

south east water

# Fire & Rescue Guidance Information



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## Aim

The purpose of this document is to provide clear details on the requirements for the correct installation and maintenance of below ground fire hydrants. South East Water and the Fire & Rescue Services (FRS) within our supply area have worked together to provide clear details for persons developing and constructing water mains.

## The Fire & Rescue Services Act 2004

The Fire & Rescue Services Act 2004 was introduced to provide the Fire & Rescue Services with powers in legislation so that they can carry out their functions and provisioning of their requirements needed for their successful operation.

Part 5 sections 38-43 place a duty on a water undertaker and other parties in the security of a water supply for the protection of life and property in the event of a fire. South East Water complies with the requirements of this legislation and works closely to ensure an adequate supply of water is available if required.

South East Water has a designated Fire Liason Officer who works with the Fire & Rescue Services within our supply area to ensure adequate fire protection on our existing and newly installed network.



**Kent** Fire &  
Rescue Service



**East Sussex**  
Fire & Rescue Service



**West Sussex**  
Fire & Rescue Service



**ROYAL BERKSHIRE**  
FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE



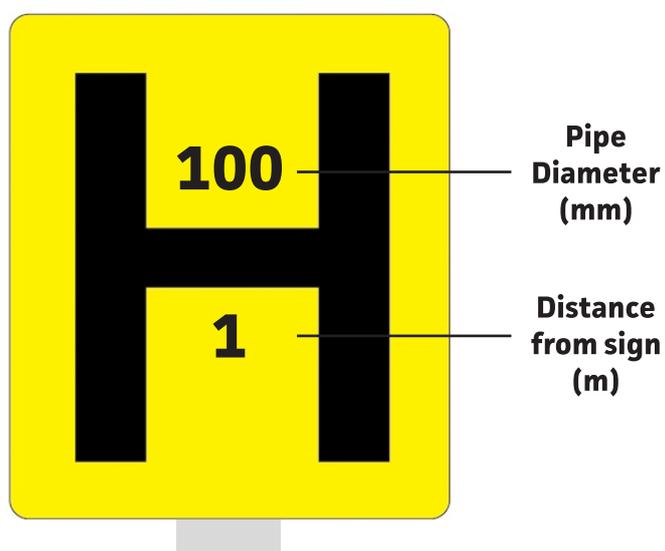
**HAMPSHIRE**  
**FIRE AND**  
**RESCUE**  
**SERVICE**

## Illegal Use of Fire Hydrants

It is an offence under section 174 of the Water Industry Act 1991 to connect any pipe or apparatus to our water supply network without the consent of South East Water. The Fire & Rescue Services Act 2004 also makes it an offence to restrict access to fire hydrants.

South East Water will treat any illegal use of fire hydrants in our supply area in a consistent, measured approach as detailed within our 'Keeping your water safe our guide to enforcement'

Fire hydrants in our supply area will normally be marked in the manner below. These are not to be used for any water abstraction, even through a hired standpipe, without prior approval from the local Fire & Rescue Service and South East Water.



# New Development Guidance

## 1. Overview

Section 43(1) of the Fire and Rescue Services Act, 2004 states that a person who proposes to carry out works for the purpose of supplying water to any part of the area of a fire and rescue authority must give at least 6 weeks' notice in writing to the authority.

South East Water (SEW) send plans to the relevant Fire & Rescue Service showing the layout of the proposed water network for them to mark the most suitable locations to install fire hydrants for the purpose of fire-fighting.

This guidance document sets out the agreed process between South East Water (or any organisation undertaking work within SEW supply zone) and the Fire & Rescue Service within their supply zone for ensuring adequate provisions for fire-fighting are installed and fit for purpose upon completion of the associated works.

## 2. Notifications

Upon notification of a new development plan provided to the local Fire & Rescue Service (FRS), the Service has 42 calendar days to respond. The FRS will however endeavour to respond at the earliest opportunity to assist SEW with their planning. Failure to respond within the designated 42 days will result in no addition assets being installed on the site and subsequent installations may be at the cost of the local FRS.

## 3. Completion of works

Upon completion of a fire hydrant installation the local FRS must be informed at the earliest opportunity through the identified contact method as agreed locally.

## 4. Plans

Main sizes should be easily identifiable on all plans sent through to FRS. This can include blown up views of junctions where multiple apparatus are present. PDF plans should be sent in an editable format to assist the FRS to mark the plans electronically for return where required.

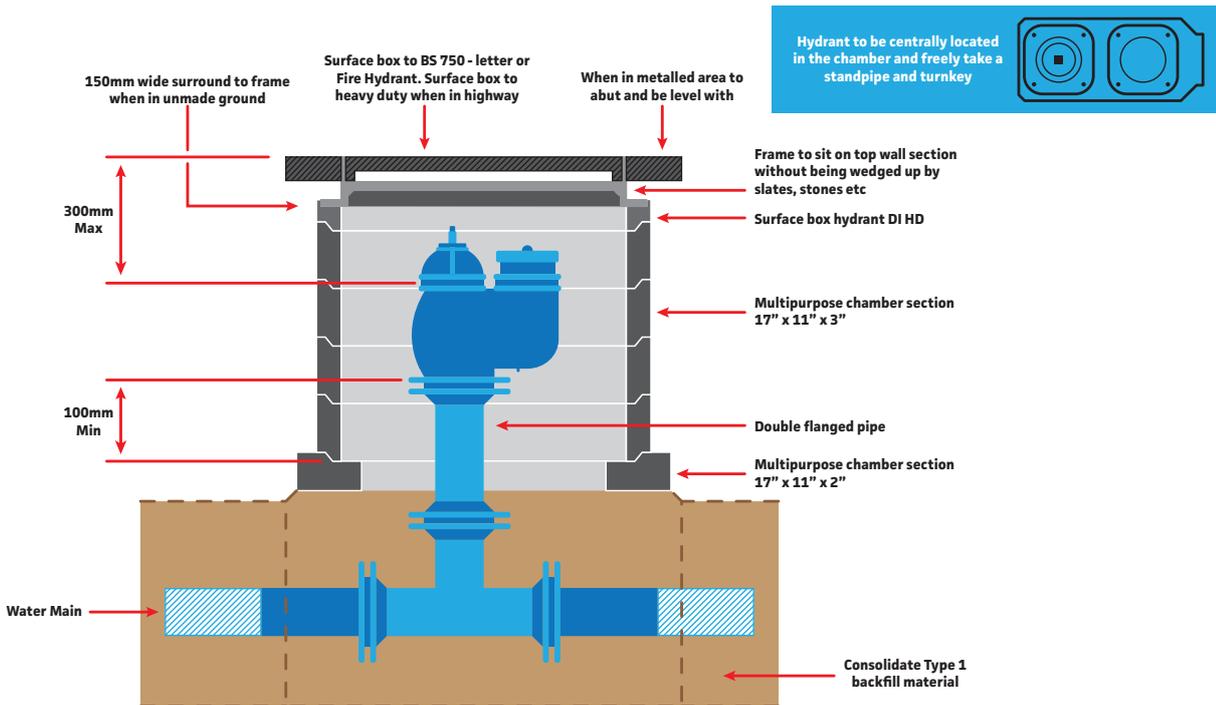
## 5. Flow rates

An indication of whether or not the anticipated flows available (under normal demand conditions and with no additional demands from third parties beyond the control of the Water Company) will meet (on the Commission Date) the ideal requirements set out in Appendix 5 of the National Guidance Document on the provision of water for fire-fighting 2007. It is recognised by both parties that the Water Company has no obligation to meet these ideal requirements and that the purpose of the information is to assist the Fire Authority in planning their requirements.

## 6. Fire Hydrant (FH) Installations

The installation of FHs should be in line with BS750:2012 as set out within the CFOA Memorandum of Understanding South East region - The installation and repair of fire hydrants and the use of water for extinguishing fires or protecting life and property in the event of a fire.

Covers displaying the word Fire Hydrant or FH should always be used on new installations.



## 7. Location of installations

Local FRS are aware that plans change during the construction phase of a new development or mains renewal due to multiple factors. All significant changes should be sent through to the relevant FRS for agreement, however should an asset be moved by less than 5m and it remains within the same surround (e.g. moved 2m along the footpath – not into the roadway) notification isn't required. Notification is however required if the surround of the asset changes.

Fire hydrants are not to be installed in parking bays or areas identified for the parking of vehicles. Fire hydrants on new developments shall be positioned clear of vehicular traffic routes.

## **All significant changes need to be passed through the local Fire & Rescue Service.**

### **Fire hydrant specification for repair and maintenance**

- Only undertake the work that has been ordered by the Fire Brigade and as listed on their instruction.
- Any exceptions to this will be referred to the South East Water Fire Liaison Officer and communicated to the Fire Brigade.
- Before leaving a job, operate the hydrant with the Fire Brigade key and bar provided to ensure that the hydrant operates correctly for Fire Brigade personnel.

Before the Fire Brigade will sanction Fire Hydrant repairs for payment, they must conform to the following specifications:

1. Hydrant pits must be clean and clear down to the hydrant tee flange.
2. The hydrant must be central within the pit to allow a standpipe and an operating key to be attached (both at the same time).
3. The hydrant outlet must be undamaged and must not be deeper than 300mm and more than 100mm from the surface (see diagram).
4. The hydrant outlet must have a dirt cap properly attached if originally fitted.
5. The hydrant must operate properly using Fire Brigade equipment and provide a good supply of water.
6. The frost/drain plug (if visible) should function.
7. A hydrant surface box frame must be fitted to the pit; the box must be fitted directly onto the wall units and not onto non-acceptable materials such as wood or pieces of brick or stone. Where a box needs to be angled or raised a fraction, this should be achieved by using polyester bedding mortar, preferably quick setting.
8. Irrespective of the type of surface around the hydrant surface box, it must be left clean and level with no trip hazards.
9. The fire hydrant cover must bear the initials FH.
10. A marker plate, and if necessary a post must be erected at each new hydrant installation.

Failure to adhere to any of the above is likely to result in non-acceptance by the Fire Brigade, which in turn would result in the raising of a fault to rectify the fault and a possible fine for cost recovery.

## Checklist

- Where possible any new FH installation should not be obstructed by vehicles. The best position for FH is in footways away from dropped kerbs or any potentially new dropped kerbs.
- Hydrant is in good working order with water available at the outlet.
- False spindle standard fit cap (dolly) fitted on new hydrant valve. Don't fit if missing.
- Dirt cap (if originally fitted) still in place and fixed to hydrant outlet.
- Outlet of hydrant is not deeper than 300mm and no higher than 100mm from finished surface level.
- Hydrant is fitted centrally and squarely within the pit (can a standpipe and operating key both be fitted to allow the hydrant to be used for fire-fighting purposes?).
- Hydrant surface box level with surrounding area (no trip hazards) and secured to the pit section (without being wedged with non-acceptable materials).
- Marker plate and/or post fitted if the hydrant is a new installation (or removed if South East Water are to adopt the hydrant as a Wash Out)
- Hydrant pit clean and clear (visible 150mm below first flange)
- Fire Hydrant cover fitted (marked "FH")
- Work has been completed in accordance with Fire Brigade instruction and conforms to the current version of British Standard 750 or applicable standard.

## Need some help?



[southeastwater.co.uk/regulations](https://southeastwater.co.uk/regulations)



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Water Regulations  
South East Water  
Rocfort Road  
Snodland  
Kent  
ME6 5AH