Impact of Fire Attack Utilizing Interior and Exterior Streams on Firefighter Safety and Occupant Survival: Water Mapping

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Fire Service Technical Panel

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List of Acronyms

ADD	Actual Delivered Density
AFG	Assistance to Firefighters Grant program
ANOVA	Analysis of Variation
DHS	U.S Department of Homeland Security
FEMA	Federal Emergency Management Agency
NFPA	National Fire Protection Association
SB	Smooth Bore
SS	Straight Stream
UL FSRI	UL Firefighter Safety Research Institute
USFA	United States Fire Administration

Abstract

As research continues into how fire department interventions affect fire dynamics in the modern fire environment; questions continue to arise on the impact and implications of interior versus exterior fire attack on both firefighter safety and occupant survivability. Previous research into various types of fire ground ventilation, flow paths, and exterior fire streams has provided the fire service with an increased understanding of fire dynamics. However, in some instances, the information from the studies may not support current, experienced-based practices. This gap between the research to date and the fire ground suppression experience has driven the need for further study. Therefore, research into the various methods of fire attack will allow a broader understanding of how firefighter interventions on the fire ground can impact the outcome of both life safety and property protection.

This study will build upon the fire research conducted to date by analyzing how firefighting tactics, specifically different fire suppression tools and tactics, affect the thermal exposure and survivability of both firefighters and building occupants and affect fire behavior in structures. The purpose of this study is to improve firefighter safety, fireground tactics, and the knowledge of fire dynamics by providing the fire service with scientific information, developed from water flow and full-scale fire testing, in representative single-family homes. The project will be comprised of 3 parts:

- Part I: Water Distribution
- Part II: Air Entrainment
- Part III: Full-Scale Residential Fire Experiments

This report details the results and analysis from the water distribution experiments. These tests were conducted without the presence of fire to gain a fundamental understanding of water flows into compartments. Each test was designed to quantify water distribution within a compartment by evaluating the differences caused by various application methods, hose stream types, nozzle movements, pressures/flow rates, stream locations and elevation angles.

1 Background

Over the past 10 years, fire service research has emphasized the importance of applying water to the fire as quickly as possible from the safest available location [1, 2]. This includes the option to apply water to the fire from the exterior of the structure; a tactic that was long said to be dangerous for civilian occupants and firefighters alike. As the possibility of utilizing an exterior attack as an offensive operation gained exposure, a knowledge gap was highlighted within the firefighting community which increased the interest in better understanding the impact of water applied as part of either an interior or exterior attack. Many variables exist in fire attack which have a direct impact on victim survivability, firefighter safety, and the overall effectiveness of the operation including: the time required to get water on the fire; hose stream type, placement, and movement; air entrainment; steam development; hot gas cooling and contraction; ventilation; and the position of flow paths within the structure. Additionally, firefighters have the ability to make tactical choices on the fire ground which directly affect not only the outcome of the operation but the safety of both civilians and firefighters alike. These choices range from "big picture" decisions on strategies and tactics (i.e. methods of fire attack) down to smaller-scale decisions regarding the tools utilized for suppression operations (i.e. hose lines, nozzles, and hose streams).

Methods of Fire Attack

A safe and well-executed fire suppression operation provides lifesaving measures for potential trapped occupants as well as firefighters who are engaged in other required functions on the fire ground (search and rescue, ventilation, utility control). Fire suppression operations can encompass several different methods of fire attack. Current firefighter training curriculum defines three types: direct, indirect, and combination [3]. A direct attack involves applying water, via a straight or solid stream, directly onto burning fuels. An indirect attack dates to the 1950s when Lloyd Layman, Chief of the Parkersburg Fire Department in West Virginia led research and testing on new theories of fire attack [4,5]. Layman defined an indirect attack as the remote injection of a fog stream into an unoccupied fire compartment through a door or window and directed at the ceiling. Modern fire service training manuals still refer to the indirect attack with this definition [3, 6]. Further fire service research was conducted by Keith Royer and Floyd Nelson who to developed what is known as the combination fire attack which expands upon the work of Layman by adding nozzle movement. This combination attack is commonly defined as extinguishment through the use of both direct and indirect methods where the nozzle is rotated and moved back and forth from the area overhead to the floor and directly onto the fuels [3]. According to some training manuals, the combination attack is done remote from the fire, most likely from the exterior of the building as the nozzle is placed into an opening in the fire compartment and then rotated [6]. As the fire service has evolved, another method of fire attack has made its way into the literature and carries the name of a modified direct attack in which the hose stream is directed into the overhead space, out in front of the nozzle team, on the approach to the seat of the fire [6]. This is believed to cool

the area overhead as well as break up the stream for "rain-down" onto solid fuels ahead. A fire attack crew on the fire ground has the ability to choose between these methods based upon incident size-up as well as knowledge of fire behavior, building construction, and the potential impact of a given type of attack.

Similarly, in 2002 Särdqvist, detailed five ways water can be used in fire attack [7]. Figure 1.1, from Särdqvist's book, shows an example of the options which include: using water to cool hot surfaces and generate steam, cool hot smoke, directly on flames to extinguish them, cool fuel surfaces to restrict and slow pyrolysis, and cool surfaces not yet involved. As base concepts, the 5 options can be combined into various ways to perform smoke cooling, fuel cooling, and steam-based suppression [7].



Figure 1.1: Water application options. Image from Särdqvist [7].

Hose Streams and Fire Service Nozzles

The most important tools on the fire ground have always been hose lines and nozzles as these are vital components to a successful fire suppression operation. In addition to making tactical decisions on the method of fire attack, the firefighters engaged in fire suppression operations also have the ability to vary the nozzle used. The Standard for Fire Hose Connections, NFPA 1963, defines two categories of fire service nozzles: spray and straight tip [8]. A spray nozzle is also known as a combination or fog nozzle while straight tip nozzles are commonly referred to as smooth bore nozzles. There are several different types of spray nozzles including constant gallonage, constant pressure, and adjustable gallonage [6]. The construction of a spray nozzle is more complicated than that of a straight tip nozzle. A straight tip nozzle is a tapered pipe connected to a control valve, or "bail." The tapered pipe is sized such that a given diameter at the tip will provide a given flow at a set pressure. A spray nozzle is constructed using a baffle and spring to provide either a constant flow, constant pressure, or both [9]. Both spray and straight tip nozzles have the ability to provide different flows as well as pressures at the nozzle. It is not uncommon to find different hose

lines with different nozzles for specific tactics utilized in a given response area. Fire departments base nozzle choices and hand-line set-ups (hose line size, desired nozzle flow, required pressure) on existing knowledge, traditions, and beliefs. Fire service nozzles serve to control water flow, create shape, and provide reach to hose streams [3]. A hose stream, or "fire stream," is defined as a pattern of water that is discharged from a nozzle and travels to a desired target. Spray nozzles can be manually adjusted from a straight stream to a narrow fog to a wide fog as required while straight tip nozzles are limited to a solid stream. Firefighter training literature defines advantages and disadvantages for both types of nozzles as well as the type of hose stream; however, a given nozzle or hose stream is not tied to a specific tactic. These choices are left up to the firefighters engaged in fire suppression operations who must be well-informed on the implications of a given tactic and tool.

Whether a fire attack crew chooses to apply water as part of an interior or exterior attack and regardless of the type of nozzle and hose stream chosen, they need to know what impact their stream has on the fire environment ahead of them. This is difficult on the fire ground because visibility is commonly limited and therefore most experience and first-hand accounts are from behind the nozzle. This results in beliefs about conditions (i.e. temperature) ahead of the nozzle team and the impact of their tactics on victim survivability; but knowledge of the actual impact has yet to be researched. Additionally, when the fire is ultimately suppressed, there is no assurance the attack was conducted in the most effective, efficient, and safe manner even if the experience gained suggests that it was. Fire service adages such as "don't put water on smoke," "you will steam the victims," and "fog nozzles always disrupt the thermal layer" have been passed on from generation to generation with little context or substantiation. Without the context, these concepts get treated like rules and can severely limit the understanding of fire suppression.

The fire attack study is intended to close the knowledge gap and provide both context and substantiation to fire suppression methods, tools, and tactics that have been utilized for decades. The results from this study will provide the fire service with scientific knowledge on the impact of both interior and exterior fire attack on victim survivability and firefighter safety. Part I of the study, examining water mapping in structures, is the first of two series of experiments looking at the mechanics of hose streams without the presence of fire. The is intended to provide the fire service with a knowledge base into how nozzles distribute water via different hose stream types, nozzle movements, and attack locations in addition to quantifying how nozzles entrain and move air throughout a structure. By developing data in realistic structures utilizing modern fuel sources and fire scenarios, important inferences may be developed relative to different nozzles, hose stream types, techniques, and the overall use of water for fire suppression operations.

2 Objectives and Limitations

The purpose of this part to the overall study was to provide scientific knowledge on the variation of water flow rate per square foot (water flux) as it pertains to fire service hose streams being directed into compartments. This was accomplished with the completion of the following objectives:

• Adapt measurement apparatus common to sprinkler testing for use in hose stream flow quantification.

• Quantify repeatability and uncertainty of apparatus.

• Measure water flux data distributions in typical residential compartment for common fire service hose stream configurations.

• Quantify similarities and differences of water flux distributions over the range of test variables.

• Develop and disseminate knowledge of hose streams applied during typical fire attack methods.

The experiments conducted were intended to develop a fundamental knowledge of water distribution in compartments from fire service hose streams, without the presence of furniture. The intent was not to imply success distributing water evenly or is filling all the bins completely. This knowledge could then be applied to the infinite number of scenarios in which the fire service may be applying water. The stream locations were chosen to achieve this objective while at the same time simulating some common fireground tactics. Due to the limitations of the equipment used and the force resulting from the application of water with common fire service hoses, directing the hose stream at the collection appliance was not possible nor would it produce a reliable and realistic measurement. However, the fundamental knowledge of water dispersion and distribution gained from the experiments can be applied to scenarios where water is directed at the floor.

3 Water Distribution Experiments

The goal of the water distribution experiments was to quantify the impact that changing a nozzle, changing flow/pressure, or changing flow position had on water dispersion within a compartment. Eighty-three water flow tests were conducted at the UL Large Fire Laboratory in Northbrook, IL in a purpose-built compartment with an attached hallway and movable staircase. Water flow patterns were determined by collecting the water in 48 discrete collection bins.

3.1 Experimental Configuration

3.1.1 Test Apparatus

The main portion of the test compartment had interior (finished) dimensions of 17 ft 4 in by 11 ft 4 in with an 8 ft ceiling. To account for the water collection apparatus the entire compartment was 7 ft 10 7/8 in above the lab floor (see Figure 3.1). The overall size of the compartment was designed to reflect that of one found in a typical resident structure but was also bound by the dimensions of the water collection apparatus (Section 3.1.2). The compartment was wood-frame construction with 2 in by 4 in studs and track set to 16 in centers with a interior height measuring 8 ft 1 1/8 in. The walls and ceiling were lined with 1/2 in durarock cement board atop 1/2 in plywood. The ceiling joists were 2 in by 6 in set to 16 in on center.

The compartment featured two openings; one doorway measuring 3 ft by 6 ft 8 in which opened to the interior hallway, and one window measuring 2 ft by 4 ft with a sill height of 3 ft that opened to the exterior of the compartment. A movable staircase and landing was constructed to provide access to either the interior hallway of the compartment or provide a simulation of a first floor window attack. The hallway was 6 ft by 8 ft and the stairway landing was 4 ft by 6 ft 8 in. Detailed dimension drawings of the compartment are included in Figure 3.2.



Figure 3.1: Water Distribution Test Structure and ADD Apparatus.



Figure 3.2: Dimensioned plan view of experimental compartment.

There was no floor constructed, a unique feature of this compartment. The test compartment instead sat directly over 48, 20 in by 20 in stainless steel collection bins. Instead of water accumulating on the floor, it would flow into the distinct collection bins to determine an accumulation rate. Potential gaps between the collection bins were covered by flashing which was folded to divert the water evenly in each bin, to best ensure adequate distribution results. The gaps between the outer collection bins and the walls of the structure were also covered with flashing to ensure all water directed into the structure was collected in the appropriate bins. The interior layout of the floor bins and use of flashing can be seen in Figure 3.3.



Figure 3.3: Layout of Structure Floor with 48 Collection Bins and Connected Flashing

3.1.2 Instrumentation and Uncertainty

To measure the water distribution throughout the compartment, a fire sprinkler spray density measurement instrument known as the Actual Delivered Density (ADD) apparatus was used [10]. This device was connected to the 48 collection bins that comprised the floor of the test structure. The ADD apparatus was comprised of one main array and two satellite arrays of heavy steel framework. The main array consisted of 32 water barrels and water pan collection assemblies while each satellite array contained 8 barrels and collection assemblies (see Figure 3.4). All barrels had a 30-gallon capacity and were connected by a 2 in diameter hose to a 20 in by 20 in inverted square pyramid-shaped stainless-steel water collection pan above. In total, there were 48 total collection pans/barrels. Differential pressure transducers were connected to the bottom of each water collection barrel via flexible tubing. The water level in each barrel was determined by the head pressure measured by the transducer. The water collection assemblies were arranged into 2×2 arrays. Each collection barrel is uniquely numbered so that water flow data can be mapped to specific position. The barrels are connected to a pneumatic drain valve which could be actuated to drain each barrel after an experiment.



Figure 3.4: ADD Collection Barrels (left) and ADD Collection Pans (right).



Figure 3.5: Location and numbering of collection bins of ADD apparatus within experimental compartment.

Prior to testing, data was collected to estimate the uncertainty associated with the water distribution measurements performed using the ADD apparatus. Each water collection assembly was filled to capacity while recording pressure transducer measurements as well as data from a calibrated turbine flowmeter (with less than 1 % measurement uncertainty). Although the design of each water collection assembly is the same, the measurement performance across the entire apparatus varied. Overall, the 48 water collection assemblies reported average accuracy of \pm 2.4 gallons. This represents an uncertainty in total volume of \pm 8 % at full scale (30 gal).

3.1.3 Experimental Equipment

To ensure the data collected were applicable to the majority of the fire service, a representative set of nozzles types, specified flows/pressures, and hose sizes were used as shown in Table 3.1.

Line Size	Nozzle Type	Tip (in)	Nozzle Pressure (psi)	Approximate Flow Rate (gpm)
1 3/4 in	Smooth Bore	1	50	210
	Smooth Bore	15/16	50	185
	Smooth Bore	7/8	50	160
	Combination		100	100
	Combination		100	150
	Combination		75	150
	Combination		50	150
2 1/2 in	Smooth Bore	1 1/4	50	325
	Combination		100	250

 Table 3.1: Primary Equipment Configurations

These experiments involved the repetition of nozzle movements and patterns; to minimize nozzle operator fatigue and improve repeatability a nozzle prop was constructed. The prop was used as the 'backup' firefighter by supporting the hoseline and minimizing nozzle reaction forces on the operator. Figure 3.6 shows a dimensioned drawing and the constructed prop. The horizontal base and vertical member were constructed of 4 in by 4 in dimensioned lumber while the angled supports were constructed of 2 in by 6 in dimensioned lumber.



Figure 3.6: Dimensioned drawing of the nozzle prop (left) and constructed prop (left).

The hose was affixed to the prop with 'U' bolts and locking nuts to ensure the hose did not move during an experiment. The prop supported both 1.5 in and 2.5 in hoselines. To ensure the experiments were consistent (independent of variance of nozzle position on the prop), the distance from the nozzle to the ventilation opening was measured from the tip of the nozzle, and not the base of the prop.



Figure 3.7: Nozzle Prop in Use

3.2 Experiments Conducted

The water distribution experiments consisted of 83 experiments with configuration variables of flow position, location at a doorway or window, nozzle type, pressure at the nozzle, stream angle and stream pattern. In each experiment, water flowed for approximately 1 min in duration. If a barrel overflowed, there would be an inability to determine the correct distribution of water flow, therefore the duration was dictated by the size of the collection barrels in the ADD apparatus. Each collection barrel was a total of 30 gallons. At the start of each test, there was an initial amount of water in the bottom of the barrel to ensure the sensors were able to record the water received during the testing. The total water in each barrel was determined by subtracting the initial water volume in each barrel from the final value. The average flux rate was determined by calculating the time average of each barrel over the duration of the flow divided by the effective area of the collection barrel.

3.2.1 Doorway Experiments

The interior experiments were designed to simulate a fire on the same floor as the attack crew. Suppression operations were conducted from the doorway adjoining the hallway to the test compartment, simulating the location at which an advancing hose crew would cool the fire compartment before entering for final suppression, or the location at an exterior door where water is applied before entry. At this location, hose stream type, nozzle direction, and nozzle movement were varied

and the water distribution within the compartment was measured. The three nozzle directions, max angle ceiling, mid-ceiling, and at wall (see Figure 3.8) and were set from a fixed nozzle location. The max angle ceiling position was defined to be the steepest angle the nozzle could be without the stream being impacted by the lintel of the doorway. The mid ceiling position set the stream to hit the middle of the ceiling along the 14 ft 8 in dimension. The third position, the wall position, was defined to have the stream hit the vertical midpoint of the wall adjacent to the doorway. Table 3.2 lists the interior experiments conducted.



Figure 3.8: Nozzle Direction, Doorway Application.

Hose Stream Type	Nozzle Direction	Nozzle Movement	Nozzle Pressure (psi)	Rated Flow Rate (gpm)
Straight Stream	Max Angle Ceiling	0	100	150
Straight Stream	Max Angle Ceiling	Fixed	100	150
Straight Stream	Mid Ceiling	Fixed	100	125
Straight Stream	Mid Ceiling	0	100	125
Straight Stream	Mid Ceiling	Ζ	100	125
Straight Stream	Mid Ceiling	Т	100	125
Straight Stream	Mid Ceiling	Inverted U	100	125
Straight Stream	Mid Ceiling	Fixed	100	150
Straight Stream	Mid Ceiling	0	100	150
Straight Stream	Mid Ceiling	Fixed	75	150
Straight Stream	Mid Ceiling	0	75	150
Straight Stream	Mid Ceiling	Fixed	50	150
Straight Stream	Mid Ceiling	0	50	150
Straight Stream	At Wall	Fixed	100	150
Straight Stream	At Wall	0	100	150
Fog	Mid Ceiling	Fixed	100	125
Fog	Mid Ceiling	Fixed	100	150
Fog	Mid Ceiling	0	100	150
Fog	Mid Ceiling	Fixed	75	150
Fog	Mid Ceiling	0	75	150
Fog	Mid Ceiling	Fixed	50	150
Fog	Mid Ceiling	0	50	150
Fog	Mid Ceiling	0	100	125
15/16 Smooth Bore	Max Angle Ceiling	Fixed	50	180
15/16 Smooth Bore	Max Angle Ceiling	0	50	180
15/16 Smooth Bore	At Wall	Fixed	50	180
15/16 Smooth Bore	At Wall	0	50	180
15/16 Smooth Bore	Mid Ceiling	Fixed	50	180
15/16 Smooth Bore	Mid Ceiling	0	50	180

Table 3.2: Doorway Water Distribution Experiments

3.2.2 Window Experiments

The window experiments included two attack positions: the first attack was on grade with fire and the second was when grade was one floor below the fire. These are referred to as first floor and second floor attacks. The movable staircase allowed for the variation between first floor and second floor suppression through the same window vent. The window experiments simulated a single room of fire in which a window attack was used. Similar to the doorway testing, the hose stream type, the nozzle, and nozzle direction were varied for comparison. The differences in first floor and second floor attacks can been seen in Figures 3.9 and 3.10.

There were five nozzle directions for the first-floor window experiments: max angle ceiling, mid ceiling, min angle ceiling, max angle wall, and at wall. The max angle ceiling position was defined as the steepest angle the nozzle could be positioned at without the window lintel impacting the hose stream. The mid ceiling position was defined by the hose stream aimed at the center of the compartment in the 10 ft-5 in dimension. The min angle ceiling position was defined by the shallowest angle such the hose stream did not directly contact the wall. The max angle wall is similar to the max angle ceiling except it was defined as the steepest angle where the hose stream would impact the wall without the stream contacting the ceiling directly. The final position was aiming the stream at the position on the wall across from the window.

There were also five nozzle directions for the second-floor window experiments: max angle ceiling, mid ceiling, min angle ceiling, max angle wall, and lintel. The first four positions were the same as the first-floor exterior attack except that the starting position of the nozzle changed to be one story below the window vent. The fifth nozzle position, at lintel, was defined to be the maximum angle such that stream directed off the window lintel.

The window experiments are shown in Table 3.3.



Figure 3.9: Nozzle Direction, Window 1st Floor Attack.



Figure 3.10: Nozzle Direction, Window 2nd Floor Attack.

Floor	Hose Stream Type	Nozzle Direction	Nozzle Movement	Nozzle Pressure (psi)	Rated Flow Rate (gpm)	Notes
First	Straight Stream	Max Angle Ceiling	Fixed	100	150	
First	Straight Stream	Max Angle Ceiling	Fixed	100	150	
First	Straight Stream	Max Angle Ceiling	Fixed	100	150	
First	Straight Stream	Max Angle Ceiling	Fixed	100	150	
First	Straight Stream	Max Angle Ceiling	Fixed	100	150	
First	Straight Stream	Max Angle Ceiling	Fixed	100	150	
First	Straight Stream	Max Angle Ceiling	Fixed	100	150	
First	Straight Stream	Max Angle Ceiling	Fixed	100	150	1/2 Bale
First	Straight Stream	Max Angle Ceiling	Fixed	100	150	45 s Flow
First	Straight Stream	Max Angle Ceiling	Fixed	100	150	30 s Flow
First	Straight Stream	Max Angle Ceiling	Fixed	75	150	15 s Flow
First	Straight Stream	Max Angle Ceiling	Fixed	75	60	
First	Straight Stream	Max Angle Ceiling	Fixed	50	185	
First	Straight Stream	Max Angle Ceiling	Fixed	50	150	
First	Straight Stream	Max Angle Ceiling	Fixed	25	150	
First	Straight Stream	Max Angle Ceiling	Fixed	25	130	30 s Flow
First	Straight Stream	Max Angle Ceiling	Fixed	100	250	
First	Straight Stream	Max Angle Ceiling	Sweeping	100	150	
First	Straight Stream	Max Angle Ceiling	Wide Sweep	100	150	
First	Straight Stream	Mid Ceiling	Fixed	100	150	
First	Straight Stream	Min Angle Ceiling	Fixed	100	150	
First	Straight Stream	Min Angle Ceiling	Fixed	100	250	
First	Straight Stream	Max Angle Wall	Fixed	100	150	
First	Straight Stream	At Wall	Fixed	100	150	
First	15/16 Smooth Bore	Max Angle Ceiling	Fixed	50	180	
First	15/16 Smooth Bore	Max Angle Ceiling	Sweeping	50	180	1/2 D 1
First	15/16 Smooth Bore	Max Angle Ceiling	Fixed	50	180	1/2 Bale
First	15/16 Smooth Bore	Max Angle Ceiling	Fixed	30	150	
First	15/16 Smooth Bore	Max Angle Ceiling	Fixed	15	130	
First	15/16 Smooth Bore	Max Angle Celling	Fixed	10	100	
First	15/16 Smooth Bore	Min Anala Cailing	Fixed	50	180	
First	15/16 Smooth Dore	May Angle Celling	Fixed	50	180	
First	15/16 Smooth Pore	Max Angle wall	Fixed	30 50	180	
First	7/8 Smooth Pore	At wall Max Angle Cailing	Fixed	50	150	
First	1 Smooth Bore	Max Angle Ceiling	Fixed	30 50	210	
First	1 1/4 Smooth Bore	Max Angle Ceiling	Fixed	50	210	
First	Fog	Max Angle Ceiling	Fixed	100	150	
First	Straight Stream/Fog	Max Angle Ceiling	Fixed/O	100	150	
	Straight Stream/1 og	Max Angle Centing	T TXCU/O	100	150	
Second	Straight Stream	Max Angle Ceiling	Fixed	100	150	
Second	Straight Stream	Max Angle Ceiling	Sweeping	100	150	
Second	Straight Stream	Max Angle Ceiling	Wide Sweep	100	150	
Second	Straight Stream	Mid Ceiling	Fixed	100	150	
Second	Straight Stream	Man Angle Celling	Fixed	100	150	
Second	Straight Stream	Max Angle wall	Fixed	100	150	
Second	Straight Stream	Lintei May Angle Cailing	Fixed	100	150	
Second	15/10 SHIOOIN BORE	Max Angle Ceiling	Fixed	50	180	
Second	15/10 SHIOUH DOFE	Mid Cailing	Fixed	50	180	
Second	15/16 Smooth Porc	Min Angla Cailing	Fixed	50	100	
Second	15/16 Smooth Porce	Max Angle Wall	Fixed	50	100	
Second	7/8 Smooth Boro	Max Angle Cailing	Fixed	50	150	
Second	1 Smooth Bore	Max Angle Ceiling	Fixed	50	210	
Second	Fog	Max Angle Ceiling	Fixed	100	150	15 s Flow
Second	Fog	Max Angle Ceiling	Fixed/O	100	150	-13 5 1 10W
Second	1 0g	man man coming	1 1/00/0	100	1.50	

Table 3.3: Window Water Distribution Experiments

4 Results

The intent of the water flow experiments was to determine the distribution of water within the compartment as a function of several common fire service nozzle configurations and application locations. The intent was not to imply success is filling all the bins or distributing water evenly. Recall, the location of the water within the compartment was achieved using the ADD device (Section 3.1.2).

4.1 Repeatability

To ensure that differences between distributions of water flux within the compartment could be quantified, it was important to confirm the repeatability of experiments. The first step was to compare the total volume of water measured in the ADD to the total volume of water expected. Table A.1 in Appendix A shows the expected volume, experimentally measured volume, and percent difference. The average percent different for the experiments was 7.4 %, within the expected uncertainty described in Section 3.1.2. The second step was to compare repeatability between replicate tests. Four experiments utilizing a straight stream pattern from a combination nozzle flowing 150 gpm at 100 psi from a 1 3/4 in hoseline from the first-floor window position directed into the structure with a maximum angle were conducted to determine the variance in results. The average flux (gpm/ft²) of water in each of the 48 collection bins for the four replicate experiments is shown in Figure 4.1. In each the bar chart, bins with less than 0.05 gpm/ft² are grey, bins that are greater than 0.05 gpm/ft² but less than 3 gpm/ft² are colored blue, with more than 3 gpm/ft² but less than 6 gpm/ft² are colored green, with more than 6 gpm/ft² but less than 9 gpm/ft² are colored yellow, and bins with more than 9 gpm/ft² are colored red. The choice for the bottom threshold is to provide a relationship to residential sprinklers. According to NFPA 13D, a residential sprinkler system shall provide at least the flow required to produce a minimum discharge density of 0.05 gpm/ft² [11].

Qualitatively, the array of bars in each chart in Figure 4.1 look similar to one another. However, to better compare the tests, a statistical approach known as an analysis of variance (ANOVA), was performed. Specifically, the Kruskal-Willis one-way ANOVA test was applied. The goal of this analysis was to quantify whether samples (in this case the flow rate of water in each bin) originate from the same distribution (are the configurations compared similar or different). The Kruskal-Willis analysis was selected because there is no prior assumption that the data is normally distributed. While this statistical analysis can compare n number of data sets and identify if the data sets are statistically different, a limitation in all ANOVAs is the inability to identify which data sets are statistically different. The result of the ANOVA is a p-value. If the p-value is less than 0.05, the experiments being compared are statistically different.



Figure 4.1: Water flux in each collection bin for a fixed window straight stream nozzle flowing 150 gpm at 100 psi from the first-floor window position directed into the structure with a maximum angle. The four bar charts are replicate tests of the same configuration.

For the straight stream experiments shown in Figure 4.1, a Kruskal-Willis ANOVA test was applied based on average flow rate of water into each collection bin. The resulting p-value was 0.902 average water flux. The high p-value means that the 4 straight stream flow patterns cannot be distinguished from one another. In other words, these experiments can be considered as repeatable.

Confirmation of repeatability allowed for the exploration of additional comparisons within the data. The main comparison sets examined were variation of hose stream type, variation of nozzle direction, variation of nozzle location, and variation of the flow pressure/flow rate. To best understand the visualization of the water flux distribution plots for the comparison sets, the arrows in Figure 4.2 indicate the direction of the flow from the nozzle for doorway tests and window tests.



Figure 4.2: Direction of water flow on distribution plots for doorway experiments (left) and window experiments (right).

4.2 Comparison of Impact of Hose Stream Type

The hose stream type experiments were designed to quantify the distributions of water flux from a straight stream, smooth bore stream, and a narrow fog stream. Six configuration sets were analyzed. Within each configuration set, the nozzle direction, nozzle movement, and nozzle pressure/flow rate were fixed. Table 4.1 shows the results from the ANOVA test based on a comparison of the distribution of the average water flux (gpm/ft²) over the duration of the test within the compartment. The configuration column in the table provides the location (and floor) of the nozzle, the nozzle position, and the nozzle movement. Note that for the window water flow experiments with a sweep pattern, only a straight stream and smooth bore hose stream are compared. The pattern from a fog stream could typically encompass the entire window opening, depending on the size of the opening and the distance from the opening. In these experiments, the fog stream enclosed the window, therefore only a fixed pattern was studied.

Table 4.1: Variation of Hose Stream Types:	Straight Stream,	, Smooth Bore Stream	, Fog Stream
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Configuration	# of Tests	P Value Rate	Different
Doorway, Mid Ceiling, Fixed Pattern	3	2.8E-06	\checkmark
Doorway, Mid Ceiling, 'O' Pattern	3	1.0E-04	\checkmark
1st Floor Window, Max Angle Ceiling, Fixed Pattern	3	0.050	\checkmark
2nd Floor Window, Max Angle Ceiling, Fixed Pattern	3	0.048	\checkmark
1st Floor Window, Max Angle Ceiling, Sweep Pattern*	2	0.275	
2nd Floor Window, Max Angle Ceiling, Sweep Pattern*	2	0.501	

* Only smooth bore stream and straight stream were compared.

The results of the statistical analysis identified that 4 of the 6 hose stream comparisons showed statistical difference between the distributions of average water flux. Here, statistical difference means that the resulting distributions likely originated from different sources. In other words, the

hose streams that produced the water flux distributions are not the same. For the doorway tests, both the fixed pattern and 'O' pattern showed statistical differences (Figures 4.3 and 4.4).

The distributions in Figure 4.3 are similar in that the majority of the water flowed into the buckets opposite the doorway and these buckets all had rates greater than a typical residential sprinkler. For the straight stream and smooth bore stream the profile of water flux along the wall was fairly flat. In the case of the fog stream, the flux profile is parabolic with a peak flow at the center and minimums at the corners of the room. For the smooth bore stream, note that along the walls parallel to the flow, there are several buckets that exceed 0.05 gpm/ft², which the other two hose stream types do not produce.

Comparison of doorway experiments with the 'O' pattern also yielded a p-test value that indicates the streams are different. While the water flux data in Figure 4.4 shows increased water coverage within the compartment compared to a fixed stream, there are differences within the hose stream types. The straight stream and fog stream have more pronounced water flux at the corners of the room while the smooth bore steam has a flatter profile. The 'O' pattern smooth bore stream has more floor coverage in excess of 0.05 gpm/ft², especially along the walls parallel to the stream direction.



Figure 4.3: Water flux in each collection bin for doorway fixed pattern flow at the mid-ceiling direction for a straight stream (upper left), smooth bore stream (upper right), and fog stream (bottom middle).



Figure 4.4: Water volume in each collection bin for doorway 'O' pattern flow at the mid-ceiling direction for a straight stream (upper left), smooth bore stream (upper right), and fog stream (bottom middle).

Statistical tests of fixed pattern window experiments for first and second floor locations comparing hose stream types indicated that both sets showed statistical difference. The p-test values of 0.050 and 0.048 for the first and second floor respectively, indicate that the flux data are different for the straight stream, smooth bore stream and fog stream. For the first-floor experiments, the straight stream and smooth bore show more flow around the perimeter of the compartment compared to the fog stream (Figure 4.5).

The second-floor window experiments examining straight stream, smooth bore stream, and fog stream resulted in a p-value that indicated the hose stream types produced different water flux distributions. Figure 4.6 shows the flux distributions for the three hose stream types. The straight stream and smooth bore stream show similar flows with a flat profile along the wall opposite the window and values all above the 0.05 gpm/ft² residential sprinkler threshold. The fog stream produced a noticeably different pattern. The fog stream shows a parabolic pattern along the wall opposite the window and significantly less water flow around the perimeter of the compartment.



Figure 4.5: Water flux in each collection bin for window first floor fixed pattern flow at the max angle direction for a straight stream (upper left), smooth bore stream (upper right), and fog stream (bottom middle).



Figure 4.6: Water volume in each collection bin for window second floor fixed pattern flow at the max angle direction for a straight stream (upper left), smooth bore stream (upper right), and fog stream (bottom middle).
The final two comparison sets were both window streams (one first-floor set and one second-floor set) at the max angle on the ceiling with sweeping patterns. Only the straight stream and smooth bore streams were compared for cases where the nozzle pattern was a sweeping motion from a window position. In both cases, the first-floor and second-floor location, the analysis revealed that the straight stream and smooth bore stream produce statistically similar distributions. Figures 4.7 and 4.8 confirm the similarity in the water flux distributions.



Figure 4.7: Water flux in each collection bin for window first floor sweeping pattern flow at the max angle direction for a straight stream (left) and smooth bore stream (right).



Figure 4.8: Water volume in each collection bin for window second floor sweeping pattern flow at the max angle direction for a straight stream (left) and smooth bore stream (right).

4.3 Comparison of Impact of Nozzle Direction

The second comparison was to quantify the impact of nozzle direction on water distribution within the compartment. Referring to Figures 3.8, 3.9, and 3.10 there are 3, 5, and 5 nozzle directions

for the doorway experiments, the window first-floor experiments, and the window second-floor experiments, respectively. Table 4.2 shows the p-test values comparing average water flux per collection bin for the nozzle direction comparison experiments. In all comparisons where the nozzle location was fixed and the nozzle direction was varied, there was sufficient variation in the water flux data to indicate that the data was statistically different.

Configuration	# of Tests	P Value Rate	Different
Doorway, Smooth Bore, Fixed Pattern	3	1.4E-04	\checkmark
Doorway, Straight Stream, Fixed Pattern	3	2.9E-08	\checkmark
Doorway, Smooth Bore, 'O' Pattern	3	2.3E-04	\checkmark
Doorway, Straight Stream, 'O' Pattern	3	5.8E-04	\checkmark
1st Floor Window, Straight Stream, Fixed Pattern	5	1.1E-07	\checkmark
1st Floor Window, Smooth Bore Fixed Pattern	5	6.2E-07	\checkmark
2nd Floor Window, Straight Stream Fixed Pattern	5	2.9E-09	\checkmark
2nd Floor Window, Smooth Bore Fixed Pattern	4	1.2E-05	\checkmark
1st and 2nd Floor, Window, Straight Stream	2	0.133	

 Table 4.2: Variation of Nozzle Directions

For the doorway tests, there were three nozzle directions examined: max angle ceiling, mid ceiling, and at wall (Figure 3.8). The fixed pattern doorway smooth bore stream and straight stream tests both show variation in the data (Table 4.2) which is also visualized in the water flux charts Figures 4.9 and 4.10 respectively. Specifically, the max angle ceiling direction for both hose stream types resulted in the perimeter of the compartment exceeding the 0.05 gpm/ft² water flux of residential sprinklers. At the mid ceiling and wall positions, the water flow is more localized along the wall opposite the doorway.

The doorway 'O' pattern smooth bore stream and straight stream experiments were similar to the fixed pattern (Figures 4.11 and 4.12), respectively. For both hose stream types, moving the nozzle through the three directions resulted in statistically different water flux distributions. Again, the mid ceiling and wall direction showed water concentrated along the wall opposite the doorway while the max angle showed water distributed around the perimeter.



Figure 4.9: Water flux in each collection bin for an doorway smooth bore stream with a fixed pattern at three nozzle directions: max angle ceiling (top left), mid ceiling (top right) and at wall (bottom).



Figure 4.10: Water flux in each collection bin for an doorway straight stream with a fixed pattern at three nozzle directions: max angle ceiling (top left), mid ceiling (top right) and at wall (bottom).



Figure 4.11: Water flux in each collection bin for an Doorway smooth bore stream with an 'O' pattern at three nozzle directions: max angle ceiling (top left), mid ceiling (top right) and at wall (bottom).



Figure 4.12: Water volume in each collection bin for an doorway straight stream with an 'O' pattern at three nozzle directions: max angle ceiling (top left), mid ceiling (top right) and at wall (bottom).

The first-floor window experiments used 5 different nozzle directions: max angle ceiling, mid ceiling, min angle ceiling, max angle wall, and at wall. Statistical analysis indicated that the water flux distributions produced from each of the 5 nozzle directions were not the same for both the smooth bore stream and straight stream experiments. Figure 4.13 shows the water flux distribution for the 5 directions for the smooth bore stream while Figure 4.14 shows the water volume distributions for the straight stream. For both hose stream types, the mid ceiling and min angle ceiling directions resulted in most of the water being accumulated in the bins along the wall opposite the window. When the direction became steeper (max angle ceiling) the water was distributed around the perimeter, similar to the doorway experiments. When the directions, there was still significant flow along the wall opposite the nozzle, but the two ceiling positions showed a broader distribution of water flow, specifically towards the window where the nozzle was positioned.

The smooth bore and straight stream second floor window experiments were similar to the firstfloor window experiments. Changes in nozzle position produced water flux data that was statistically different. Figure 4.15 shows the results of the water flux distributions for 4 smooth bore directions and 4.16 shows the results of the water flux distributions for 5 straight stream directions. The smooth bore stream max angle ceiling and max angle wall showed the largest spread of water flux, however with different patterns. The max angle ceiling showed a perimeter-biased distribution (much like the doorway and fire floor window max angle distributions) while the max angle wall had flux greater than 0.05 gpm/ft² over two thirds of the collection buckets with the majority of the flow in the two rows along the wall opposite the window. The mid ceiling and min angle ceiling both showed concentrated water flows along the wall opposite the window

The second-floor straight stream experiments had similar distributions to the smooth bore stream except that a fifth nozzle direction was included. The window straight stream second-floor lintel experiment showed the flattest, most disperse distribution of the nozzle directions tested.



Figure 4.13: Water flux in each collection bin for a first-floor window smooth bore stream with a fixed pattern at five nozzle directions: max angle ceiling (top left), mid ceiling (top right), min angle ceiling (middle left), min angle at wall (middle right), and at wall (bottom).



Figure 4.14: Water flux in each collection bin for a first-floor window straight stream with a fixed pattern at five nozzle directions: max angle ceiling (top left), mid ceiling (top right), min angle ceiling (middle left), min angle at wall (middle right), and at wall (bottom).



Figure 4.15: Water flux in each collection bin for a second-floor window smooth bore stream with a fixed pattern at four nozzle directions: max angle ceiling (top left), mid ceiling (top right), min angle ceiling (bottom left), and max angle wall (bottom left)



Figure 4.16: Water flux in each collection bin for a second-floor window straight stream with a fixed pattern at five nozzle directions: max angle ceiling (top left), mid ceiling (top right), min angle ceiling (middle left), max angle wall (middle right), and lintel (bottom).

4.4 Comparison of Impact of Nozzle Location

For the window experiments where the hose stream type and nozzle direction were the same, but the starting floor was varied (e.g. first and second Floor, Window, Straight Stream, Max Angle) the resulting distributions were similar. For the smooth bore stream and straight stream experiments the three nozzle ceiling positions were compared for the first- and second-floor starting location. Table 4.3 shows the statistical analysis results for the comparisons.

Configuration	# of Tests	P Value Rate	Different
1st and 2nd Floor, Window, Smooth Bore, Max Angle	2	0.780	
1st and 2nd Floor, Window, Straight Stream, Max Angle	2	0.133	
1st and 2nd Floor, Window, Smooth Bore, Mid Ceiling	2	0.872	
1st and 2nd Floor, Window, Straight Stream, Mid Ceiling	2	0.122	
1st and 2nd Floor, Window, Smooth Bore, Min Angle Ceiling	2	0.168	
1st and 2nd Floor, Window, Straight Stream, Min Angle Ceiling	2	0.173	

Window straight streams and smooth bore streams, one from the first-floor position and one from the second-floor position, were compared. In all cases, the stochastic test showed that the water distributions cannot be considered to be different. Figures 4.17 and 4.18 show the similar water flux distributions for the max angle ceiling. Figures 4.19 and 4.20 show the similar water flux distributions for the mid ceiling for the straight stream and smooth bore stream, respectively. At the min angle ceiling, the statistical analysis shows the water flux distributions were similar for both streams as a function of floor (Figures 4.21 and 4.22). Note that for both the smooth bore stream and straight stream there were higher fluxes from the first-floor position, particularly at the center of the compartment compared to the second floor.



Figure 4.17: Water flux in each collection bin for a first-floor window straight stream at max angle ceiling (left) and a second floor window straight stream at max angle ceiling(right).



Figure 4.18: Water flux in each collection bin for a first-floor window smooth bore stream at max angle ceiling (left) and a second floor window smooth bore stream at max angle ceiling(right).



Figure 4.19: Water flux in each collection bin for a first-floor window straight stream at mid ceiling (left) and a second floor window straight stream at mid ceiling(right).



Figure 4.20: Water flux in each collection bin for a first-floor window smooth bore stream at mid ceiling (left) and a second floor window smooth bore stream at mid ceiling(right).



Figure 4.21: Water flux in each collection bin for a first floor window straight stream at min angle ceiling (left) and a second floor window straight stream at min angle ceiling(right).



Figure 4.22: Water flux in each collection bin for a first floor window smooth bore stream at min angle ceiling (left) and a second floor window smooth bore stream at min angle ceiling(right).

4.5 Comparison of Impact of Pressure and Flow Rate

The third set of analysis was to quantify the impact of nozzle pressure and nozzle flow rate on water distribution within the compartment. Table 4.4 shows the statistical comparison results for water flux distributions.

Configuration	# of Tests	P Value Rate	Different
Doorway, Straight Stream, Mid Ceiling	3	0.190	
Doorway, Fog Stream, Mid Ceiling	3	0.196	
1st Floor Window, Smooth Bore, Max Angle Ceiling	3	0.815	
1st Floor Window Smooth Bore, Vary Tip Size	3	0.255	
1st Floor Window, Straight Stream, Varying Pressure Disc	3	0.211	
1st Floor Window, Varying Stream, Varying Hose Diameter	2	0.523	

Table 4.4: Variation of Nozzle Pressure/Flowrate

Three comparisons examined the impact of changing water pressure: on a straight stream (Figure 4.23), on a fog stream (Figure 4.24) and on a smooth bore stream (Figure 4.25). For each of these three hose stream types, the statistical analysis of the results of flow rate revealed that varying pressure did not result in distinctly different water flux distributions. The straight stream experiments were conducted at 100 psi, 75 psi, and 50 psi. For all three pressures, the water flux is similar in position (along the wall opposite the door) and profile (Figure 4.23). The fog nozzle experiments were conducted at the same three pressures as the straight stream: 100 psi, 75 psi, and 50 psi. The distributions, shown in Figure 4.24, all have similar parabolic profiles along the wall opposite the doorway. For the smooth bore stream, three flow rates were compared: 180 gpm at 50 psi, 150 gpm at 30 psi, and 130 gpm at 15 psi. In these cases, the total water flowed was decreased with decreased flow rate, but as Figure 4.25 shows, the distributions are similar although the magnitude of the flux changed.



Figure 4.23: Water flux in each collection bin for a doorway straight stream with a fixed pattern at 150 gpm with 100 psi (top left), 75 psi (top right) and 50 psi (bottom).



Figure 4.24: Water flux in each collection bin for a doorway fog stream with a fixed pattern at 150 gpm with 100 psi (top left), 75 psi (top right) and 50 psi (bottom).



Figure 4.25: Water flux in each collection bin for a first-floor window smooth bore a fixed pattern with 180 gpm at 50 psi (top left), 150 gpm at 30 psi (top right) and 130 gpm at 15 psi (bottom).

In addition to examining a fixed smooth bore nozzle with varying pressure, three smooth bore nozzles with different sizes were examined. The three configurations were a 1 in tip that flowed 210 gpm at 50 psi, 15/16 in tip that flowed 185 gpm at 50 psi, and a 7/8 in tip that flow 160 gpm at 50 psi. Variation of tip size resulted in water flux distributions that could not be distinguished from one another. Figure 4.26 shows the water flux results for the three experiments. The distributions, while similar, do differ in magnitude.



Figure 4.26: Water flux in each collection bin for a window smooth bore stream with a fixed pattern with a 1 in tip (top left), 15/16 in tip (top right) and 7/8 in tip (bottom).

To compare the impact of changing pressure disc options in a combination nozzle, three first-floor window straight stream experiments at the max angle nozzle direction were compared. The three settings were 150 gpm at 100 psi, 185 gpm at 50 psi, and 150 gpm at 50 psi. Figure 4.27 shows the water flux patterns that were similar to one another, which is confirmed by the statistical analysis indicating the distributions were similar.



Figure 4.27: Water flux in each collection bin for a first-floor window straight stream with a fixed pattern at 150 gpm at 100 psi (top left), 185 gpm at 50 psi (top right) and 150 gpm at 50 psi (bottom).

Tests were also conducted to examine if increasing the hose diameter to provide additional water would impact the flux of water within the compartment. A 15/16 in smooth bore nozzle on a 1 3/4 in hose provided 180 gpm at 50 psi. The results were compared to those produced by a 1 1/4 in smooth bore nozzle on a 2 1/2 in hose which provided 260 gpm at 50 psi. The water flux distributions were shown to be statistically similar, with a p-value of 0.523, and Figure 4.28 shows that despite a of couple bins that had greater water flux for the larger hose, the distributions are comparable.



Figure 4.28: Water flux in each collection bin for a first-floor window stream with a fixed pattern from 1 3/4 in straight stream (left) and 2 1/2 in smooth bore with 1 1/4 in tip (right).

5 Discussion

5.1 Hose Stream Reach

There has been research on firefighting nozzles and hose streams as far back as late 1800s [12]. Limited by available technology at the time, this early work focused on visual observations. Specifically, researchers focused on distance, or effective reach. Effective reach was defined as the reach of the hose stream before it began to break apart. Without the aid of modern personal protective equipment, early fire service nozzles needed to be designed for reach to provide protection for firefighters by keeping distance between them and the fire. A long reach also meant a greater ability to suppress fires on upper floors without having to drag hoselines through the building. Additionally, the research on adjustable nozzles, which have been in the fire service for over 100 years [13], has focused on reach, flow, and patterns.

The second edition of Fire Service Hydraulics by Sylvia, which contains information on the reach of hose streams both vertically and horizontally [14], cites original work done by John R. Freeman. Mr. Freeman was a civil engineer who conducted tests of hand held nozzle reach in 1884. Results of his work indicated the maximum effective horizontal reach of a $\frac{3}{4}$ in nozzle was achieved when the nozzle was at a 32° angle. Through the data Mr. Freeman collected, an empirical formula was developed for maximum horizontal effective reach (*S* [ft]) as a function of pressure (*p* [psi]):

$$S = \frac{1}{2}p + 26$$

For nozzles sizes in excess of $\frac{3}{4}$ in add 5 to the 26 for each $\frac{1}{8}$ in increase in nozzle diameter.

A formula for maximum vertical reach, or effective height, (*H* [ft]) was also derived from empirical data. For an angle of 70° and a 1 in smooth bore tip with a nozzle pressure (*p* [psi]) up to 100 psi, the effective height can be found from:

$$H = \sqrt{240p - p^2 - 1900} - 15$$

Over the last 200 years little has changed in how nozzle reach is determined. Studies conducted by nozzle manufacturers indicate modern nozzles using a straight stream from a combination nozzle or smooth bore have an effective reach of anywhere from 45 ft to 145 ft, using the same 32° angle from Freeman's work [15–17]. Modern combination and smooth bore nozzles are commonly used for interior fire attack of residential structures, however the largest dimension within a room is typically on the order of 25 ft. As a result, during an interior attack of a residential structure, the hose stream will likely impact an obstruction before it exceeds its effective reach. Even combination nozzles set to a narrow fog (30°) are cited to have an effective reach of 40 ft to 50 ft [16].

5.2 Hose Stream Dispersion

Quantification of the impact to a hose stream once it impacts a solid obstruction (dispersion) is difficult. Additionally, visual observation gained from experience using hose streams on residential fires is nearly impossible due to smoke within the structure. Work done by the National Board of Fire Underwriters indicates the hose stream velocity to be in excess of 80 ft/s [18]. That velocity, combined with the density of water of 8.3 lb/gal [19] results in a water stream with significant momentum. Once the stream impacts a surface, some of the momentum is absorbed (slowing down the stream) while the remainder is transmitted in different directions (redirecting the stream).

Stream dispersion is dependent on the angle of impact. When the angle of impact was close to 90° as shown in Figure 5.1 the stream was redirected radially, approximately in a 360° pattern. Note that since this was a horizontal flow (90° to a vertical wall), gravity did skew the dispersion downward as the arrows in Figure 5.1 indicate.



Figure 5.1: Water dispersion of straight stream impacting a wall at an approximate 90° angle.

For the cases where the stream was aimed at the ceiling, a 90° angle could not have been tested without the nozzle placed being inside the compartment. Therefore, the maximum angle was defined as the angle closest to 90° while the nozzle remained exterior (recall Figures 3.9 and 3.10). Figure 5.2 shows the impact on the stream. The majority of the water was directed along the ceiling toward the wall opposite of the nozzle. There was some water that was directed back in the direction of the wall where the nozzle was positioned. Note that water did not "bounce" off the ceiling and fall into the center collection bins.

As the angle between the stream and ceiling decreased (stream became more parallel to the ceiling), the momentum of the water carried more water towards the wall opposite the nozzle. Figures 5.3 and 5.3 show the impact of decreasing the angle on the dispersion of water within the compartment for a mid ceiling nozzle direction and min angle ceiling nozzle direction respectively. When the stream impacted the ceiling at an angle, there was limited to no ricocheting off of the ceiling. The stream dispersed into a fan shape and continued in the direction of travel. Once it struck the back wall, the momentum was translated down the back wall.

Figure 5.5 provides a mid ceiling nozzle position view from the perspective of the collection buckets "looking" toward the ceiling for both a smooth bore stream and a straight stream. While the



Figure 5.2: Water dispersion of straight stream impacting a ceiling at the maximum angle.



Figure 5.3: Water dispersion of straight stream impacting a ceiling at the middle position.



Figure 5.4: Water dispersion of straight stream impacting a ceiling at the minimum angle.

straight stream shows a slightly larger diameter stream before ceiling impact, both streams show similar dispersion patterns after impacting the ceiling.

Although the shape of the stream when it hits the surface has some impact on the dispersion, in general the momentum of the water carries the resulting droplets in the same general direction.





For a fog stream that impacted the ceiling, the momentum of the droplets still carried them in the general direction of the stream. As the angle of impact with the surface is decreased as shown in Figure 5.6 and 5.7 the dispersion is similar to that of the smooth bore stream and straight stream: more directional than radial with the momentum carrying more of the droplets in the original direction of the stream.



Figure 5.6: Water dispersion of fog stream impacting a ceiling at the maximum angle.



Figure 5.7: Water dispersion of fog stream impacting a ceiling at the mid angle.

5.3 Water Distribution

If a stream impacts a wall at near a 90° angle the water will be distributed along that surface outward from the point of impact. The water will travel along that wall until it impacts another surface or gravity overcomes its translational momentum. This results in the distribution of the water being concentrated along the back wall and in the corners as shown in Figure 5.8.



Figure 5.8: Example of wall distribution for a straight stream: experimental image (left) and water flux distribution (right).

The same general principal is applied when the stream impacts a horizontal surface such as a ceiling; however, generally there will be less than a 90° angle of impact. As the angle decreased from 90° , more of the stream was translated along the surface in the direction the hose was aimed. The momentum of the stream was sufficient to carry the stream horizontally to the opposite wall. The stream broke up and fell along the wall to the floor below. The distribution of the water was still concentrated along the back wall as seen in Figure 5.9.

Adjusting the pattern had little effect on the distribution, as the the momentum of the stream carried the water along with the same pattern. If the impact was less than 90° and the surface was the ceiling, the broken stream from the fog pattern still translated horizontally to the far wall and was distributed along the far wall. Figure 5.10 shows an example of the fog stream as it was translated



Figure 5.9: Example of max angle distribution for a straight stream: experimental image (left) and water flux distribution (right).

to the far wall and distributed along the back wall.



Figure 5.10: Example of mid ceiling distribution for a fog stream: experimental image (left) and water flux distribution (right).

5.4 Doorway vs. Window

The position of a hose stream, be it the at a doorway or at a window has been thought to have an impact on water distribution within a compartment. The experiments conducted in this study showed that for the same nozzle position no statistical differences occurred between the first-floor or second-floor window locations. Since the compartment was rectangular, there were different numbers of collection barrels along the door wall versus the window. This prevented a direct statistical comparison of doorway versus window streams. However, as Figure 5.11 shows, for the same hose stream type the distributions for doorway and window positions were similar. The majority of the water was distributed along the wall of the structure opposite of the nozzle. Additionally, due to the position of application, varying the nozzle movement had little to no impact on the distribution in either case. This was directly related to momentum of the water and the reach of the stream. The effective reach significantly exceeded the room dimensions.



Figure 5.11: Water flux distributions for window (left column) versus doorway (right column) locations.

5.5 Tactical Choices Effecting Distribution

As a company officer and/or a firefighter assigned to the nozzle there are several tactical choices which have the potential to impact the dispersion and distribution of water as it applies to compartment fires. Items such as nozzle type, flow rate, and pressure are often pre-determined while nozzle pattern, bale position, angle of application, and nozzle movement are tactical choices which can be determined based on conditions.

5.5.1 **Pre-Determined Tactical Choices**

The pre-determined tactical choices of nozzle type and flow rate were seen to have negligible impact on the dispersion and distribution within the compartment for both doorway and window application. Figure 4.25 in Section 4.5 shows how increasing the pressure of a smooth bore stream increased the flux; however, it did not change the distribution. Similar results were seen for the straight stream (Figure 4.27) and fog stream (Figure 4.24). The tactical choice of nozzle type, flow rate, and pressure for a compartment fire may be more a function of crew size and available water supply than a function of desired water distribution.

5.5.2 Condition-Based Tactical Choices

As an engine company makes the approach to a fire, whether for an interior or an exterior attack, the firefighter assigned to the nozzle along with the officer have several tactical choices related to application technique. Although items such as nozzle pattern, application angle and bale position are often pre-determined based on training, they have the potential to impact desired water distribution in compartment fire attacks.

Nozzle Movement

There are four main methods being taught for nozzle movement during suppression operations, each named for the letter they form: the 'O', 'T', 'Z' and inverted 'U' patterns. All four of these methods were compared to a fixed position to determine the impact of nozzle movement on distribution. Figure 5.12 shows the fixed position in the upper left, the 'O' pattern in the upper right, the 'Z' pattern in the center left the 'T' pattern in the center right and the inverted 'U' at the bottom for a mid-ceiling application. When compared to each other, nozzle movement had little effect on the distribution in the compartment. The majority of water from the hose stream accumulated along the wall opposite the doorway; concentrated in the corners. While the distribution of the fixed pattern was more uniform (flatter) compared the experiments with movement, the accumulated water at the back wall was several orders of magnitude larger than a residential sprinkler.



Figure 5.12: Water flux distributions for doorway straight streams at the mid ceiling where the nozzle pattern is fixed (upper left), an 'O' pattern (upper right), a 'Z' pattern (middle left), a 'T' pattern (middle right) and an inverted 'U' pattern.

Impact Angle

The angle at which the stream impacted the surface was shown to have the most impact on distribution in the room. Figures 4.9 and 4.13, for the smooth bore doorway and smooth bore window attack, respectively, show how the variation of the angle of the nozzle impact with a surface can more effectively distribute the water in the compartment. Rather than a patterned nozzle movement application, variation of the angle of the nozzle from a steep to a shallow angle and back could provide the best distribution in the room.

Bale Position

The degree at which the bale of the nozzle was open, approximately 50 % to 100 %, had an impact on the distribution of water flux within the compartment for both a smooth bore stream and straight stream. Figure 5.13 shows that for the smooth bore stream the fully opened bale resulted in most of the water flowing into bins along the wall opposite the window with water flux in excess of a typical residential sprinkler and also around the remaining perimeter of the compartment. The half open bale resulted in a distribution with high water flux in the collection bin opposite the window, however the water flux was more narrowly concentrated with little flow at the compartment perimeter.



Figure 5.13: Water flux in each collection bin for a first-floor exterior smooth bore with a fixed pattern from full open bale (left) and a 1/2 open bale (right).

Water flux distributions are shown in Figure 5.14 for the straight stream nozzle with a fully open bale and a half open bale. The straight stream distribution with a fully open bale was similar to the fully open bale smooth bore stream: significant water flux at the wall opposite the window with water flux in excess of a typical residential sprinkler also around the remaining perimeter of the compartment. In comparison, the distribution for the straight stream with a half open bale shows a significantly flatter, more uniform pattern with a majority of the collection bins in excess of a typical residential sprinkler.



Figure 5.14: Water flux in each collection bin for a first floor window straight stream with a fixed pattern from full open bail (left) and a 1/2 open bail (right).

Although not tested specifically, the bale position will have a similar effect during an doorway attack. When the bale is not completely open it causes turbulence in the water stream exiting the nozzle, slowing its velocity and reducing its momentum. When the nozzle firefighter can place the nozzle in the compartment, either from a window or doorway, a 1/2 bale technique will provide a more uniform distribution in the compartment if that is desired.

5.5.3 Tactical Choices Summary and Application

Understanding the fundamentals of how fire service hose streams disperse once they impact a surface from either a window or a doorway allows for extrapolation to the majority of the fire service application locations. The doorway may be an exterior door or an interior door, regardless of how the geometry of the door impacts the ability of water to enter the compartment or structure similarly.

In all the experiments conducted it became clear hose streams effectiveness is limited to 'line of sight'. The ability to apply water to all surfaces in a room is limited when the nozzle is located outside the compartment. Once in the compartment a firefighter can put water anywhere in the room by moving the nozzle or their body. This is completely within the control of the firefighter. When outside the room this is not possible. Once we understand the dynamics of water hitting a surface at different angles we can extrapolate this knowledge to other locations.

These fundamentals can be applied to many different geometries in structures; for example, applying water at the entrance to a hallway. The entrance of the hallway has a similar geometry to the entrance to a room, the shape of the compartment is different however the same general principals of hose stream dispersion apply. The angle of impact will have the most effect on stream dispersion and in turn, distribution. Water applied to the wall will be translated along the wall until it loses momentum and its horizontal velocity is overcome by gravity, or until it hits another surface and the momentum is translated along that surface. Water applied to a ceiling will be translated along the ceiling following the same principals. Once it hits perpendicular surface such as a wall or a lintel, the momentum will translate along that new surface until it is overcome by gravity and falls to the floor.

Applying this to a "wall, ceiling, wall" application technique while going down the hallway allows little water to enter adjacent compartments because the bulk of the water rides the walls and does not bounce off the wall and into the compartment. It will, however, provide good distribution ahead of the nozzle firefighter going down the hallway. Once the nozzle firefighter reaches the compartment and if visibility is limited they can then apply the stream at steep angle, through the doorway, off the ceiling to provide the best distribution in the compartment before entering. If flames are visible in the contents of the room, the nozzle firefighter can apply water to them before entering the compartment. Once in the compartment the nozzle firefighter should cool all surfaces by applying water directly. Special attention should be given to areas of the room where application is not possible from outside the compartment to complete extinguishment.

5.5.4 Limitations

This section discusses the tactical choices as they relate to water distribution. It is important to understand that water distribution is not the only concern when discussing fire suppression tactical choices. Other considerations such as air entrainment may play a role in the nozzle firefighter's choice of hose stream. Fire suppression operations involve a significant number of variables, making the system extremely complex. Understanding how the variables interact was out of the scope of this particular analysis and discussion. Additionally, furniture was not located within the space as furniture layouts change from structure to structure. Extrapolation of the results of dispersion allow for an understanding of the basic concepts of what happens when a hose stream hits the surface of a fixed piece of furniture.

6 Future Research Needs

The water distribution data presented in this report part represents a step forward for water mapping from hose streams. However, there is additional work that can be conducted to increase the knowledge base. While hose stream types tested, there is still a need to quantify the impact of larger streams such as a master stream. The other area of interest is to further examine geometric effects. In particular, larger volume compartments, compartments with long entrance hallways, and compartments with complex geometries such as 'L- shaped' rooms require more study.

Future studies should look to quantify the amount of water which enters adjacent compartments from a hallway as a crew advances during an interior attack, along with how furniture in a space effects the distribution when the stream impacts furniture.
7 Summary

The goal of the experiments was to quantify water distributions within a room over a set of parameters typically used in the fire service. It is important to note that success was not filling all the bins or distributing the water evenly in the room. The results show the momentum from fire service hose streams prevents the stream from bouncing off a surface. Using a steep angle directed at the ceiling of a compartment was shown to coat the most surfaces and provide distribution along all four walls. As the angle decreased, the amount of surface coating decreased. This was consistant regardless of the nozzle type, pattern, or even the direction the water was applied from. Understanding this key principal of water dispersion can aid firefighters in understanding how to most effectily apply their water during fire suppression operations.

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Appendix A Total Water Flowed

The total water volume for each experiment was calculated by summing the total water in each bucket. This was compared to expected total water volume which was determined by multiplying the measurement flow rate (gpm) by the duration of flow. Table A.1 shows the expected water (gal), experimental water (gal), and the percent difference between them. In the table, 'SB' indicates smooth bore, and 'SS' indicates straight stream. The average perfect difference over all experiments was 7.4 %, with a standard deviation of 5.2 %.

Test Description	Nozzle Setting	Expected Water (gal)	Experimental Water (gal)	Percent Difference
Window 2nd Floor 15/16" SB Fixed Max Angle Ceiling	185 gpm @ 50 psi	146.4	128.2	12.5
Window, 2nd Floor, 15/16" SB Sweeping, Max Angle Ceiling	185 gpm @ 50 psi	158.6	139.1	12.3
Window, 2nd Floor, 15/16" SB Fixed, Mid Ceiling	185 gpm @ 50 psi	161.7	157.1	2.8
Window, 2nd Floor, 15/16" SB Fixed, Min Angle Ceiling	185 gpm @ 50 psi	180.0	176.3	2.0
Window, 2nd Floor, 15/16" SB Fixed, Max Angle Wall	185 gpm @ 50 psi	161.7	159.2	1.5
Window, 2nd Floor, 7/8" SB Fixed, Max Angle Ceiling	160 gpm @ 50 psi	148.2	130.0	12.3
Window, 2nd Floor, 1" SB Fixed, Max Angle Ceiling	210 gpm @ 50 psi	205.3	168.0	18.2
Window, 2nd Floor, SS Fixed, Max Angle Ceiling	150 gpm @ 100 psi	128.3	116.4	9.3
Window, 2nd Floor, SS Sweeping, Max Angle Ceiling	150 gpm @ 100 psi	128.3	118.0	8.0
Window, 2nd Floor, SS Wide Sweep, Max Aligie Celling	150 gpm @ 100 psi	130.7	06.4	21.0
Window, 2nd Floor, SS Fixed, Mid Ceiling	150 gpm @ 100 psi	123.3	126.0	36
Window, 2nd Floor, SS Fixed, Min Angle Ceiling	150 gpm @ 100 psi	130.7	116.2	11.2
Window, 2nd Floor, SS Fixed, Max Angle Wall	150 gpm @ 100 psi	128.3	127.3	0.8
Window, 2nd Floor, Fog Fixed, Max Angle Ceiling	150 gpm @ 100 psi	99.0	94.1	5.0
Window, 2nd Floor, Fog Fixed/O, Max Angle Ceiling	150 gpm @ 100 psi	116.0	91.7	21.0
Window, 1st Floor, 15/16" SB Fixed, Max Angle Ceiling	185 gpm @ 50 psi	175.5	157.0	10.6
Window, 1st Floor, 15/16" SB Sweeping, Max Angle Ceiling	185 gpm @ 50 psi	166.1	143.0	13.9
Window, 1st Floor, 15/16" SB Fixed, Mid Ceiling	185 gpm @ 50 psi	175.5	173.1	1.4
Window, 1st Floor, 15/16 SB Fixed, Min Angle Celling	185 gpm @ 50 psi	100.1	104.7	0.8
Window, 1st Floor, 15/16" SB Fixed, Max Aligie Wall Window, 1st Floor, 15/16" SB Fixed, At Wall	185 gpm @ 50 psi	222.5	109.9	20.0
Window, 1st Floor, 7/8" SB Fixed, Max Angle Ceiling	160 gpm @ 50 psi	148.4	135.3	8.8
Window, 1st Floor, 1" SB Fixed, Max Angle Ceiling	210 gpm @ 50 psi	221.6	181.3	18.2
Window, 1st Floor, SS Fixed, Max Angle Ceiling	150 gpm @ 100 psi	131.6	116.1	11.8
Window, 1st Floor, SS Sweeping, Max Angle Ceiling	150 gpm @ 100 psi	131.6	120.5	8.5
Window, 1st Floor, SS Wide Sweep, Max Angle Ceiling	150 gpm @ 100 psi	129.1	118.8	8.0
Window, 1st Floor, SS Fixed, Mid Ceiling	150 gpm @ 100 psi	131.6	133.3	1.3
Window, 1st Floor, SS Fixed, Min Angle Ceiling	150 gpm @ 100 psi	136.6	140.0	2.5
Window, 1st Floor, SS Fixed, Max Angle Wall	150 gpm @ 100 psi	131.6	127.6	3.0
Window, 1st Floor, SS Fixed, At Wall	150 gpm @ 100 psi	136.6	135.4	0.9
Window, 1st Floor, Fog Fixed, Max Angle Ceiling	150 gpm @ 100 psi	134.1	131.6	1.8
Window, 1st Floor, SS Then Fog O, Max Angle Ceiling	150 gpm @ 100 psi	121.7	124.7	2.5
Window, 1st Floor, SS Fixed, Max Angle Ceiling	250 gpm @ 100 psi	226.1	209.0	7.6
Window, 1st Floor, SS Fixed, Max Angle Ceiling	250 gpm @ 100 psi	210.2	209.3	0.5
Window, 1st Floor, 1 1/4 SB Fixed, Max Angle Celling	150 gpm @ 100 psi	17.5	255.2	9.5
Window, 1st Floor, SS Fixed, Max Angle Ceiling	150 gpm @ 100 psi	52.5	15.2	10.2
Window, 1st Floor, SS Fixed, Max Angle Ceiling	150 gpm @ 100 psi	75.0	47.2	99
Window, 1st Floor, SS Fixed, Max Angle Ceiling	150 gpm @ 100 psi	127.5	114.4	10.2
Window, 1st Floor, SS Fixed, Max Angle Ceiling	150 gpm @ 100 psi	51.9	45.0	13.4
Window, 1st Floor, 15/16" SB Fixed, Max Angle Ceiling	185 gpm @ 50 psi	82.4	71.4	13.3
Window, 1st Floor, 15/16" SB Fixed, Max Angle Ceiling	140 gpm @ 30 psi	131.4	121.6	7.7
Window, 1st Floor, 15/16" SB Fixed, Max Angle Ceiling	100 gpm @ 15 psi	137.6	126.5	8.0
Window, 1st Floor, SS Fixed, Max Angle Ceiling	150 gpm @ 50 psi	151.9	136.8	10.0
Window, 1st Floor, SS Fixed, Max Angle Ceiling	160 gpm @ 75 psi	41.2	37.1	9.8
Window, 1st Floor, SS Fixed, Max Angle Ceiling	150 gpm @ 50 psi	94.3	85.8	9.0
Window, 1st Floor, SS Fixed, Max Angle Ceiling	130 gpm @ 25 psi	75.9	67.7	10.9
Doorway, SS Fixed, Mid Ceiling	125 gpm @ 100 psi	109.2	106.2	2.8
Doorway, SS 'O', Mid Ceiling	125 gpm @ 100 psi 125 gpm @ 100 psi	107.5	99.8	6.3
Doorway, SS Z, Mid Ceiling	125 gpm @ 100 psi	109.7	00.8	0.5
Doorway, SS Inverted U. Mid Ceiling	125 gpm @ 100 psi	114.0	100.6	11.7
Doorway, Fog Fixed. Mid Ceiling	125 gpm @ 100 psi	98.9	93.3	5.7
Doorway, SS Fixed, Mid Ceiling	150 gpm @ 100 psi	126.6	124.1	1.9
Doorway, SS 'O', Mid Ceiling	150 gpm @ 100 psi	124.0	124.1	0.01
Doorway, Fog Fixed, Mid Ceiling	150 gpm @ 100 psi	131.8	129.6	1.6
Doorway, Fog 'O', Mid Ceiling	150 gpm @ 100 psi	136.9	132.7	3.1
Doorway, SS Fixed, Mid Ceiling	150 gpm @ 75 psi	120.8	121.3	0.4
Doorway, SS 'O', Mid Ceiling	150 gpm @ 75 psi	115.8	117.1	1.2
Doorway, Fog Fixed, Mid Ceiling	150 gapm @ 75 psi	123.3	122.5	0.7
Doorway, Fog 'O', Mid Ceiling	150 gpm @ 75 psi	130.1	129.8	0.8
Doorway, SS Fixed, Mid Ceiling	150 gpm @ 50 psi 150 gpm @ 50 psi	137.5	130.5	0.8
Doorway, 55 O, Mid Ceiling	150 gpm @ 50 psi	104.5	111.6	6.8
Doorway, Fog 'O' Mid Ceiling	150 gpm @ 50 psi	129.3	130.5	1.0
Doorway, 15/16" SB Fixed At Wall	180 gpm @ 50 psi	162.4	156.2	3.8
Doorway, 15/16" SB 'O', At Wall	180 gpm @ 50 psi	127.3	126.5	0.7
Doorway, 15/16" SB Fixed, Mid Ceiling	180 gpm @ 50 psi	152.8	144.7	5.3
Doorway, 15/16" SB 'O', Mid Ceiling	180 gpm @ 50 psi	175.0	155.3	11.3
Doorway, 15/16" SB Fixed, Max Angle Ceiling	180 gpm @ 50 psi	168.7	153.2	9.2
Doorway, 15/16" SB 'O', Max Angle Ceiling	180 gpm @ 50 psi	165.5	149.0	10.0
Doorway, SS Fixed, At Wall	150 gpm @ 100 psi	131.5	125.3	4.7
Doorway, SS 'O', At Wall	150 gpm @ 100 psi	118.1	118.4	0.3
Doorway, SS Fixed, Max Angle Ceiling	150 gpm @ 100 psi	139.5	125.7	9.9
Doorway, SS 'U', Max Angle Ceiling	150 gpm @ 100 psi	130.9	122.1	10.8
Window, 1st Floor, SS Fixed, Max Angle Celling	150 gpm @ 100 psi	133.3	121.1	7.3 8.0
Window, 1st Floor, SS Fixed, Max Angle Ceiling	150 gpm @ 100 psi 150 gpm @ 100 psi	136.0	127.3	0.0 10.0
Window 1st Floor SS Fixed Max Angle Ceiling	150 gpm @ 100 psi	141.2	129.1	86
Window, 1st Floor, SS Fixed, Max Angle Ceiling	150 gpm @ 75 nsi	106.7	100.3	6.0
Window, 1st Floor, SS Fixed, Max Angle Ceiling	150 gpm @ 50 psi	80.2	73.7	8.0
Window, 1st Floor, SS Fixed, Max Angle Ceiling	150 gpm @ 25 psi	49.6	43.6	11.6

Table A.1: Expected vs. Experimental Water Differences

Appendix B Experiment Figures

B.1 Second Floor Window Tests



Figure B.1: Smooth Bore Second Floor Window



Figure B.2: Straight Stream Second Floor Window



Figure B.3: Fog Stream Second Floor Window

B.2 First Floor Window Tests



Figure B.4: Smooth Bore First Floor Window



Figure B.5: Straight Stream First Floor Window



Figure B.6: Fog Stream First Floor Window



Figure B.7: Straight Stream vs. Smooth Bore, 2 1/2 Hose, First Floor, Window



Figure B.8: Smooth Bore Adjusted Pressures/Varied Flow Rates, First Floor Window



Figure B.9: Straight Stream Adjusted Pressures/Varied Flow Rates, First Floor Window



Figure B.10: Straight Stream Adjusted Pressures/Constant Flow Rates, First Floor Window



Figure B.11: Water flux in each collection bin for a first floor window smooth bore and straight stream with a fixed pattern from a 1/2 open bail.

B.3 Doorway Tests



Figure B.12: Straight Stream Varied Nozzle Movements, First Floor Doorway



Figure B.13: Fog Stream Fixed, First Floor Doorway



Figure B.14: Straight Stream vs. Fog 100 psi, First Floor Doorway



Figure B.15: Straight Stream vs. Fog 75 psi, First Floor Doorway



Figure B.16: Straight Stream vs. Fog 50 psi, First Floor Doorway



Figure B.17: Smooth Bore Varied Elevation Angle, First Floor Doorway



Figure B.18: Straight Stream Varied Elevation Angle, First Floor Doorway