Carl,

Thanks for your email, and you ask some excellent questions.

First, a little bit about my experience with the Turbodraft. I am a fire captain in Colorado. I brought three Turbodrafts to my department over five years ago, and I've actually used it twice in emergency situations. I used it to drain two municipal swimming pools where kids had their arms stuck in the suction intakes. Both calls were 30 days apart, and believe me you can't make this up! I drained a 66,000 gallon pool in one hour. My department has used them for rural fires, since we cover 235 square miles.

I use the Turbodraft for my work in the Cozumel, Playa Del Carmen, and Cancun regions of Mexico. I have a home in Cozumel, and I've spent the past nine years building these departments. The Turbodraft is our primary means of flowing big water. We currently have two in Cozumel, two in Playa, and two in Cancun. Yes, I've used it a lot!

You can see a Turbodraft presentation at my personal website: billsalmonlearningassociates.com

Now for your questions:

How effective are the units on moving water such as a small river?

The Turbodrafts work best in moving water when you place a hard suction at the Trubodraft, then the soft 5". This ensures no kinking from the force of the moving water. Remember, the Turbodrafts are a low pressure operation (20 psi), as far as the water back to the engine. If you keep the 5" lines to 100' you will expect and realize almost 600 GPM of usable water per Turbodraft. If you use one, then you need two - always. This gives you the ability to set up and sustain a tender fill station almost anywhere you have water.

How much have you used them?

I've used them a lot, and I've trained hundreds of men to use them with 100% efficacy that they will be successful.

What is your experience with the maximum lift at our elevation (I assume you are around 6,000 feet)?

Remember, you are not evacuating atmospheric pressure to make them work. You are pumping with tank water at 180 psi and creating a venturi at the Turbodraft box that forces the water up the 5". Head pressure is your enemy because it's a low pressure operation. So the less lift the better, but 20' - 30' will still get you water, just not as much.

Have you used them in conjunction with a tanker relay?

Yes, they work very well to place an engine at two Turbodrafts as a fill station which is capable of over 1200 GPM to the tenders.

If so what procedure did you use? In conjunction with a porta tank, or direct fill from an engine to the tenders?

You want engines pumping to and receiving the Turbodraft water, this way you can take advantage of the capacity of the larger pumps.

Any other thoughts you might have on them.

The best way to see if you can use them is to go out into the field and try it. If you need my help give me a call: 970-218-9406. My emails: bill@billsalmonlearningassociates.com or wsalmon345@aol.com are the best way to reach me.

I wish you luck! Bill Salmon