

Question: *After arriving at a fire scene and engaging the fire pump from inside the cab, how long can I wait before priming a dry fire pump?*

As a rule of thumb, midship pumps should be primed immediately after being engaged (run). This is to prevent serious damage that can occur from running the pump dry (drained of water) for an extended period. (Check with your fire pump manufacturer for pump-brand specific recommendations.)

Damaging a pump by running it dry for an extended period can happen after positioning an engine for a drafting operation at a pond and engaging the pump. If problems ensue, it may take minutes to remove the pump suction cap and connect and tighten lengths of hard suction hose from the supply source. In a situation like this, you are better off assembling your suction connections first, priming the pump second and engaging the midship pump third.

Damaging the fire pump by running it dry for an extended period means that the apparatus must be taken out of service for a potential costly repair.