



15. Fire - Extinguishing Equipment - Fire Hose Reels Full Service & Inspection

Category:	Fire
Subcategory:	Extinguishing Equipment
Frequency:	Yearly
Status:	Statutory
Type:	Approved Contractor
Priority:	Core
Commonality:	Occasional

Note: This document provides guidance to support compliance but is not a substitute for professional advice.

Why This Task Matters

Your dedication to maintaining fire hose reels ensures that trained personnel have access to a reliable water supply for firefighting in larger premises. By keeping these systems operational in schools and colleges that still utilise them, you provide an essential layer of fire protection that can make the critical difference in containing a fire. Your expertise in overseeing this specialised equipment protects the entire school community during emergencies.

Task Summary

Statutory: Where fitted, fire hose reels require annual servicing and inspection by a competent contractor. This comprehensive maintenance involves checking hose condition, testing valve operation, verifying water supply pressure and flow rates, and ensuring all components meet performance standards. The service includes visual inspection for damage or corrosion, functional testing of valves and nozzles, pressure testing of the system, and replacement of worn components. Many schools no longer install hose reels, but where present they are a critical firefighting aid for larger premises. The inspection includes checking mounting brackets, signage, and accessibility. Evidence produced includes the contractor's inspection certificate confirming compliance and functionality, detailed service record documenting all work completed and test results, and any

recommendations for maintenance or upgrades.

Relevant Legislation & Guidance

- **Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005:** Requires fire hose reels to be maintained in good working order where fitted
- **Fire Safety: Approved Document B (Buildings other than dwellinghouses):** Provides guidance on fire hose reel maintenance
- **British Standard BS 5306: Fire extinguishing installations and equipment on premises:** Specifies requirements for hose reel maintenance and testing
- **British Standard BS 9999: Fire safety in the design, management and use of buildings - Code of practice:** Includes guidance on hose reel maintenance
- **The Education (Independent School Standards) Regulations 2014** (for independent schools): Requires adequate firefighting equipment

Typical Frequency

Fire hose reels must be serviced and inspected annually where fitted, with this comprehensive maintenance typically scheduled during school holidays. In educational settings with hose reels, annual servicing is essential for ensuring system reliability. The frequency cannot be reduced as it is a statutory requirement for maintaining firefighting capability where these systems are installed.

Applicability

This task applies to educational establishments that have fire hose reels installed, which is occasional as many modern schools no longer install them. It is a core statutory task where hose reels are present, essential for providing firefighting capability in larger premises. The task applies to schools and colleges with hose reel systems, particularly older buildings or those with specific design requirements.

Responsible Persons

- **Task Type:** Approved Contractor
- **Contractor Requirements:** This task should be carried out by a competent fire equipment maintenance company with specialist knowledge of hose reel systems. Contractors should hold appropriate certifications for water-based fire systems. Typical cost range: £150-£300 per hose reel depending on system complexity.
- **Permit to Work:** Access to water systems may require coordination with facilities staff.
- **Delivery Model:** Normally contractor-delivered due to the specialist testing equipment and technical knowledge required for pressure testing.

Key Considerations

- **Timing considerations:** Schedule during school holidays to allow for testing and any repairs
- **Cost implications:** Budget £150-£300 per hose reel annually for professional servicing
- **Resource requirements:** Allow access to hose reel locations and water system isolation
- **Potential disruption:** May require temporary water isolation during testing
- **Risk assessment requirements:** Service findings should inform the fire risk assessment

Task Instructions

Prerequisites & Safety

- Ensure the contractor has expertise in hose reel systems
- Provide access to all hose reel locations and water supplies
- Confirm water system isolation procedures
- Arrange for safe testing conditions

Tools & Materials

- Hose reel inventory and system documentation
- Pressure testing equipment and flow meters
- Replacement hoses, nozzles, and seals as needed
- Water drainage and collection equipment
- Safety equipment for wet testing

Method (Step-by-Step)

Phase A: Pre-Service Assessment

1. Review hose reel inventory and previous service records
2. Identify all hose reel locations and system components
3. Check water supply and isolation arrangements
4. Prepare testing schedule and safety procedures

Phase B: Inspection and Servicing

1. Visually inspect hose reels for damage, corrosion, or tampering
2. Check mounting brackets and accessibility
3. Test valve operation and hose deployment

4. Verify water pressure and flow rates
5. Inspect hoses, nozzles, and connections for wear
6. Replace faulty components as required

Phase C: Functional Testing

1. Conduct pressure testing of the system
2. Test water flow rates and coverage
3. Verify hose deployment and retraction
4. Check for leaks or pressure loss
5. Document all test results and system performance

Phase D: Documentation and Certification

1. Prepare detailed service record with all findings
2. Issue inspection certificate confirming compliance
3. Document any components requiring replacement
4. Recommend maintenance schedule and upgrades if needed

Measurements & Acceptance Criteria

- Water pressure must meet minimum requirements (typically 2-4 bar)
- Flow rate must achieve minimum delivery (typically 20-25 litres/minute)
- Hose must deploy and retract smoothly without kinks
- All valves and connections must be leak-free

If Results Fail

Follow instructions on the Compliance Pod task completion form to record remedial/follow up actions and generate Reactive Task Tickets as required. Immediately isolate faulty hose reels from service. Escalate significant issues to facilities management and arrange urgent repairs. Implement alternative firefighting measures in affected areas.

Reinstatement & Housekeeping

Restore water supply and ensure all components are properly reassembled. Clean up any water from testing.

Completion Checks

Verify that all hose reels have been inspected and tested. Confirm that the inspection certificate confirms system compliance. Ensure the service record is comprehensive with all test results.

Client Oversight Checklist (Before the Visit)

- Confirm contractor's expertise in hose reel systems
- Provide system documentation and location details
- Arrange water system isolation and drainage
- Schedule during period when testing can be conducted safely

Client Oversight Checklist (During the Visit)

- Observe inspection of hose reel components
- Ensure pressure and flow testing is conducted properly
- Verify that faulty components are identified and replaced
- Confirm comprehensive documentation of test results

Deliverables & Acceptance Criteria (After the Visit)

- Receive inspection certificate confirming system compliance
- Review detailed service record with test results
- Ensure recommendations for repairs are specific and prioritised
- Confirm that all documentation is complete and accurate

Defects & Follow-up

Follow instructions on the Compliance Pod task completion form to record remedial/follow up actions and generate Reactive Task Tickets as required. Prioritise repairs to maintain firefighting capability. Agree timescales for component replacement. Schedule re-testing after major repairs.

Reinstatement & Sign-off

Confirm water supply is restored and hose reels are operational. Complete final sign-off once all documentation is received.

Record-Keeping & Evidence

- **Upload Process:** Upload any required statutory or supporting evidence to the corresponding task form in Compliance Pod.
- **Statutory Evidence:** Contractor's inspection certificate and service record must be retained for at least 3 years.
- **Supporting/Good Practice Evidence:** Detailed test results and maintenance recommendations support audit readiness.

Common Pitfalls & Best Practice Tips

- **Common mistakes to avoid:** Not isolating water supply properly, missing concealed damage, or failing to test flow rates adequately
- **Best practices for efficient completion:** Maintain detailed system records, conduct pre-service visual checks, and coordinate with water system maintenance
- **Pro tips for educational settings:** Use servicing visits to train staff on hose reel operation, check reel accessibility for different user heights, and consider modern alternatives if maintenance costs are high
- **Warning signs that indicate problems:** Difficulty deploying hoses, low water pressure, or visible corrosion on components

Quick Reference Checklist

- Hose reel inventory and locations reviewed
- All hose reels visually inspected
- Valve operation and hose deployment tested
- Water pressure and flow rates verified
- Faulty components identified and replaced
- Functional testing completed
- Inspection certificate and service record received
- Evidence uploaded to Compliance Pod

Grouped Tasks

Grouping is feasible; align with related tasks of the same frequency and contractor visit.

Related Tasks

- Fire - Extinguishing Equipment - Portable Fire Extinguishers Full Service & Inspection
- Fire - Extinguishing Equipment - Fire Shutters & Curtains Full Service & Inspection
- Fire - Extinguishing Equipment - Sprinkler Systems Full Service & Test
- Fire - Extinguishing Equipment - Fire Suppression Systems Full Service & Test
- Fire - Extinguishing Equipment - Smoke Vents & AOVs Full Service & Test
- Fire - Extinguishing Equipment - Fire Hydrants Full Service & Inspection
- Fire - Extinguishing Equipment - Dry & Wet Risers Full Service & Inspection

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Users must ensure that all tasks are carried out in line with current legislation, manufacturer instructions, site-specific risk assessments, and organisational policies. Where necessary, professional advice should be sought from competent and accredited specialists — for example, fire risk assessors, water hygiene consultants, electrical engineers, gas safety contractors, or health and safety advisors.