

# SOURCE

FALL 2025



# Out of Water, Out of Options

## California City Installs Next Generation Hydrant

By Nick Sigelakis

In California and Nevada, where drought, water shortages, and unauthorized hydrant use can leave neighborhoods out of water when they need it most, a new hydrant has arrived.

The City of Victorville has installed California's first Spartan Fire Hydrant — the first redesign of fire hydrants since 1851, and the only hydrant engineered to conserve, protect, and perform under pressure.

For nearly two centuries, hydrants have remained unchanged. The dry-barrel hydrant, introduced in 1851, became the standard in cold-weather regions. A few decades later, the wet-barrel hydrant emerged in warm-weather states like California, where water

could safely remain in the barrel year-round. Both designs solved problems of their time, but carry the same flaws utilities wrestle with today: wasted water, costly maintenance, and vulnerability to tampering.

Spartan doesn't belong in that lineup. It's not a better version of the old design, it's a new class altogether. The only hydrant built from the ground up for today's challenges.

### Why Rethink the Hydrant?

Hydrants are subject to unauthorized openings that can drain thousands of gallons in minutes, weakening pressure for emergencies. Hidden leaks from the hydrants often go unnoticed and can waste millions of gallons of treated water each year. The maintenance costs keep utilities tied up fixing problems instead of preventing them.

Spartan ends that cycle. Instead of patching a 200-year-old design, it reimagines the hydrant with simplified mechanics, advanced engineering, and premium materials.

"The security gives us peace of mind," said one client. "We're saving water and money right away," said another.



### Why Victorville Took the Leap

The City of Victorville's installation of this hydrant is more than symbolic. It's proof that the state is ready to modernize hydrant infrastructure the same way it has led in environmental standards and water conservation. Spartan goes beyond fire protection to become a water conservation tool.

The hydrant doesn't blend into the background, it stands out with its rounded bonnet and compact silhouette. It's been called many things: futuristic, cartoonish, even a little playful. Whatever people see in it, one thing is clear — it doesn't look like the hydrants we've known for the past two centuries.

### Built for Reliability

The hydrant doesn't just look different — it is different.

- Streamlined mechanics: fewer moving parts mean fewer wear points

- Opens fully in 15 turns, making it one of the fastest hydrants in the market
- Precision machining: tight tolerances and a tri-arm valve reduce water hammering
- Tamper-proof bonnet: Spartan is the only hydrant on the market that cannot be opened without the proper wrench
- Stainless steel resists corrosion, allows quicker connections, and last decades

This isn't a tweak on tradition, it's a clean break from two centuries of "good enough." Victorville may be the first in California, but it has set the bar for what comes next.

### About the Author

*Nick Sigelakis is head of sales & business development at Spartan Fire Hydrants, a division of Sigelock Systems.*



Photo by the City of Victorville



Photo by the City of Victorville