due to:

Considered by: (responsible work team)	FOIA exemption	Security marking classification