

Prior to connecting hydrant to fireplug

- The operator must be competent and fully trained in the operation of fireplugs & hydrants, if training or retraining is required - contact Central Highlands Water on **1800 061 514**
- Locate the position of designated fireplug from **Fireplugs and standpipes location maps booklet** or via **CHW website** <http://www.chw.net.au/business/fireplugs-and-standpipes>
- Assess site for traffic and pedestrian control where necessary.
- Lift cover and inspect for hazards e.g. spiders, wasps, sharp edges, etc.
- Check the condition of the rubber ball or the steel ball style hydrant.
- If the rubber ball or washers of the hydrant are damaged do not use hydrant contact Central Highlands Water on **1800 061 514**

Connecting hydrant to fireplug

- Turn hydrant until lugs of hydrant are tight against the lugs of the fireplug.
- Screw down the spindle of the hydrant until pressure is felt.

Turning on the water

- Very slowly screw down the spindle of the hydrant until water begins to flow. (If you are only testing fireplugs this is as much flow of water that is required)
- Slowly turn spindle of hydrant (approximately three turns), do not fully turn the spindle as it will not increase the flow of water but decrease the flow and may result in the ball becoming jammed. (Flow rate **MUST** not exceed 10 litres per second)
- If excessive loss of water is expected, arrangement should be made to collect the water for recycling.

Turning off the water and removing hydrant

- Turn water off slowly. (**MUST** be slow, should take at least 2-5 minutes to turn off)
- Check for leaks, if water is leaking from hydrant repeat procedure remembering to always turn on and off slowly to flush stones etc from under the ball.
- Remove hydrant and check if water is leaking.
- If water is still leaking contact Central Highlands Water on **1800 061 514**

Problems caused by incorrect operation of hydrants:

Burst mains - When hydrants are opened or closed quickly, water hammer is created through the system. This in turn causes the water main to burst and the loss of supply to our customers. The burst also causes damage to property connection piping and the general infrastructure surrounding the burst, reducing supply for fire fighting and wastage of a precious resource.

Turbidity – This means the stirring up of the fine silt deposits within the water main causing a number of water quality issues for residents in the vicinity of the hydrant. Filling rates exceeding 10 litres per second affect water pressure to customers.

Please note pressure and flows are monitored at Central Highlands Water's office.

Accountability

Persons or Companies who damage water mains through the operation of hydrants in the Central Highlands Water districts, or who do not hold a current permit to withdraw water and/or do not follow the operational procedures, will be held responsible for any repair costs.

Hydrants should not be left unattended when turned on.

When taking water from a hydrant and loading it into a container, backflow protection must be in place (**AS/NZS 3500.1:2003**)