



Office of Fire Chief
Sam W. Stacy

The Hazard Fire Department will begin the 2016 spring hydrant flushing and testing on Tuesday, April 19th and continue until May 2nd. Flushing will be done between 9:00am and 3pm. Hydrant flushing and testing is done to ensure that all city-owned hydrants and water lines are operating properly and will be usable during a fire emergency. Hydrant flushing may cause discoloration of your household water in or near the areas being tested, which is a result of iron deposits being disturbed during the flushing process. Iron deposits can build up inside pressure tanks, water heaters and water pipes. It occasionally breaks loose, causing rusty water when faucets are first opened. This happens especially when city or household water lines are disturbed (e.g. moved, replaced, back flushed, or repaired) and rust breaks loose from old pipes. Customers are advised to check their water for signs of discoloration prior to doing laundry. If you notice discoloration in the water, let it run until it clears before doing laundry. This usually takes less than five minutes. If laundry appears stained, keep the articles wet and rewash them using a rust removing compound. Do not use bleach on stained laundry, as it will “set” the stain.

Fire Hydrant testing is for Your Safety!

Why do we test fire hydrants?

Testing ensures that hydrants are in full working order and verifies their flow capacity. Someone could also accidentally turn off the fire hydrant water valve and it would not be noticed until it is needed during a fire.

How do we test a fire hydrant?

In order to determine that a fire hydrant is capable of meeting fire flow requirements, Hazard Fire Department employees must open the hydrants and discharge water from the hydrant at a very high flow rate.

We will be testing:

- Static pressure: Available water pressure.
- Residual pressure: Available water pressure that is left over during flow.
- Flow pressure: Pressure that is flowing.

How does this affect the area where the testing takes place?

While fire hydrant testing is a routine maintenance procedure, it may result in temporary inconveniences. High flow rate discharge during testing disturbs sediments in the water distribution system. This often results in **brown or rust-colored water**. Hydrant testing may also reduce regular water pressure. Reduced

water pressure should only be intermittent as the hydrants are being tested. Your regular water pressure will return to normal once the flow testing is complete.

What should you do while hydrants are being tested on your street?

- We recommend that you turn off your taps for 10 to 20 minutes while crews are testing the fire hydrants on your street and do not do laundry during that time. This should allow work crews enough time to complete the test. When work crews have left the area, turn on one of the COLD water taps in your home for a few minutes to flush out the system.

If you detect **brown or rust-colored water**, do not drink the water or wash your laundry. While discolored water is not harmful to your health, it can stain laundry.