

# That Leak is Where?

By Mike Stanzel, Deputy Circuit Rider

We are asked to write an article pertaining to our jobs once a quarter. And believe me trying to come up with a different topic can sometimes be challenging. Because I am not an author, I generally try to write on recent experiences or what I have been busy doing.

Well, since we've been busy doing leak detection, I thought I would share with you what we discovered in a small town recently surveyed. We were contacted to assist a small village with about 70 service connections that had a reported 45-50% water loss. The system has one primary well and one older well used for backup.

We started as usual by asking questions pertaining to the system, like what's metered, what's not, how often meters are read and how old the meters are, etc. As we continued on, listening to hydrants for leaks, all was quiet until we got near the well house. I had asked if the well was running and it was not, so we proceeded to

investigate. Well, it did not take long to find the source. It was a water lube line coming back from the system and down into the well, which is not metered and not being accounted for. This was the same situation in the backup well also. We estimated that these lube lines can account for 25- 30% of the water loss.

As we completed the system survey with no other detectible leaks, we were standing in front of the city shop getting ready to call it a day, when I saw a yard hydrant next to the wall. The operator had explained that that was the only source of water in the shop. I decided to give it a listen and sure enough the line was broken underground and seeping into an old floor drain. Oh, did I forget to mention that the village does not meter their own services?

Well, we were able to shut it off at the curb box and the operator was going to make the repairs, as well as, install meters on both wells so that the water being used can be included in the amount of water being billed.

So in closing, don't overlook the city-owned properties when doing a water loss audit. I know that a lot of fire departments and community buildings have never had

meters installed, which is fine, but you can still estimate the water usage in your monthly reports.