



Wannon Water fire services

Access to water is essential when combating fires, especially in structures such as factories, buildings with a large roof area, shopping centres and schools.

This Information Sheet provides details on how to apply for a new fire service, maintenance responsibilities, charges, water use, backflow prevention, and disconnections.

Background

Fire services are typically mandated to meet the requirements of building regulation controlled by the Victorian Building Authority, not by Wannon Water, resulting in conditions being placed on a Building or Planning Permit issued by a building surveyor.

What is a fire service?

Fire services consist of:

- (a) A connection and valve located at Wannon Water's water main;
- (b) Below ground pipes to the property; and
- (c) Service fittings within the property such as hydrants, sprinkler systems and hose reels. These surface fittings are usually painted bright red.

Applying for a new fire service

Wannon Water registers the following information where a request is received for the installation of a new fire service:

- (a) Size of fire service, water meter and associated pipes and fittings;
- (b) Water main material; and

- (c) Backflow prevention as determined by your plumber – refer below for further information.

Where a request is received for the installation of an additional fire plug on an existing Wannon Water water main in the street, the property owner is required to obtain all approvals for the installation.

Who is responsible for maintaining fire services?

Building regulation places an obligation on property owners to maintain the essential safety measures installed at the property including fire services. Responsibility for enforcing of building safety rests with Councils, not Wannon Water.

Where Wannon Water becomes aware of a leak or a burst on a fire service, the property owner will be requested to repair the leak or burst. . Legislation also allows Wannon Water to disconnect the fire service which would include notifying Council that the property owner may be breaching building regulation.

Where the property owner does not undertake the required works, or where the leaking fire service is causing property damage or public danger, Wannon Water will undertake the repairs and recover the cost of these works from the property owner.

Fire service charges

A fire service charge is levied for the private fire service tapping off a water main. Fire services are usually of a diameter that has the capacity to draw larger volumes of water if required. Wannon Water provides capacity within its water reticulation system to supply water to the fire service. Infrastructure costs are incurred to maintain this capacity and is reflected in the fire service charge.

Water use from a fire service

Wannon Water is able to charge for water used from a fire service. Where a customer provides evidence to Wannon Water that water has been used for firefighting, this water will be provided free of charge.

To limit the potential for fire services to be used for purposes other than firefighting, Wannon Water requires the following:

- (a) Installation of a water meter on a new fire service; or
- (b) Installation of a detector check meter that provides an indication of the volumes of water used through a fire service.

Backflow prevention

Fire service connections pose a risk to Wannon Water's drinking water system through the potential of water to backflow (flow back) from the fire service into Wannon Water's water mains.

To reduce the risk of contamination, Wannon Water requires that appropriate testable backflow prevention devices are installed on all fire services in accordance with AS/NZS 3500 (the plumbing regulations).

Disconnecting a fire service

Where a fire service is no longer required by building regulation, written verification is required from a building surveyor that the property owner is able to engage a registered plumber to apply to Wannon Water to have the fire service disconnected. Disconnection fees apply with all excavation and reinstatement works provided by your plumber.

Wannon water is not responsible for ensuring property owners are compliant with building legislation when disconnecting a fire service.

Additional information

For further information, please email: info@wannonwater.com.au or phone 1300 926 666 between the hours of 8.15am and 5.00pm Monday to Friday.