

These flashes summarise key safety matters and incidents, allowing wider dissemination of lessons learned from them. The information below has been provided in good faith by members and should be reviewed individually by recipients, who will determine its relevance to their own operations.

The effectiveness of the IMCA safety flash system depends on receiving reports from members in order to pass on information and avoid repeat incidents. Please consider adding the IMCA secretariat ([imca@imca-int.com](mailto:imca@imca-int.com)) to your internal distribution list for safety alerts and/or manually submitting information on specific incidents you consider may be relevant. All information will be anonymised or sanitised, as appropriate.

A number of other organisations issue safety flashes and similar documents which may be of interest to IMCA members. Where these are particularly relevant, these may be summarised or highlighted here. Links to known relevant websites are provided at [www.imca-int.com/links](http://www.imca-int.com/links). Additional links should be submitted to [webmaster@imca-int.com](mailto:webmaster@imca-int.com)

---

## **I Fire Extinguishers – Potential Missing/Broken Dip Tubes on Hyfex Models**

Members should be aware of the attached caution/safety notice we have received from Divex.



## Safety Notice No. DVX002/2001

**HYFEX FIRE EXTINGUISHERS**  
**Part Numbers SE480 and SE481**

**Divex Ltd.**

Enterprise Drive  
Westhill, Aberdeen  
AB32 6TQ, United Kingdom

Telephone +44 (0)1224 740145  
Facsimile +44 (0)1224 740172  
e-mail info@divex.co.uk

### THERE HAS BEEN A SITE REPORT OF A FIRE EXTINGUISHER MISSING A DIP TUBE.

Divex would advise all users to check their extinguishers to ensure dip tubes are fitted correctly and not damaged.

*ANY FIRE EXTINGUISHER THAT HAS A MISSING/BROKEN DIP TUBE WILL NOT OPERATE CORRECTLY AND WILL THEREFORE NOT FULFIL ITS FUNCTION IN AN EMERGENCY SITUATION.*

Damaged/missing dip tubes are available as spared items in lengths to suit the 7.5 litre & 3 litre Hyfex units.

#### FAULT IDENTIFICATION METHOD:

a) For uncharged/out of service units:

- Ensure unit is de-pressurised in accordance with the manual.
- Remove handle/valve assembly and ensure Dip tube is fitted to lower valve assembly body and is not damaged anywhere along its length. Ensure the dip tube is correctly sized to almost touch the bottom of cylinder.
- The Serial numbers of any Hyfex's with missing/damaged dip tube units must be advised to Divex in writing together with date of purchase information if known.

b) For in-service charged units:

To avoid wasting a water/AFFF foam solution charge:

- Prepare Hyfex for operation by removing safety pin, etc.
- Invert the cylinder and, whilst ensuring the hose is pointing in a safe direction, inverting will place the charge gas around the dip tube end zone and all the liquid at valve end. Operate the valve handle slowly, opening the valve only a small amount.
- If after 2-5 seconds you find only gas coming from the hose/nozzle assembly then this indicates that the dip tube is present and working correctly.
- You may continue to drain off all gas pressure if you wish, then (with unit in normal upright position) remove handle/valve/dip tube assembly for inspection as per manual instructions.

After re-assembly (if disassembled) the unit should be recharged/topped up by the normal method using appropriate gas mixture.

**Caution:** If during this inverted test only water/foam solution comes from hose/nozzle whilst in the inverted position, this indicates the DIP TUBE is MISSING/DAMAGED.

These units must be depressurised completely, then dissembled by removing the Handle/valve/dip tube assembly as per the manual instructions.

Damaged/Missing dip tubes require to be replaced.

Serial numbers of all Hyfex with missing/damaged dip tubes must be advised to Divex.

**For further information contact Kathleen Scanlan on the above telephone or fax number.**

**Alternatively e-mail to [safety@divex.co.uk](mailto:safety@divex.co.uk)**

**SIGNED** \_\_\_\_\_

M. D. Cattnach, For and on behalf of Divex Ltd.

**DATED: 18<sup>th</sup> August 2001**