

SONOSCOPE SHOULD BE CARRIED BY EVERY METER READER

CAUTION: Test contact surface to make sure it is not electrically charged.

SONOSCOPE / WATER-PHONE LEAK DETECTOR

This hand-held leak detector is so good and so inexpensive it should be carried by every meter reader and all your field personnel. It readily detects the sound of escaping water in valves, hydrants, meters, and other appurtenances.

The Sonoscope is recommended by the AWWA Standards Committee in its inspection and maintenance procedures for hydrants. Its regular use promotes leak awareness and identifies costly leaks.

SUGGESTIONS FOR USING THE SONOSCOPE

Place the pointed probe of the Sonoscope tightly against the pipe, hydrant, faucet, or shut-off key and listen through the ear-piece. If there is no leak, there will be relative silence. If there is a leak, you will hear it.

ON SERVICES

Be sure no water is being used before listening on the kitchen valves or on the inlet side of the water meter. Leaks between your listening point and the street tap will be audible. Next, listen on the curb box rod or on the curb valve key.

If the leak sound was loudest in the house then the leak is probably between the curb and the house. If the sound is louder at the curb box, the leak is close to the curb box or between the curb and the main.

(Keep in mind that pipe sounds are normally magnified when the pipe passes through the foundation of a house.)

ON WATERMAINS

Listen at fire hydrants, gate valve stems, operating keys attached to a valve nut, or service box rods. By shutting off two valves, you can isolate the section of main between the two boxes from sounds of water being used in the houses. Drive a metal rod into the ground as close to the main as possible, hold the Sonoscope firmly against the rod and listen. Continue to drive the rod or rods to the same depth until you have determined the point where the sound is loudest, which should be the leak location.

ON VALVES

Listening on a gate valve stem or operating key with the Sonoscope makes it easy to determine if the valve is open or closed. Practice and experience will improve the operator's performance. Start practicing in areas that you know are free of leaks. This will introduce you to sounds that are always present in lines, even when they are not leaking.

