

## Fire Hydrant Testing Program

The goal of our testing program is to assure a reliable water supply in the event of a fire. The testing is required by the Insurance Service Office (ISO) and must be completed annually in order to maintain our Fire Protection Rating, which directly affects property owner insurance premiums.

In addition to being a requirement of ISO (Insurance Services Office), hydrant testing provides many benefits for fire personnel. We gain firsthand knowledge of where hydrants are located, assure they are visible from the road, operational as a “first water” source, and are able to confirm they are maintained on a regular basis.

Annually the Fire Department conducts inspections to assure the hydrants we depend upon for suppression activities are operational, provide adequate water flow, and maintain adequate system pressure.

NFPA standards also call for all public fire hydrants to be inspected on a regular basis. We perform annual inspections not only for the purpose of complying with the standards, but we need to have a high degree of confidence that all hydrants will perform properly in an emergency.



A number of circumstances can affect a hydrant's performance which includes vandalism, accidental damage, wear and tear, mechanical malfunction and even contractors performing work on water lines who forget to reopen hydrant tap valves. We want to detect any of these problems and correct them prior to the hydrant being needed.

Recently a new type of fitting is being used on the steamer connection. This fitting is called a “storz” fitting and makes the connection from the fire truck to the hydrant much quicker and with less maintenance issues. The South Euclid Fire



Department in conjunction with the Cleveland Water Department will continue to install these fitting on our inventory of city maintained hydrants.

There are one thousand sixty-five (1,065) City owned fire hydrants and thirty-nine (39) privately owned fire hydrants in the City of South Euclid.

This year starting in June we will resume our normal hydrant testing and maintenance program. Testing includes cleaning the threads, flushing and checking for working condition and flows. All testing is done by on duty personnel. Any fire hydrant found to be faulty, in need of repair or inoperative is noted. Some of the minor repairs and all of the painting are completed by the City. Major repairs are completed by Cleveland Water

or contracted out to a private contractor. Hydrants that do not drain well are checked each fall to make sure they do not contain water that may freeze and damage the hydrant or be frozen when the hydrant is needed.



Should you notice fire personnel checking hydrants in your area, be assured our intentions are not to waste water or destroy property; we are working to insure your safety. Should you notice a hydrant in need of repair, please call the Fire Department or the Service Department so repairs can be initiated.

### WHAT SHOULD YOU DO WHEN THERE IS FLUSHING HYDRANTS IN YOUR AREA?

If you see a crew flushing a hydrant on your street, avoid running tap water and using the washing machine or the dishwasher until the flushing is done. If you see hydrant flushing crews working in the area, please drive carefully and treat them like any other road construction crew.

### WHAT SHOULD YOU DO AFTER THE FLUSHING?

If tap water is used during flushing, it could come out discolored. If you encounter discolored water, shut the water off and wait several minutes. After waiting, check the clarity by running cold water for a few minutes, allowing new water to work its way into your pipes. If the water is clear, it's OK to use. If not, wait a few more minutes and check again. In some cases, there may be slight discoloration for a few hours. This discoloration only affects the appearance of the water, it does not affect the taste or water quality. Avoid washing laundry during scheduled flushing times. Wait until the water runs clear at the tap, then wash a load of dark clothes first. If pressure or volume seems low, check your faucet screens for trapped particles.

### WHY DOES YOUR WATER LOOK FUNNY AFTER HYDRANT FLUSHING?

When a hydrant is opened, there will be temporary incidences of discolored water while fine sediment particles are flushed out. There is no health hazard associated with the discolored water. Allow a few hours for discoloration to dissipate. To verify water is clear, run your cold-water tap for a few minutes.