

# Safety Alert

## S19 Fire Hydrants – Immediate Stop of Use

14 July 2022

The following pages of this safety alert were issued by:

**Thames Water.**

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SA 0288  
(June 2022)



### Introduction

#### Immediate Stop on use of S19 Fire Hydrants

The Fire and Rescue Services (FRS) have issued their brigades with a National Fire Rescue Service bulletin relating to safety issues identified with certain fire hydrant types within the UK. F&RS 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. 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.**

#### What is the Issue?

The mouthpiece where the standpipe is attached, is held onto the main body by a pin and is not bolted down. Over time, these can work loose and if under pressure at the time, can shoot up with great force.

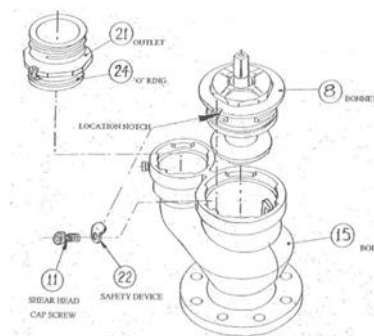
There have been several such incidents which have resulted in harm resulting from units installed on other companies' networks.

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

- If a hydrant has several hexagonal bolt heads visible from above it is NOT affected by this Safety Alert.
- 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



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### Action required

**Managers:** Immediately brief Safety Alert to all employees who could be impacted.

### All Employees:

- **STOP** – Think about your 3 & 10 situational awareness, check fire hydrant being used is not of the S19 type.
- If you identify a S19 hydrant **DO NOT** use it.
- Highlight it is an S19 hydrant to warn others by use of the **Dangerous Fire Hydrant** tags.
- Raise a safety observation on Spheracloud
- Complete a Redline activity on mobile device – add in the comments that the “Fire Hydrant is an S19”



### Briefing to all employees

*We the undersigned have been made aware of the contents of this briefing. If we are unable to carry out the work safely, we agree that we must immediately stop work and inform our manager/supervisor.*

Date	Name	Signature

*Please continue on another copy for additional employees*