

Fire Main Valve Isolation Tools

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1. PURPOSE

To detail when and where the fire main valve isolation tools (turn cock tools) are to be provided to enable responding firefighters to access these tool(s) and isolate all, or sections of a fire main, when necessary, as Fire Rescue Victoria's (FRV) appliances no longer carry this equipment.

2. SCOPE

This guideline is applicable to buildings, dangerous goods sites and other properties that are situated within the FRV fire district, where a fire main is provided.

3. BACKGROUND

FRV's firefighting appliances have ceased to carry fire main valve isolation tools. Consequently, owners and occupiers of buildings, dangerous goods sites and other properties that are provided with a fire main, have been required to provide this equipment within a safe and accessible location so that responding firefighters may operate below ground isolation valves, in the event of an emergency.

Traditionally, previous editions of the fire hydrant code have allowed key operated sluice valves to be used, however the code has not specified the requirement for fire main isolation valve tools (key/tools) to be made available.

4. REQUIREMENTS

Where a building, property or dangerous goods site has a fire main that requires the use of tools to operate an isolation valve, the type of valve(s) must be identified on the block plan, consistent with the requirements of current edition of the fire hydrant code, AS 2419.1-2021 [1]. FRV also advocates that the location of the isolation tool(s) must also be identified on the block plan to inform responding firefighters.

FRV's preferred location for the storage of the isolation tools is within the sprinkler control valve assembly cabinet, if sprinklers are installed, or within the fire brigade booster connection cabinet, or another secure location that is to the satisfaction of FRV that is provided within a labelled locked box that is fitted with a fire brigade no. 003 key cut lock.

For dangerous goods sites that store and handle manifest levels of dangerous goods, the manifest (Emergency Information Book) that is required by the Dangerous Goods (Storage and Handling) Regulations 2022 [2], must include a site drawing showing among other things, the fire main layout with the location of the isolating valves and the storage location of the isolation tool(s).

5. REFERENCES

- [1] Standards Australia Committee FP-009 (20 August 2021), Australian Standard 2419.1-2021: Fire hydrant installations – System design, installation and commissioning, Sydney NSW, Standards Australia.
- [2] Minister for Workplace Safety (1 October 2023), Dangerous Goods (Storage and Handling) Regulations 2022, Victorian Government, Melbourne.