Fire Hydrants Along the Way



From Winfield to Wisconsin
August 2009

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The Concept…



- Well, we took a trip and thought about looking at some type of water supply issue along the way.
- We chose fire hydrants because they seemed to vary some by region and we found a bunch of different types.
- We also found that maintenance was lacking in some areas and very good in others.
- Here's what we found along the way…

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Winfield, Maryland



We started at this hydrant next to the South Carroll High School. It is unusual in that is gravity fed from a storm water cistern at the school. At times, you actually have to take suction on the hydrant in order to get water. But…you wouldn't know that by just looking at the hydrant!

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Morgantown, West Virginia



Nothing special here except that it looks like those protective, steel uprights have been busy keeping this hydrant safe.

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Canonsburg, Pennsylvania



This hydrant's steamer outlet is equipped with a Bliss fitting – a type of non-threaded connection popular in the City of Pittsburgh and its suburbs. Anyone with a photo of a Bliss connection device – please email us a copy.

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Canonsburg, Pennsylvania



Here is another hydrant from Canonsburg. What does the ring mean? OOS? In many towns yes, but not this one. It is simply the name of the water authority and a notice about FD use only.

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Latchie, Ohio



This hydrant is at a truck stop just off of I-90 in the northwest section of Ohio. Hooking up to the steamer outlet could prove to be a bit of a problem. We wonder who is suppose to maintain this hydrant.

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Strongville, Ohio



This big bonnet hydrant is located in the parking lot of Panera Bread in Strongville, Ohio. It seems to be well-cared for and accessible.

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Highland, Indiana





This hydrant is located on Highway Avenue near a pizza joint. We are not sure if the blue top means 1,500+ gpm flow or not. A good example of how NFPA standards are not requirements – otherwise every community would use the color-coding system. It is also a little bit off of the road.

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Sturgis, Michigan





We found this hydrant in a town park that has a street hockey rink. Looks like the hydrant is used to flood the rink in the winter time so that ice can form on the rink and thus – ice hockey can be played! This is an out of the ordinary use of a hydrant.

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Elgin, Illinois







Nothing fancy here other than the 5-inch Storz FD connection on the structure. This hydrant provides water supply at a rest stop along I-90 in Illinois. Hydrant is about 100 feet from the connection.

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Beloit, Wisconsin



This hydrant is located in a residential area of Beloit. It has been retrofitted with a 5-inch Storz outlet. Not every hydrant in Beloit is outfitted as such and we are not sure why. However, the idea is good.

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Beloit, Wisconsin



The end of the journey was Beloit, Wisconsin. Here is a photo of their headquarters station to prove that we made it there!

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Summary



- The trip was interesting as were the different types of fire hydrants found along the way.
- It was interesting to see how different communities take care of their hydrants – the theme seems to be pretty common across the country. Some do and some don’t as much. Which is most likely a function of funding.

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