



Southern Water

Health, Safety & Security alert: fire hydrants



Between 1996 and 2004 Series 19 fire hydrants were potentially installed in the Southern Water distribution network.

These fire hydrants and washouts are now known to present a safety risk to our employees and any external parties that might operate the hydrant - for example the Fire and Rescue Service.

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

- **Why is action required:** Series 19 Fire Hydrants can fail in use causing severe injuries.
- **Who is required to take action:** Operational Personnel who find or locate Series 19 valves.
- **Action required by:** 30 November 2023

The 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.

As a result the outlet can unexpectedly shoot up with great force. There have been several such incidents which have resulted in harm from units installed in other companies' water networks.



Southern 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 begin a programme of replacement.



Series 19 Hydrants

What to do if you locate a Series 19 Valve?

STOP

If you identify a S19 hydrant **DO NOT** use it.

THINK

Highlight it is a S19 hydrant to warn others not to use it.

SAFE

Raise a hazard, escalate to your manager and raise a job for the valve to be replaced by third party.

Action to be taken

- Inspect hydrants to see if it is a Series 19 hydrant.
- The outlet and the valve bonnet of a Series 19 hydrant both have a bayonet connection, like 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 right.*
- If a hydrant has several hexagonal bolt heads visible from above, it is **NOT** affected by this Safety Alert

Further information:

- If you need any more information, please contact your local HSW Advisor
- If you find any other hydrant you deem as unsafe which isn't a Series 19 valve after inspection please follow the escalation process of raising a hazard and a job to repair.

