Fire Hydrants Along the Way



Alabama Road Trip
September 2010

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Facts & Figures…



- During one of our recent road trips to Alabama we decided to examine fire hydrants along the way.
- As usual, we found a variety of different manufacturers and a variety of different “conditions” present at each hydrant site.
- The theme of the trip seemed to be hydrants with access issues.
- Of course, hydrant access is important as is regular maintenance, inspection, and testing – something that is often overlooked in many communities.
- For those folks concerned about ISO – the “health” of a community’s fire hydrant system plays a big role in the fire department’s ISO rating.

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Camouflaged…





This hydrant at a shopping center near Coeburn, Virginia is well – camouflaged. We suppose it keeps the dogs away. Hopefully, the fire department can find it.

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Camouflaged…



Ahhhhh – the hydrant is behind the bushes which are at just the right height to even hide the top of the hydrant. Nicely done landscaping. Nothing like an unsightly hydrant to bring down commercial property value. At least the steamer outlet is accessible – some!

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My Neighbor's a Big Shot…



Sonny – I have seen a lot things on this main street here in Norton, Virginny – including my fair share of 4-legged critters. I guess you think you are some big shot just cause you have a bigger valve and pipe arrangement and can flow more water.

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Stay Low Under the Radar…



This hydrant in Cumberland Gap, Virginia is keeping a low profile – not sure why though since hydrants are generally meant to be seen. The local FD will need a shovel if they plan on using a hydrant valve on this steamer connection!

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Where is Waldo?



Now – there is supposed to be a hydrant back here somewhere. Even a Walmart here in Middleboro, Kentucky needs a couple of fire hydrants!

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Where is Waldo?







Well – there it is. Just drive down over the hill to get to it or…go through the parking lot and just push all of the crap out of the way – whichever works best for you.

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Feeling Kinda Small…





Another small barrel hydrant – this time in northeast Tennessee. There seemed to be a “liking” for smaller barrel hydrants as we headed south. By small – we mean that the barrel diameter is close in size to the diameter of the steamer outlet. This set-up generally indicates a smaller flow water main or a reduced flow available from the hydrant – so the local FD should be flow testing these types of hydrants.

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Where Has My Cap Gone?





This dry fire hydrant near Sylvania, Alabama, needs a little TLC. A cap is needed to help protect against critters making the pipe their new home. Some paint is also needed on the PVC pipe to keep the sun from damaging the plastic.

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For more information contact us at

thebigcamel@gotbigwater.com

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