STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURE

TASK: Fire Hydrant Cleaning (in ground hydrants)

SOP No: AW 001   Version: 1.1   Date: 20 November 2006
Dept/Div/School: Division of Facilities Management
Supervisor/Manager: Operations Supervisors
Other Contacts: Peter Jones

Introduction
The below ground level fire hydrants are susceptible to dirt, weeds and ant nest infestation that if allowed to go unattended will fill the hydrant cavity preventing ease of fire valve connection. For ease of identification and access during an emergency the valve, valve cover and surrounding areas maintained on a regular basis. Further information and schedules are listed in AS1851 and other relevant standards.

POTENTIAL HAZARDS:
- Snakes trapped within hydrant area.
- Various insects, ant nests and the like
- Ultraviolet radiation
- Heat stress

PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT & EMERGENCY EQUIPMENT
- Long sleeved short and long trousers, hat and sunscreen.
- Drinking water.
- Means of communication (mobile phone or radio).

BEFORE YOU START
- Gather equipment as listed below
- Notify your supervisor of you planned work process.

ALWAYS ................
- Use lever to open lid, to ensure that hands are well clear, to avoid the possibility of contact with any animal or insect contained within pit.
- Ensure that lid opens well passed the vertical and a bar is laid across the hinged side to prevent possible crush hazard, if lid closes while undertaking works.

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<th>JOB STEPS</th>
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<td>• Gather items as per the checklist below.</td>
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<td>• Notify supervisor of proposed work plan.</td>
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<td>• Inspect and clean off the Fire valve cover, chipping away any weeds or grasses.</td>
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<td>• Lift the lid using lever and inspect the inside for evidence of vermin or ant nests. If snake/s are present stop immediately. Lower the lid if safe to do so and call the Grounds Supervisor.</td>
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<td>• Using small scoops and brush, clean the cavity of ants nests and soil or other materials. Scatter the soil rather than pile it.</td>
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<td>• Clean the ball valve and seat using a wetted cloth or brush. Avoid using sharp objects on or around the valve.</td>
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<td>• Clean the lid hinge points and lip of the cover. Lubricate the hinge with the spray oil lubricant ensuring the cover opens, closes and seals easily.</td>
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<td>• Run a smear of lid lubricant around the lip and check that the lid closes flush.</td>
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<td>• Inspect the area generally for serviceability of makers and conditions of lids and report any unserviceabilities to the maintenance coordinator.</td>
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<th>WHEN YOU FINISH</th>
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<td>• Record the service and enter into BEIMS.</td>
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Approved by: .........................................................  Date: ......................
Checklist:

Items Required for the Cleaning of in ground fire hydrant pits

☐ Long sleeved shirt (sleeves turned down), long trousers
☐ Drinking water, sunscreen and hat
☐ Gloves that are in good order
☐ Knee pads
☐ Common blade Screwdriver
☐ Small scoop
☐ Broom
☐ Rake
☐ Hoe
☐ Strong torch
☐ Spray lubricant (RPZ, WD40 or similar)
☐ Ant powder
☐ Lid lubricant
☐ Lid opening lever
☐ Bar to prevent lid closing