

New South Wales Fire Brigades Operations Bulletin 2008/12 Use of hydrant booster systems



Issue

Operational debriefs have identified that firefighters are not using, or may not be aware of the capabilities of on-site hydrant booster systems for fighting fires.

The NSWFB's Structural Fire Safety Unit works closely with the Australasian Fire and Emergency Services Authorities Council (AFAC), Australian Standards committees, developers, certifiers and hydraulics consultants to ensure that on site hydrant booster systems are designed, installed and maintained in accordance with relevant legislative requirements so fire crews can fight fires quickly and efficiently.

On-site Hydrant systems

On-site hydrant systems are installed in buildings with a floor area over 500 m² where street hydrants cannot provide the minimum levels of protection required by the Building Code of Australia (See BCA Pt E1.3).

Hydrant booster systems are required in buildings with fire compartments in excess of 2 000 m², internal hydrants, on-site pump sets and/or on-site static water supplies. You can also expect to find these systems serving hydrant networks in road and rail tunnels, major hazard facilities/dangerous goods sites and large open storage yards (See Australian Standard AS 2419.1 Section 7).



Figure 1 AS 2419 hydrant booster system

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Using hydrant booster systems

Depending on fire conditions and size up, on-site hydrant booster systems should be used wherever they are installed.

Hydrant booster systems reduce the time required to commence firefighting by eliminating the need for firefighters to run out long lines of hose. Hydrant booster systems also allow fire crews to use pumping appliances to control the pressure of the ring main to suit firefighting activities.

Familiarisation

Modern (AS 2419) hydrant booster systems must have feed hydrants within 5 metres of the booster inlets. Older style (Ordinance 70) should have street hydrants within 60 metres.

Crews should take every opportunity to familiarise themselves with on-site hydrant booster systems. Pre-incident plans should include details of installed hydrant systems.

Reporting problems

Problems/concerns or enquiries regarding hydrant booster systems should be directed to the Structural Fire Safety Unit on (02) 9742 7400 so that appropriate action can be taken through the building/site owners and regulatory authorities.

Further reading

- SOG 4.11, [Hydrant systems](#)
- [Fire Operations Journal](#), Editions 1 and 2
- Australian Standard AS 2419.1

Contact Officer

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Noted, Station Commander	A	B	C	D	Other

Previous Operations Bulletin: 2008/11 — Chlorine enhanced improvised explosive devices