



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Health Service Executive

Procedure for Control of Fire Hydrants and Water Storage Tanks for the purpose of fire-fighting

Procedure No. 208

	Print Name	Title	Date
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INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this document is to describe the procedure required to ensure that fire hydrants in our hospitals are well designed, maintained, tested and inspected in accordance with the current regulations

Scope

The procedure applies to fire hydrants at acute hospitals in the Health Service Executive, Mid-Western Area.

Responsibility

It is the responsibility of the Technical Services Department to ensure that this procedure is implemented and that records are maintained in accordance with guidelines given in the British standard.

Definitions

Fire Hydrants: Fire hydrants are pressurized watermains around the perimeter of the building. They allow for quick and easy access by the fire services/fire fighting teams for connecting their water hoses.

1.0 General Requirements

- 1.1 Fire hydrants will be indicated by yellow painted covers and should never be obstructed by vehicles or stored items.
- 1.2 A record of all fire hydrants on the hospital grounds is kept in the fire register. This drawing details the hydrant designated number and its location on the site.
- 1.3 A location map indicating fire hydrant locations will be copied to the local fire authority for use in emergency situations. Any changes to the map will be notified without delay

2.0 Design of new Fire Hydrants

- 2.1 All fire hydrant enclosures and frames must comply with BS 750.
- 2.2 One hydrant should cover every 1,000 m² of ground floor area of the building.
- 2.3 Fire hydrant should be positioned between 6m and 46m from the perimeter of the building
- 2.4 No fire hydrants shall be positioned more than 30m away from a hard stand with access of fire appliances.
- 2.5 They should be within the same land as that of the building.

2.6 They should be installed on a ring main system.

3.0 Maintenance of Fire Hydrants

Note: There are no hydrants on some premises due to the availability of Local Authority Fire Hydrants nearby.

3.1 Annual checks of the pressure and flow of each hydrant will be carried out by an external contractor. Records of these tests will be recorded and kept. They are available on request from the Fire & Safety Officer.

3.2 Maintenance of fire hydrants will be carried out at least once per year in accordance with BS 5306: Part 1. This will be by a contracted fire specialist. The certificate of compliance with BS 5306 on completion of the annual maintenance will be issued and kept in the fire registers.

Note all fire hydrants are off the live water services to the building and problems arising would be immediately known.

4.0 Water Storage Tanks for the purpose of Fire-Fighting

4.1 Water Storage Tanks for the purpose of fire-fighting are installed in some premises due to water supply difficulty. These tanks provide bulk water storage and can be used by the local authority fire service for fire fighting purposes. These tanks are checked on a quarterly basis by an external contractor. Records are kept by the contractor and are available on request by the fire and safety officer of the HSE West.

References: BS 5306: Fire extinguishing installations and equipment on Premises, Part 1: 1983 hydrant system, hose reels and foam outlets