

# Feed Hydrant and Booster Assembly Enclosures

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Author: FSSPR Unit  
Sponsor: BSR Unit  
Authorised by: Director, Built Environment

## 1. PURPOSE

The purpose of this guideline is to address feed hydrant and booster assembly enclosure issues not covered under AS 2419.1-2021.

## 2. SCOPE

This guideline applies to feed hydrant and fire brigade booster assembly installations that are housed within an enclosure or without an enclosure.

## 3. CONSTRUCTION OF ASSEMBLY ENCLOSURES

Where assembly enclosures are provided to feed hydrant and fire brigade booster assembly installations, they must be installed in accordance with AS 2419.1-2021, Sections 6.11, 7.6, 11.2 and 11.3.

Where enclosures are provided, Fire Rescue Victoria (FRV) recommends that the enclosures are to be mounted and fixed to a solid concrete base, as per AS 2419.1-2021 (figure 1), which is indicated below.

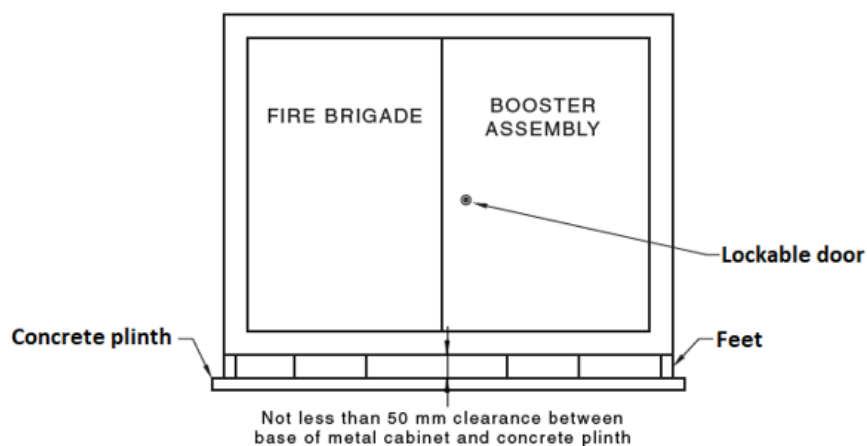


Figure 1

#### 4. OMISSION OF ASSEMBLY ENCLOSURES

Where a fire hydrant system is provided to serve a building or site, and it is intended that the fire brigade booster assembly be provided without an enclosure, the Fire Rescue Commissioner recommends that the following criteria be satisfied, in addition to the requirements contained within Section 7 of AS 2419.1-2021.

The work area directly in front of the booster assembly (on the allotment), is to have a no standing area measuring 11.5m (length) x 6m (width) installed by way of 'NO STANDING' signage and yellow painted hatching to the area with the following wording in capital lettering no less than 300mm in height 'NO STANDING – EMERGENCY VEHICLE ACCEPTED'. The 11.5m length is to begin in line with the left side of the booster assembly, refer to figure 2 below.

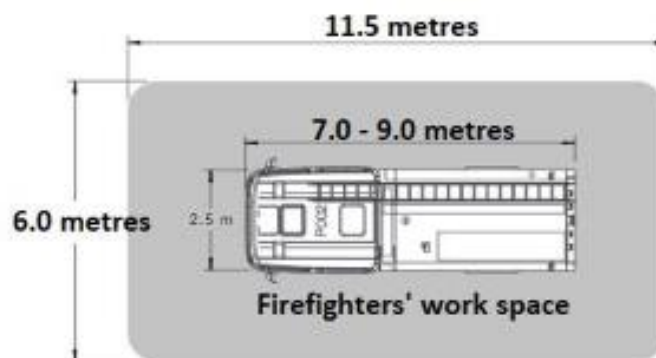


Figure 2

The surface of the hardstand must be able to maintain its integrity during fire conditions (preferably concrete) to facilitate a safe working area for firefighters. For example, crushed rock is not permitted because firefighting water run off may wash the surface away resulting in an unstable footing for the appliance. Concrete (adjacent to fire hydrants and boosters) and/or asphalt would be considered acceptable to FRV.

FRV have produced GL-13 Hardstand and Emergency Vehicular Access for Fire Fighting Appliance, it is recommended that this guideline is read in conjunction with this document.

The area surrounding and directly in front of the booster assembly is to be clear and free of vegetation and tripping hazards for a two-metre radius.

Bollards are to be placed to ensure the area is kept free of obstructions or vehicles blocking access to booster assembly.

A concrete plinth should be provided as per clause 11.2 and figure 11.2.1.1 to booster assembly regardless of the cabinet/enclosure being installed.

Associated signage (block plan, max pressure, isolation valves) are to be of weather-proof construction, etched into either heavy-duty plastic (UV resistant), or non-ferrous metal and be robustly mounted to be readable by a firefighter when operating the equipment.

FRV does not consider laminated block plans to be water and fade resistant under 2005 version of AS2419.1 and the 2021 version of the standard explicitly does not allow the use of laminated paper.

## **5. MAINTENANCE OF ASSEMBLY ENCLOSURES**

Owners are required to maintain a building's Essential Safety Measures (ESM), consistent with the requirements of AS1851-2012 *Routine service of fire protection systems and equipment*, which includes a fire hydrant system.

When firefighters respond to emergency incidents or when fire safety inspectors undertake fire safety inspections, they regularly identify issues that should be addressed during the building's routine maintenance program. The items listed below, are examples of commonly identified assembly enclosure faults:

- Non-compliant locks fitted to hydrant enclosure, additional locking mechanisms.
- Enclosure doors inoperative.
- Signage faded, removed, or vandalised.
- Obstructions such as gardens, street furniture, services/equipment.
- Missing block plan, max. pressure and isolation valves signage.
- Combustible materials used for the external cladding of the hydrant enclosure.
- Accumulation of rubbish within the cabinet.
- Out of date or faded block plans.

## **6. REFERENCES**

- [1] AS 2419.1-2021 Fire hydrant installations: system design, installation, and commissioning
- [2] AS 2118 Automatic fire sprinkler systems
- [3] AS 1851 Routine service of fire protection systems and equipment