



One Hour that could Save Your Life!

Every morning we come in sit around the table, listen to the morning pass down, then go out into the bays and start on the routine truck check offs. I'm sure I'm not just speaking for myself when I say morning check offs can really drag by, and I can very easily get side tracked from them. No matter how boring that part of our day is, it is the most important part of our day because our lives and the lives of the people in our community rely on that truck and its equipment to be ready. Not only does morning check offs insure that every tool and piece of equipment is on that truck, it also gives us a good opportunity to refresh ourselves on operating that equipment and equipment location. Here are a few basic skills when it comes to apparatus check:

- Pull out the saws, start them, and check to ensure they are full on fuel and oil. Review their operation and consider “when, where, and how” you would use this particular tool on the fire ground. If you are drawing a blank, then you've found your company training for the day.
- Remove the hand tools, equipment such as the Halligan, ax, and pike pole. Ensure that they are free from rust, the edges are honed appropriately, and the ax head is on tight.
- Check your hose. Are all loads correct, and do they meet your standards? If not, pull them off and reload them. Again, this is your apparatus for the shift; own it and make it yours. Check the nozzles. Are they set correctly? Are they tight to the coupling? Are they free from debris and obstructions? The time to find out a nozzle is broken is not crawling down a hallway under heat conditions.
- Check your SCBA. Is it full, correctly set up for donning by you specifically, and are all the gauges correct and not broken? This is your lifeline in the building. No one but you is responsible for your SCBA.
- Check the apparatus fluids and start the apparatus, let it run, and check and run the pump. Are all the gauges operating correctly? Does the pump and engine sound right? Operate all emergency lighting and scene lighting.

Let's all work together to keep our equipment and trucks in perfect working condition for ourselves and our community. Don't take shortcuts, because you may not be the only victim from equipment failure.

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