

Safety Alert

S19 Hydrants – Immediate stop of use

SA 0288
(June 2022)



Introduction

Immediate Stop on use of S19 Hydrants

The Fire and Rescue Services (FRS) have issued their brigades with a National Bulletin relating to safety issues identified with certain hydrant types within the UK. FRS staff have been instructed that these hydrants are not to be used, even in an emergency.

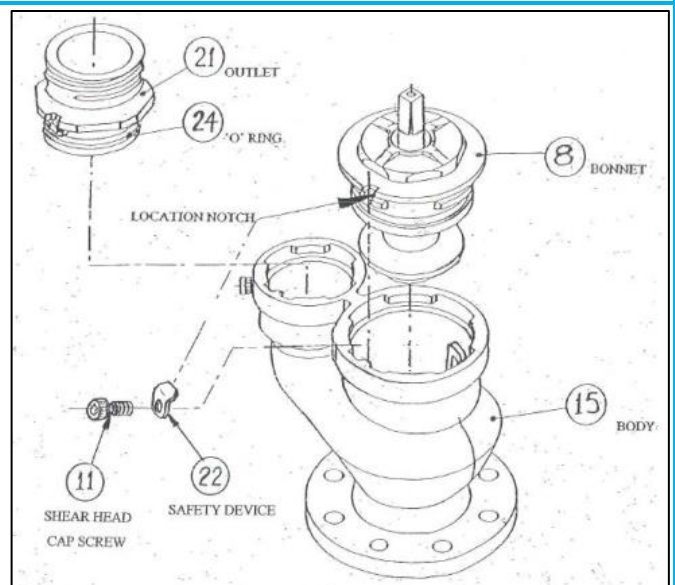
Between 1996 and 2004, these hydrants were installed throughout the Thames Water distribution network as fire hydrants and as washouts. Over 10,000 of these units were supplied to Thames Water and now present a safety risk to our employees and any external parties that might operate the hydrant.

Although the frequency and likelihood are low, the decision has been taken to stop the use of these hydrants with immediate effect.

What is the Issue?

The London threaded outlet has a bayonet connection to the body and is not bolted down. Over time the locking screw can degrade, allowing the outlet to rotate to the unlocked position and if under pressure the outlet can unexpectedly shoot up with great force. There have been several such incidents which have resulted in harm resulting from units installed on other companies' networks.

Thames Water, along with other water companies have undertaken inspection and testing of these valves and part of its conclusion was to STOP the use of these valves and instigate a program of repair / replace or add additional safety controls.



How to Identify a S19 Hydrant



- The outlet and the valve bonnet of a Series 19 hydrant both have a bayonet connection (similar to a camera lens) instead of large vertical screws.
- The outer lip of the outlet and bonnet of a Series 19 hydrant have a locating notch for a small safety clip. The safety clip is held in place by the small horizontal screw that passes through the hydrant body and stops the bayonet from unlocking. (See diagram above right).
- If a hydrant has several hexagonal bolt heads visible from above it is NOT affected by this Safety Alert

Safety Alert 0288
Issue date 20/06/2022

Approved by: Stephen Evans-Howe, Director of Health Safety & Wellbeing
Distribution: All Thames Water Managers

 Zero incidents
Zero harm
Zero compromise
Keeping you healthy and safe, every day at work.