When conducting a vulnerability assessment (V.A.), infiltration of a municipal water supply through an unsecured fire hydrant should be a primary concern.

Most of the hydrant security devices available throughout the country use a universal wrench or tool that can easily be obtained by a motivated wrongdoer. These security devices can be unlocked and replaced with little or no evidence of tampering to the water authority.

The Mueller Hydrant-Defender device provides security to the hydrant nozzles at two levels. First, the 14 gauge (.075") 304 stainless steel straps prevent unauthorized access to all but the most determined individuals. Second, unlike most other security devices, evidence of tampering will be clearly visible. In the event of an emergency, fire personnel can quickly and easily open the lock and remove the Hydrant-Defender straps in seconds.

The stainless steel barrel lock* features a key, or keys, that are uniquely coded for the purchaser and strictly controlled by the manufacturer. When the device is securely locked, the hydrant nozzles and the operating nut can only be accessed by completely cutting through the heavy straps or barrel lock. Damage to the straps or lock will be clearly evident, even from a distance, and the water authority can investigate the problem immediately.

The Hydrant-Defender device is the most affordable hydrant security system available today. The unit can be factory installed on the Mueller Super Centurion hydrant or ordered separately. Its straps are adjustable to accommodate variations in hydrant dimensions, and models are available to fit virtually any make of 3-way hydrant. Custom markings such as "Out of Service" or a durable epoxy paint custom matched to virtually any color scheme can be applied. Installation is quick and easy. No special tools are required.

*Recommended lock must be purchased directly from lock manufacturer: Highfield Mfg. Co. (203) 384-2281.