

**NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE
CONSERVATION PRACTICE STANDARD**

Dry Hydrant

(Each)

CODE 432

DEFINITION

A non-pressurized permanent pipe assembly system installed into water source that permits the withdrawal of water by suction.

PURPOSE

To provide all weather access to an available water source for fire suppression.

CONDITIONS WHERE PRACTICE APPLIES

Where a dependable source of water is available, where transport vehicles can access the site, and where a source of water is needed for fire suppression.

CRITERIA

General Criteria Applicable to All Types of Installation

Design, construction and use of drafting basins shall comply with all federal, state and local laws.

Site Conditions. Site conditions shall be such that an all weather vehicle access is available to the dry hydrant or can be developed. The dry hydrant shall be reasonably close to the water source to minimize the length of suction line. This should be determined in conjunction with local fire officials. Special care and maintenance will be required when debris and fine soil particles are part of the water source.

Water Requirement. The quantity to be considered available to a dry hydrant is the minimum available (at not over 15 feet total static lift) during a drought. A minimum of 30,000 gallons (1.1 acre-

inches) of pumpable impoundment water or a minimum pump flow rate of 250 gpm without interruption for 2 hours is considered a dependable water supply.

Location. A location map showing the exact site of the hydrant and vehicle access shall be furnished to the local fire department with a copy to the landowner. A letter of approval to use the site shall be obtained from the landowner prior to construction. Access, topography, and location should be reviewed by fire department personnel prior to installation.

The fire truck connection shall be within 10 feet of the edge of an all weather access road. The all weather access road and fire truck pumper connection shall be higher than the auxiliary spillway elevation if installed in a constructed impoundment.

Place dry hydrants far enough away from the waters edge or steep banks to prevent hazardous situations during use or maintenance.

Shape pond banks to 2:1 or flatter to prevent undercutting.

Pipe. The pipe material shall be iron, steel or plastic. Plastic pipe shall be schedule 40, SDR-26 or otherwise protected from ultraviolet rays. No more than two 90-degree elbows shall be used in the entire pipe system. The depth at which the pipe is installed shall be below the frost-free depth for the area (20 inches along the southern boundary and 52 inches along the northern boundary of Indiana).

Water supply. The water source shall be available year round and be capable of supplying a minimum

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of 250 gallons per minute for a continuous 2-hour period. This rate requires 4,000 cubic feet of usable water. A flow rate of 1000 gpm requires 16,000 cubic feet of useable water. The 50-year drought and freeze conditions and other water uses are considered as unavailable water. In Indiana, the 50-year drought and freeze conditions in lakes and ponds may be estimated to be 4 feet below the normal pool for areas north of U.S. Hwy 40 and 3 feet below normal pool for areas south of U.S Hwy 40. The water elevation for design purposes shall be that below the drought/freeze requirements.

Pipe Intake. The pipe intake depth shall be calculated from the design water elevation (below drought/freeze) plus pipe diameter plus 2 feet. The intake screen shall have a minimum opening of 4 times the pipe cross sectional area. Where the intake is more than 3 feet off the bottom, a trash rack may be used in lieu of a screen.

A dry hydrant installation shall provide for a positive slope toward the water source. In pits or impoundments, the intake screen or strainer shall be supported and secured at least two feet above the pool bottom. The intake shall be at least 4 feet beyond the earth slope.

To avoid a vortex or whirlpool during pumping, the top of the inlet pipe shall be at least 2.0 feet below the design water level unless a special design is prepared to prevent vortex.

Strainer. The strainer shall be fabricated from non-corrosive material compatible with the pipe. Individual inlet holes shall not exceed 3/8-inch diameter. All components, including pins, shall be non-corrosive. Screens and strainers shall have a minimum open area of 4 times the pipe cross sectional area.

A strainer may be formed by drilling 1/4 inch to 3/8 inch diameter holes with a minimum of one hole diameter between the holes in PVC pipe. Drill holes shall be deburred and the pipe cleaned before putting the strainer into service. The screens or strainers shall be capped with a removable end cap.

Pump Lift. The top of the fire truck pumping connection or centerline of pump (whichever is higher) shall be no more than 15 feet in elevation above the bottom of the fire protection pool or stream surface during drought conditions.

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The total lift (pumping head) shall not exceed 20 feet when all losses are totaled. Pumping head for each site shall include head loss from screen or strainer, elbows, line friction, elevation (static head), and hard rubber or flexible suction hose to the fire truck.

End Cap. The end cap must be easily removed without special tools. Perforations are recommended in the end cap, also, to improve flow conditions into the strainer and for jetting action for silt cleanout.

Materials. All materials shall meet or exceed the minimum requirements for materials described in the various sections of this standard.

Access. Vehicle access to and from the dry hydrant shall be provided for fire truck and pumper units. Access shall have an all-weather surface, be well drained and be at least 12 feet wide for ease of movement by personnel and equipment during an emergency. When local road traffic may be involved, an all-weather road surface adjacent to the dry hydrant and completely off the public road is recommended for safety of the emergency personnel and the public.

Protection. After the dry hydrant installation, the site shall be graded for surface drainage and vegetated or otherwise protected from erosion. Vegetation shall be in accordance with Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Field Office Technical Guide (FOTG) Standard (342) Critical Area Planting.

Additional Criteria for Dry Hydrant Type Installations

Pipe shall be 6 inches nominal diameter or larger. The pipe shall be fitted with intake screen or strainer and standard fire truck hose adapters for quick connect/release operations acceptable to the local fire department.

Dry Hydrant. Dry barrel (conventional) hydrants may not be used due to excess suction loss and the necessity that they be absolutely airtight.

A recessed hydrant (below ground-level connection) may be specified for use in areas with special needs, such as in a high vandalism area or for low profile and esthetic needs. It is also referred to as a flush mount hydrant and does not

require the 24 inch riser. It may be used with the 45° or straight dry hydrant head assembly.

Dry Hydrant Head. The hydrant sleeve shall be made of bronze, brass, aluminum alloy or other durable, non-corrosive metal. Sleeve must be permanently affixed inside a PVC head using epoxy adhesive and stainless steel bolts.

The hydrant head shall be able to accept an NHT (American National Fire Hose Thread) connection to provide maximum supply. Hydrant head shall conform to ASTM 2466. Contact local fire department to determine appropriate head size for their use (normally 4 or 6-inch).

All hydrants shall contain a removable head strainer and stainless steel snap ring that can be removed without special tools. The strainer shall be conical in shape to maximize straining area. All hydrants shall use a rubber "O" ring between the threaded sleeve and PVC head.

Dry Hydrant Cap. The cap shall be of snap-on/snap-off design and removable without special tools. It shall be joined with a steel cable or chain and be permanently attached to the dry hydrant head. The cap shall be hard plastic or of same metal as NHT connection for maximum corrosion resistance.

Additional Criteria for Drafting Basin Type Installations

The minimum pipeline diameter shall be 8 inches.

The riser shall be precast concrete manholes that meets the requirements of INDOT Standard Specifications Section 720 or other manufactured manholes that are appropriate for the required depth. The manhole shall have a minimum diameter of 36 inches.

CONSIDERATIONS

Consider sediment production caused by erosion during construction.

Consider possible effects on surface and ground water of spilled fuels and lubricants by fire trucks using the dry hydrant.

This practice has the potential to negatively affect National Register listed or eligible (significant)

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cultural resources (archaeological, historical or traditional cultural properties); it also has the potential to protect listed or eligible historic structures. Consider these factors during planning and also follow the NRCS State policy during construction and maintenance.

Any excavated trench near a body of water has potential for saturation and unstable walls. Consider all safety precautions during construction.

The installation technique, excavating from the standpipe to the water source, is recommended. If trenching is to be done from the water source to the standpipe, a soil plug between the water and the trench may be used to aid in keeping the trench dry.

PLANS AND SPECIFICATIONS

Plans and specifications for installing dry hydrants shall be in keeping with this standard and shall describe the requirements for applying the practice to achieve its intended purpose. Required permits shall be obtained prior to initiating any work.

OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE

Keeping the site clear of obstruction and regular mowing of the dry hydrant access area will be required to keep the area readily available for emergency use.

Pumper testing of the dry hydrant shall be done at least annually to verify site usability. This test shall include back flushing, followed by a pumper test at the maximum designed flow rate. Careful attention should be given to silt, debris, aquatic growth, or other interference that may limit the full operation of the dry hydrant.

Checks of the intake screen should be made once every five years to identify any sediment build up and to provide information for a clean-out operation or for aquatic growth control needs. The hydrant should be back-flushed each spring and fall to remove any silt or debris that may have accumulated on the screen.