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TECH TIPS

a technical bulletin by the experts at Gaco Western

HEATED HOSE

During this time of year, the heated hose is another integral part of our spray equipment that must be working at its highest level. We use and abuse them through summer and never think twice about it being warm enough to maintain the heat needed to spray. We put rolls of duct tape around our hoses to protect them and just continue adding tape when it starts to fray away. When was the last time you looked at the wear beneath the tape?

Some applicators may have even had issues with their heated whip and replaced it with unheated hydraulic hoses just to get by. Can you still get by in the winter time without a heated whip? Can you leave your heated hose rolled up on the rack while it is on? Is your Fluid Temp Sensor (FTS) located in the proper place on your hose? These questions and more will now be answered.

Protecting the hose is one of our most tedious jobs. We drag it across gravel and dirt and through mazes of stud walls throughout the jobsite. Most of us have scuff guard around our hoses and then we even go further by wrapping that in duct tape. Over time these layers of protection break down and leave the heart of our hoses exposed. Our heated hoses are made up of high pressure hydraulic hoses wrapped in heated coils and then insulated, while the FTS cable and air hose for the gun run on the outside of the two heated hoses. If our protection layers are breached it will expose the more sensitive areas of our hose that will cause us the greatest problems. Many of us have experienced an E03 and E04 with the Graco E series reactors. When these error codes appear it is usually because critical wires in the heated hose have become exposed and have been cut, frayed, or disconnected due to lack of protection. Always inspect your hose for exposed wiring as you unwrap and wrap your hose at every jobsite.

Heated Hoses and the 10' whip are a must have when spraying in the winter. Lack of a heated whip in the winter time can cause the chemical to cool down when you are not triggering the gun. Spraying chemical that has cooled down can cause poor spray patterns, runny foam, and potential low yields. The 10' heated whip and the last 50' section of heated hose take the most abuse being in the spray zone, therefore these are the areas where the most stress can be caused on connections (hose and wiring). These areas should always be checked and maintained. Even though the last 60' take the most stress in the spray zone, the first 50' – 100' from the reactor should not be left on the rack rolled up while maintaining heat on the hose. Leaving the hose rolled up while the heat is on can cause premature wear on your hose.

The FTS is the sensor that is designed to relay information to the reactor on the temperature of the chemical. It should be located back 60' from the gun. The sensor is in the A side of the heated hose, being 60' back puts it in a danger zone and therefore must be well protected. If you experience an E04 ERROR CODE this means the reactor has lost contact with the sensor. Disconnect the FTS wire coupler at the 60' location and re-couple at the first FTS wire coupler in front the reactor. If the E04 ERROR CODE disappears, the FTS sensor is good, and you know you have a break somewhere else in the purple wire.

Have an idea, suggestion or questions?

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