



POSITION STATEMENT SUMMARY

Extended fire hydrant coverage

Position

Effective 14 June 2024, the following is a position of Fire and Rescue NSW (FRNSW):

FRNSW may consider a performance solution seeking equivalent or comparative fire hydrant coverage to AS 2419.1:2021, particularly when an existing fire hydrant system meets a different standard of performance (e.g. AS 2419.1-2005, Ordinance 70). The performance solution must demonstrate how fire hydrant coverage meets the operational needs of the fire brigades and facilitates safe and effective firefighting.

Note: For existing buildings with an Ordinance 70 fire hydrant system, reference should also be made to the FRNSW position [Fire hydrant system in existing building or premises](#).

Performance solutions for extended fire hydrant coverage are assessed on a case-by-case basis. Any proposal for extended fire hydrant coverage must be clearly shown on floor and/or site plans that show the hydrant outlet location and coverage arcs of the extended coverage.

Reference must be made to the FRNSW website to ensure this position is current at the time of use, and the position has not subsequently been superseded or revoked.

Summary

This position statement clarifies the scope of extended hydrant coverage. Under AS 2419.1:2021, the current standard, fire hydrant coverage 'within a building' is the laid-on ground distance along paths of travel between the final exit and the furthestmost point inside the building. Accordingly, hose measurement distances have been increased, typically being 70 m from an external hydrant or 40 m from an internal hydrant. As firefighting hose used by FRNSW is not longer than 30 m, this equates to three and two lengths of hose being used respectively.

Historically, the fire hydrant standard would nominate 60 m or 30 m length of hose laid with a minimum of 1 m of hose extending into any room and a 10 m water stream to reach the furthestmost point of a room. However, this was unrealistically measured in straight line segments within compartments.

Informative commentary informs building proponents that FRNSW will consider a performance solution where the fire hydrant coverage for an existing fire hydrant system can be shown to be equivalent or comparative to AS 2419.1:2021. This is due to the more generous measurement than previous standards.

Additionally, where travel distances throughout the building comply with DtS provisions of the *National Construction Code*, the internal coverage distance for an attack hydrant can be increased from 40 m to 45 m.

This position statement has been authorised for release by Chief Superintendent Fire Safety, FRNSW.

Contact us

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