



# REEL TECH INFO-SHEETS WORKING TOWARDS IMPROVED SAFETY USING HOSE REELS

Some hose reel precautions & considerations

**Info-sheet topic : Hose Reel Payout (Deployment) & Rewind (Retrieval) for hose deployed to ground**

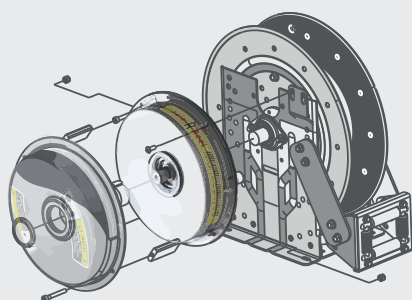
These guidelines form part of our REEL TECH info-sheet series, dealing with improving safety using reels. This info-sheet deals with general safety considerations specific to reel payout (Deployment) and rewind (Retrieval). However, the owner/operator should assess and determine if any additional, or more suitable, user information is required for its particular application and operation.

Additionally, the owner/operator should make a copy of this info-sheet or any other material they deem necessary, making it available to all users working with reels. Additional copies of this info-sheet, along with other reel data, may be obtained upon request. No warranty of the correctness or sufficiency of the information in this info-sheet is made by REEL TECH.

Read all relevant information and instructions prior to unpacking reels. If there is ANYTHING you do not understand about the safe installation and use of your reel, please contact REEL TECH (Attn: Customer service). We are always happy to help.

## NOTICE

*Reel Tech will not assume any liability for any alterations and/or modifications to Reel Tech or products supplied by Reel Tech nor for uses other than for which these products are intended all warranties expressed or implied will become null and void.*



Speed control devices such as **Safe-R-Reel™** mechanism will ensure a controlled rewind speed in event of operator losing control of hose during rewind.

If your standard reel is not equipped with optional **Safe-R-Reel™** technology, ask us how today!

## 10 facts of Hose Reel Safety handbook

**Hose reels in the workplace**  
Helping you identify the risks and responsibilities

Request for a free copy today  
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*Following is a section citing from national safety bodies and codes of practice*

### Selecting control measures - Safety training

All workers share responsibility for housekeeping and cleanliness at the workplace. Work health and safety training not only assists workers to become more aware of slip and trip hazards and the relevant control measures, but also helps to prevent injuries. Training should include:

- Awareness of slip and trip hazards
- Identifying effective control measures
- Duties of workers<sup>1</sup>



<sup>1</sup> Safe Work Australia, FACT SHEET - Slips and trips at the workplace, 2012, p.4

<sup>2</sup> WorkSafe Victoria, Injury hotspots in fire services, 2008

### Shoulder

Traumatic joint/muscle injury or strain from pulling/pushing, heavy lifting and dragging fire hose

11%

### Arm/wrist

Muscle strain from dragging hose, physical training, heavy lifting, slipping/tripping<sup>2</sup>

6%

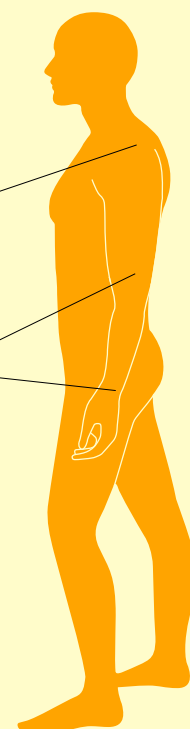
Safety Solutions from **WorkSafe**

### Shoulder

- Continually review hose reel equipment and provide regular training in correct hose handling techniques.

### Arm/wrist

- Ensure there are sufficient personnel to safely undertake the task.



**Reel Tech - Your partner in Hose Reel Safety**

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## IMPORTANT: Before you start

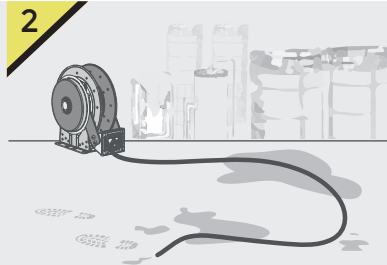
- Any unstored (deployed) hose presents risk in the workplace.
- Use of deployed hose must be risk-managed by the owner/operator appropriate to the job to avoid potential injury/damage.
- Appropriate reel use helps to easily & safely store hose which in turn reduces/manages hose-related risk.
- Proper use of modern and appropriately selected hose reels, designed with latest user safety features, promotes easy & safer hose storage & helps reduce unstored (deployed) risk involving hose. **Safe-R-Reel™** options deliver the latest in hose speed control and safety technology.

### Hose deployed to ground - Understand your environment and surrounding risks - some key points:



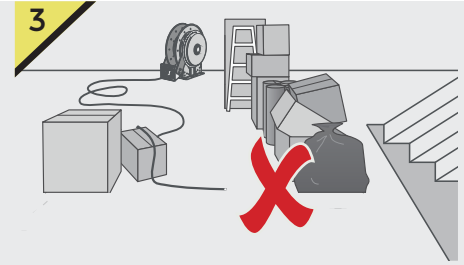
#### Wear appropriate protective clothing

Ensure appropriate protective clothing is worn to suit the task and the reel working environment



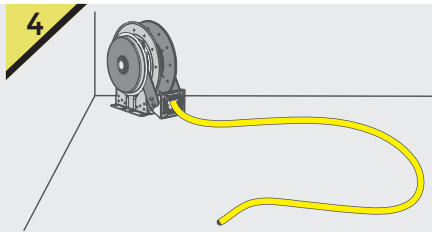
#### Is the work area wet/slippery?

Understand and manage the type of environment and typical risks that encompasses the hose and its use in the work area.



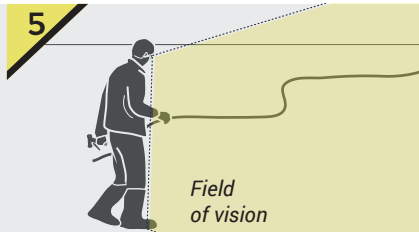
#### Evaluate trip hazards

Check and manage floor space for objects or trip hazards. Avoid hose entanglement with such objects.



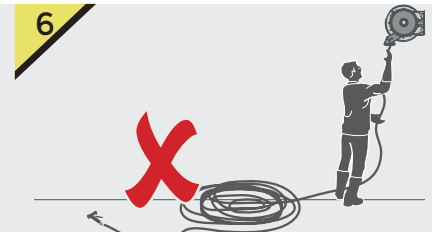
#### Can you and others see your hose?

For easy floor level hose visibility and location, owner/operator should specify a hose colour contrasting with the operating environment.



#### Look out for hose

When working with hose, a wide field of vision is critical. Look around for hazards where you're walking, where you're going and everywhere in between. Ensure others entering work area understand this need.



#### Plan your hose deployment

Avoid deploying more hose than necessary for your job. Estimate the distance to job first.

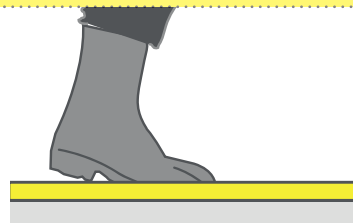
## IMPORTANT: Before deploying your hose to ground level, understand the risks

- Any unstored (deployed) hose to ground level presents risk in the workplace
- Hose laying in contact with the ground remains a potential hazard that must be owner/operator/user risk-managed
- Hose slightly elevated above ground level can pose an even greater trip risk over hose in contact with ground
- Hose can be heavy. Handling too much hose at one time can exceed safe manageable weight



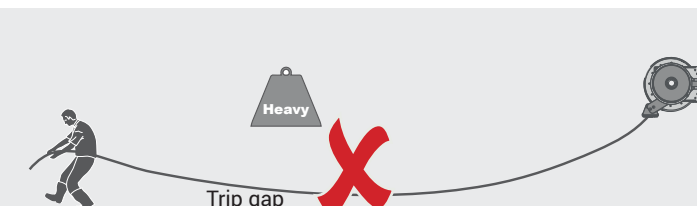
#### Foot level gaps between hose and ground increase trip risk

Avoid slightly elevated hose above ground level.



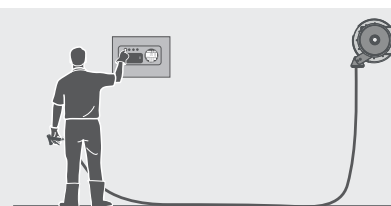
#### Keep hose flat to ground wherever possible

When deployed flat on the ground, hose with good visibility presents a reduced risk when compared to trip gaps of slightly elevated hose.



#### Insufficient hose to the job can be heavy and a trip hazard

Reel hose must not be taut during operation, enough hose should be deployed to avoid "full stretch", keeping hose loose and flat to the ground during use. This reduces the working weight of the hose.

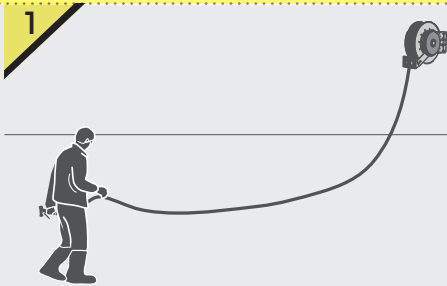


#### Adequate hose flat to ground reduces trip risk

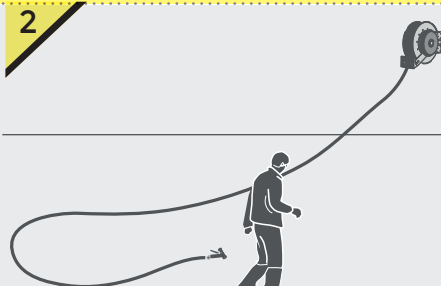
Reel hose must be kept flat to the ground where possible to avoid increasing trip risk. Operator must be vigilant at all times when working around hose.

## IMPORTANT: Safety guidelines for payout (Deployment)

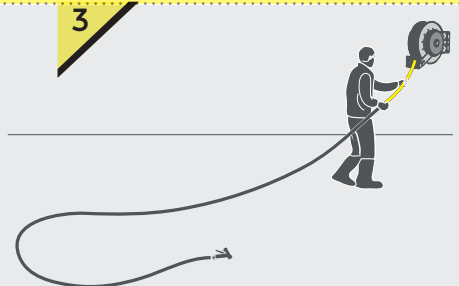
- Hose can be heavy! Deploying more hose increases weight, this must be safely managed
- If the hose feels too heavy to manage, remember to seek the assistance of other trained staff
- Never attempt to pull one full length of required hose straight out in one operation
- Only payout (deploy) and handle a safe and manageable portion of hose at any time
- Remember excess hose is a hazard, only payout (deploy) flat to ground level what hose you need to do the job
- Never allow an unlocked hose to leave your control, keep a tight grip on unlocked hose at all times
- Ensure your reel ratchet properly locks before letting go of hose (see specific reel model user guide)
- When moving between reel and hose end, if possible, walk around (not over) hose.
- When standing, keep to the outer side of looped hose & reel
- Never leave your deployed hose unattended



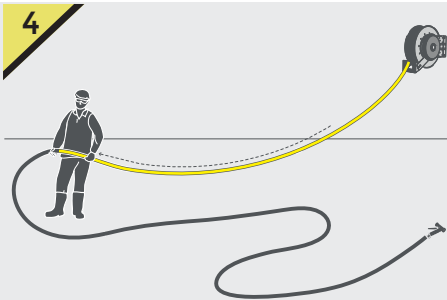
Estimate distance to the job, this will be divided into hose portions to be deployed. Deploy the first safely manageable portion of hose from the reel, ensuring reel ratchet locks at completion.



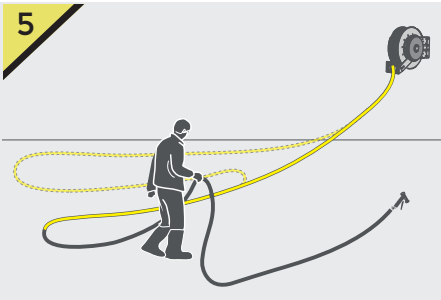
Forming a loop kept flat to the ground, place the closed/shut hose end safely on the ground as you walk back to reel.



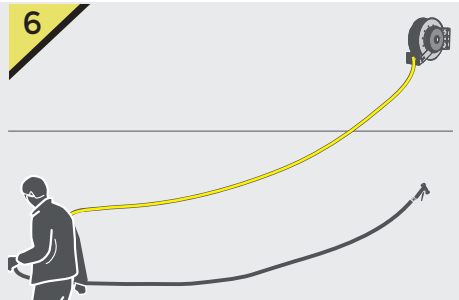
Arriving at the reel, proceed to deploy another manageable portion of hose from the reel.



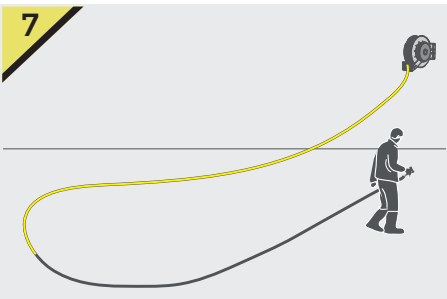
Walk out the next portion of hose a similar distance as previous and ensuring reel ratchet is locked, place the additional loop flat to ground.



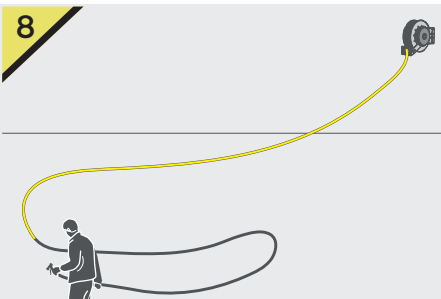
Repeat the previous process of deploying looped portions flat to the ground, obtaining the total minimum required hose for your task. Walk back to the a middle loop you formed on the ground and pick up the hose.



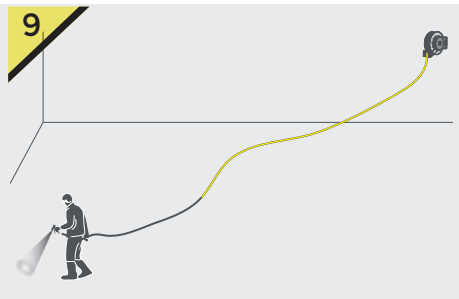
Pull these loops straight as you proceed part way towards the job point. This way, you are only taking up looped portions laid flat to the ground thus reducing the total mass of hose you are required to pull.



Return to the hose end picking it up and pull the final portion of hose to your job point.



As you arrive at the job point, ensure all loops are pulled out and that the hose remains loose and flat to ground before you start your work.



Once work commences, it is recommended that you work moving back towards the reel, storing any excess hose at intervals as you go.

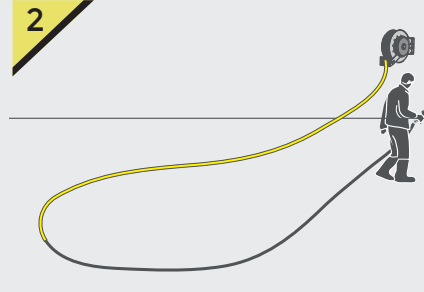
*For hose storage rewind, please refer to the following rewind guidelines*

## IMPORTANT: Safety guidelines for rewinding

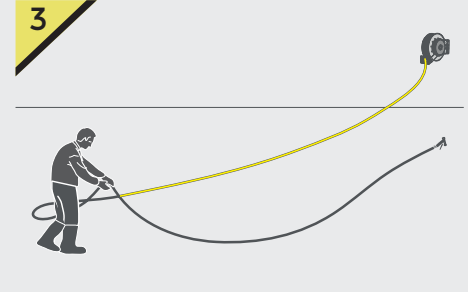
- Never attempt to rewind one full straight length of hose in one operation, rewind your hose in manageable portions.
- Rewinding a full straight length of hose can be hazardous. Serious hose stretch, damage and hose burst injury can result
- Never allow an unlocked hose to leave your control, keep a tight grip on unlocked hose at all times
- Ensure your ratchet properly locks before letting go of hose (see specific reel model user guide)
- Always keep to the outer side of the looped hose and reel
- Never leave deployed hose unattended, always return hose to reel.
- When moving between reel and hose end, if possible, walk around (not over) hose.
- When standing, keep to the outer side of looped hose & reel



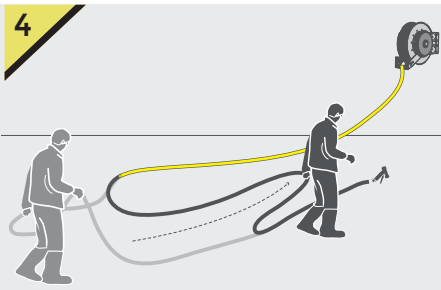
Upon job completion, walk a manageable portion of hose from job point back towards reel, forming one loop flat to ground.



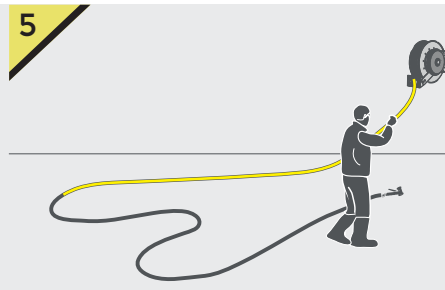
Place closed/shut hose end safely on the ground. Walk back to the middle of the hose.



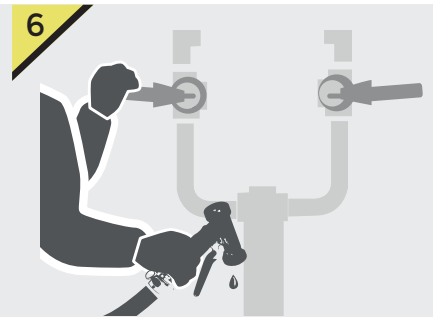
Pick up the middle of the hose loop and proceed to walk a manageable loop of hose back towards the hose reel.



Walk back towards the hose reel, placing the new loop flat to the ground. Repeat this process to create a similar number of loops as used during deployment.



Gripping hose at the reel, de-latch and carefully guide the hose in a controlled fashion back into the retracting reel. Do not let go of hose unless it is latch-locked.



Ensure liquid flow in the reel is adequately closed/shut.

### Managing hose mass during rewind

Following these guidelines helps safely manage the total deployed hose mass. If hose mass is not managed during rewind, not only is this a strain risk for operators, but serious hose damage and failure can also occur. Hose damage can be a result of hose stretch (this is a hose not able to support its own total mass during rewind); hose failure can expose users to hose burst injury. The guidelines outlined above assist in ensuring the rewind process is limited to a series of looped portion retrievals of smaller individual mass. This helps prevent hose stretch, expensive hose damage and burst injury that can occur when one full straight length of hose is rewound in one operation.



## Reel Tech designs safety custom reels for all applications

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FlatWinder™



Efficient, jam-free layering of hose during storage. Auto de-clutching systems on all Fire Dog™ Reels reduce effort required for payout.

Pit Bull™ & FireDog™



Patented Safe-R-Reel™ gearbox with integrated clutch system, EZI-Deploy™ controls hose speed & dramatically reduces hose payout force minimising strain injuries.

Safe-R-Reel™



Safe-R-Reel™ Speed control systems can also be fitted to spring powered reels, ensures a controlled rewind speed in event of operator losing control of hose during rewind.

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