

## Information Sheet Use of a Portable Metered Hydrant

It is essential you read and understand the terms and conditions of the agreement prior to operating the portable metered hydrant.

The primary use of portable metered hydrants is to obtain water for road works, tree watering and various other applications where water is not generally available. This information sheet will familiarise the user with the associated activities when using the portable metered hydrant and promotes a responsible approach in protecting infrastructure and water quality at all times. For the purpose of this information sheet, the portable metered hydrant will be referred to as a 'hydrant' unless otherwise stated.

To use a hydrant, the standpipe is inserted into a fire plug which is normally situated in a public road or footpath. By operating the valve on the fire plug, water can be obtained. In general there is only one water main in the street and the water from the main is used by various customers for domestic or commercial purpose or in an emergency for fire fighting.

### IMPORTANT – PLEASE NOTE

1. The hydrant, and water drawn through it, must be used in accordance with the Waterworks Act, Waterworks Regulations and the agreement for the hire and use of the portable metered hydrant.
2. The filter installed in the standpipe can be removed for cleaning only, and must be re-installed immediately after cleaning.
3. The flow regulator situated at the top of the standpipe must not be removed under any circumstances.
4. Hydrants must not be left unattended at anytime as they could be stolen. Hydrants found unattended will be confiscated.

**For further information**  
Metered Hydrant Officer  
Customer Technical Services  
(08) 7424 3254

**Mains availability and operation difficulties in metro area**  
United Water (08) 8381 0300  
Country areas 1300 650 950  
Website: [www.sawater.com.au](http://www.sawater.com.au)  
Email: [hydrantOfficer@sawater.com.au](mailto:hydrantOfficer@sawater.com.au)

## Before a portable metered hydrant is used

It is the responsibility of the user to ensure that:

1. Water is not taken from any main without prior consent of SA Water or its agents (eg United Water) who are responsible for that area.
  - Taking water from any fire plug may affect other customers (causing dirty water or pressure loss) in the same street or the surrounding suburb, which could involve a claim against the user of the hydrant.
  - For further information on taking water from mains in the metropolitan area, please contact **United Water Control Centre** on **(08) 8381 0300** or in regional locations your local SA Water office on **1300 650 950**.
2. All water tankers, appliances or apparatus used in conjunction with hydrants must comply with the requirements of the Australian/New Zealand Standard (AS/NZS 3500) for back flow prevention and be certified accordingly by SA Water.

## Creating a safe work environment

It is the applicant's responsibility to comply with all issues relating to Occupation Health Safety and Welfare and the *Road Traffic Act*. The operator is to comply with work zone safety management requirements.

## Before operating a fire plug

Before operating any fire plug, ensure any discharge of water from the hydrant will not cause flooding or create a hazard.

**N.B:** If this is *not* taken into account, the user could be liable for any claims.

When operating a fire plug valve it is important to open the valve **SLOWLY**.

If this procedure is not followed correctly, it could result in damage to the water main, affecting other customer's water supply. The applicant will be liable for the cost of repairs or claims under the terms of the agreement issued.



25mm portable metered hydrant



50mm portable metered hydrant

## Operating the Fire Plug

1. Remove the lid from the fire plug chamber with a suitable key. If difficulty is experienced with the removal due to tightness, consider the following steps:
  - spray with a lubricating agent
  - tap around the lid with a hammer
  - use plate cover lifter (if available).
2. If the lid cannot be removed after following the steps above, report the problem to **United Water** on **(08) 8381 0300** or in regional locations contact SA Water on **1300 650 950** so the difficulty can be rectified, then select another fire plug within the vicinity.
3. When the lid has been removed, conduct a visual inspection to ensure the throat of the fire plug is clear and not obstructed.
4. Gloves should be worn at all times and beware of the potential danger of glass, insects and hypodermic needles inside the chamber.
5. Ensure the neoprene base washer on the hydrant is serviceable.
6. Insert the valve key and **turn in an anti-clockwise** direction **SLOWLY** to operate. If in this operation the water is found to be discoloured or dirty, leave the fire plug turned on until the water flow becomes clear.
7. Insert the hydrant, into the lugs of the fire plug, making sure that it has engaged. To tighten the hydrant, turn in a clockwise direction (**hand tight only**).
8. Do not over tighten as this **will** damage the hydrant or fire plug lugs.
9. Operate the hydrant as required.
10. Please report any fire plugs found to be damaged or inoperative (see point 2 above).

## Removal of a portable metered hydrant from a fire plug


1. Turn the water off **SLOWLY** with the valve key making sure the fire plug is turned off completely and no water is coming out of the fire plug.
2. Remove the hydrant from the fire plug.
3. Replace lid on the chamber, making sure that it is installed correctly.
4. Ensure the hydrant is stored correctly to avoid damage in transit.
5. If you experience difficulties with replacing the chamber lid, **do not** leave it unattended, as this could be a danger to road users or the public. Contact **United Water** on **(08) 8381 0300** or your local SA Water office on **1300 650 950** and arrange for it to be rectified.


Failure to comply with these requirements could cause the meter to cease registering **and prevent water flow through the hydrant**. Repairs in such cases will be at full cost to the customer. Failure to comply with the terms and conditions of the portable metered hydrant agreement may result in confiscation of the hydrant.

The current cost for a replacement of the hydrant is approximately \$1,000.

Stolen hydrants must be promptly reported to police in the first instance and then to the Metered Hydrant Officer.

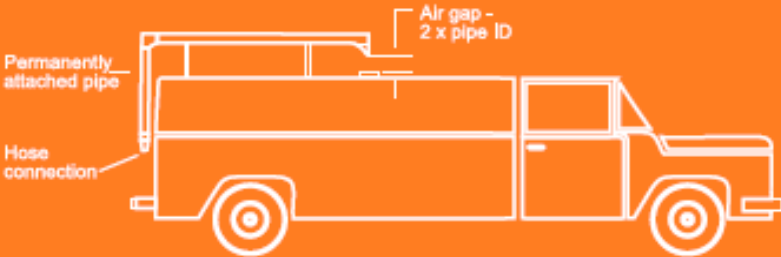
Water tankers used in conjunction with hydrants must be certified backflow compliant by SA Water. Upon certification, the following sticker will be affixed to the tanker. The use of tankers without this certification may result in the confiscation of the hydrant.

  
 Government  
of South Australia



## METERED HYDRANT AUTHORISATION

**Airgap must not be compromised.**



**Hydrant procedures must be observed.**

<b>Access to Fire plug</b>	Use the correct lifting tool. A hammer may be required to loosen the lid.	
<b>Clean the fireplug</b>	The throat of the fireplug must be clear and unobstructed. Beware of hypodermic needles inside the chamber. Open fireplug and flush until water runs clear.	
<b>Install Hydrant</b>	The thread of the hydrant must be lubricated prior to insertion and tightening into the fireplug <b>HANDTIGHT. DO NOT STRIKE THE HYDRANT HANDLES TO TIGHTEN.</b>	
<b>Open Fireplug</b>	Insert the correct valve key onto the spindle and slowly turn the key anti-clockwise to open the valve.	
<b>Use Hydrant</b>	All connections should be free of leaks. The fillpipe must have an air gap and never enter the tank.	
<b>Closing Fireplug</b>	Turn the valve key clockwise slowly to close the valve, (this must be slow to prevent shockloading the main). Report any faulty suburban fireplugs to 8381 0300.	
<b>Replace chamber lid</b>	Using the correct lifting tool replace the lid into the top of the access chamber.	
<b>Storing of hydrant</b>	The hydrant should be stored and used in a manner to prevent it from being stolen or damaged.	

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