

Air Primer Installation - Winfield VFD Engine 141

By President Mark Davis

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On April 20th, we had the unique opportunity to chronical the installation of a Trident Automatic Air Primer on Winfield VFD's Engine 141. The air primer was installed by Jimmy Kimble and his crew at Emergency Vehicle Specialists (EVS) in Hagerstown, Maryland. We were really impressed with the EVS facility in terms of cleanliness, organization, and professionalism. The installation went very smooth and was done in about 4.5 hours.

This is the second automatic air primer for the Winfield VFD - they installed the first one last summer on their Engine 142.

While we have said in the past that we don't "flat out" endorse anyone's product but our own, we do give very high marks to the automatic air primer for folks that require drafting as part of their operations. If we were developing specifications for a new pumper - we would be sure to require an automatic air primer.



The air primer was installed by the folks at EVS in Hagerstown, MD.



Engine 141 - a 1999 New Lexington pumper on an American La France chassis equipped with a Hale Q-Max 1500 gpm pump.



The Trident Auto Air Primer - a very simple device - there are no moving parts.



The Hale electric powered, rotary vane primer is removed - it is no longer needed.



Removing the old primer's control handle.



All ready to install.

Inside the pump house on E141. Plenty of room for an install.



Working in the pump house to remove the controls to the old primer.



Making a mounting plate for the new air primer.



The custom mounting plate is ready and attached.



All in place - not is it time to run the control wires and air line.



The new control switch is in place using the same hole that the old control handle used - just had to enlarge the hole a little bit.



The final location.



Finishing the wiring so that the primer control switch is powered when the pump is placed in pump gear.



The air supply line (blue) is attached to the primer. The line receives its air from the pumper's air brake system.



Wow - they keep this place spotless. Besides looking nice - it helps to quickly identify fluid leaks when working on heavy apparatus.



With the installation done - a dry prime test is done and the unit passes with flying colors! A great job done!