

Operating Tips

Keep in mind that the Humat 4-way Hydrant Valve is the simplest-to-use and maintain appliance available today. These operating hints and maintenance procedures are to help those of you who must write your department's technical directives.

The valve is attached to the hydrant by holding the carrying handle with the right or left hand, centering the valve on the male hydrant thread and turning the valve's steamer swivel in a clockwise direction with the other hand. Before tightening the valve on the hydrant, determine what position would be best for the most effective fire fighting. For Example: If you are laying in to a fire which is to you left as you face the hydrant, you should rotate the valve so that the small chamber is up instead of down. This will avoid a reverse twist in the pre-connected line. The valve steamer connection should be tightened and the hydrant charged as directed.

On the fire ground with the valve connected to the hydrant, you have more leverage and the valve can be operated easily when the butterfly is properly adjusted. To open the butterfly valve, pull the operating handle towards the closed position with one hand while pressing on the latching pin with the other hand. The latching pin will easily disengage from its locked closed position. Then, while guarding the operating handle with one hand, bump the handle with the heel of the other hand toward the open position. Because of the design of the resilient seal used with the butterfly, friction will then hold the valve closed. Once the seal is broken, the handle can be moved easily throughout the 75 degrees of movement from fully closed to fully open position. To close the valve, move the operating handle toward the closed position slowly to prevent water hammer (as with any quarter turn valve). As you approach the fully closed position, more pressure is required to close the valve (you are compressing the resilient seal against the interior wall of the valve). Finally, when the latching pin is almost in the closed-locked position, give a brisk tug toward the closed position and the latching pin will engage in the closed-locked position on the latching plate.

When the butterfly is properly adjusted, it may seem to be difficult to open and close the valve when it is not mounted on the hydrant. Even though properly adjusted, you may wish to reduce the latching pressure temporarily for purposes of demonstrating the valve functions in a classroom situation. This is easily accomplished by loosening the latching plate clamp and repositioning the plate to suit your needs. Upon completing the training session be sure to readjust the latching pressure as per instructions.