

# TurboDraft

## Successful static source access for fire departments

Fire departments across America are using TurboDraft Fire Eductor by Schutte and Koerting to access static water sources that are not readily accessible using conventional drafting techniques.

"This product is a spin-off of one we made for the U.S. Navy for de-watering operations," said Henry Lovett, project manager, engineer and firefighter for over 30 years. "We re-created this system to meet the needs of municipalities and fire departments."

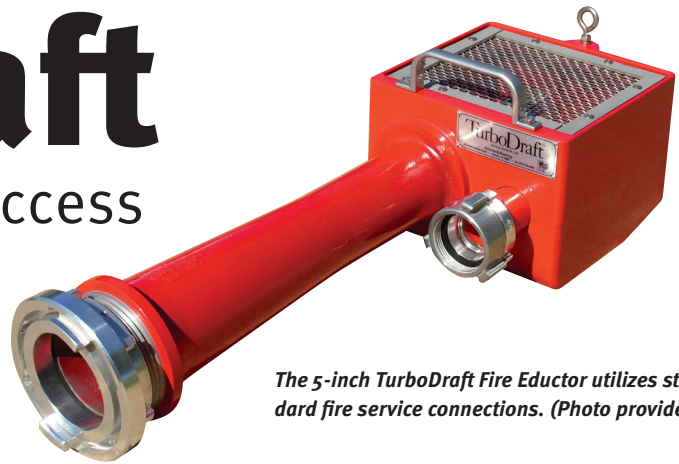
Past solutions for alternative water supplies, including transporting mobile water tankers and dry systems, have been labor-intensive, inconvenient and expensive. TurboDraft, which came onto the market in 2000, offers an affordable and portable device that is easy to use. Due to its lightweight nature, it's also a one-firefighter operation.

The portable device is submerged in any static body of water and pumps through a hose up to 250 feet away from the apparatus. Departments often have plans that identify water sources that can be used with these devices.

Anderson County Fire Department in South Carolina has equipped each of its 27 stations with a TurboDraft unit.

"Our city has one large lake and many smaller ponds," said Chief Billy Gibson. "These systems allow us to use water sources that were inaccessible before for firefighting. Good training on how to use the TurboDraft makes all the difference in the world. Once properly trained, it's relatively easy to use."

The municipal and public safety benefits are impressive. "The ability to access these static sources greatly improves the overall water delivery rate resulting in improved fire protection," said Lovett. "This



*The 5-inch TurboDraft Fire Eductor utilizes standard fire service connections. (Photo provided)*

improvement often is associated with businesses and homeowners realizing a reduction in their property insurance premiums."

Chief Raymond Flannelly of Conroe, Texas, has purchased several over the years to deal with his community's lack of hydrants. "It's great for any place that needs to think about alternative water supplies. It has been very successful for us," he said. "One of the best results has been on our insurance credit rating. We had an insurance rate of 10, which is the worst possible. This dropped to three, which is really good, after we implemented the TurboDrafts because the ISO rating gave them credit as fire hydrants."

Instead of having to pre-install and maintain a dry hydrant system in each rural water source, the portability of the TurboDraft makes it financially attractive for local government. "Another advantage with the placement of a TurboDraft on each pumper the fire department has the ability to access multiple static sources without the need for pre-installed fixed systems," said Lovett. "The expense of excavation, labor, pipe, environmental permits and engineering greatly exceeds the initial cost of the TurboDraft units; furthermore, the unit requires very minimal maintenance."

Often, local municipal water supplies are overtaxed during large fire events.

"By using an alternative or supplemental water sources, you reduce the risk of depleting the stored domestic water system that may result in shortages affecting drinking water," he added.

Although mostly known for its ability to fight fires, the TurboDraft unit can also be used in the same way the Navy used it — for flood mitigation.

"Lake Charles, La., used several to pump water from the floods due to Hurricane Katrina," said Lovett. "The city of Alameda, Calif., used its unit to pump softball fields when a big tournament was scheduled. We've also had it used to drain a pool when a horse fell through an in-ground pool cover."

Communities have funded TurboDrafts in various ways, including federal grants, community fundraising, individual donations and department of forestry grants. State agencies often allocate money to purchase the units in place of dry hydrants because of the many benefits. "You get more bang for your buck," he noted. **M**



*Previously unreachable static sources are easily accessed with the TurboDraft. (Photo provided)*

**For more information about TurboDraft, visit [www.turbodraft.com](http://www.turbodraft.com). Information provided by TurboDraft**