

From the desk of Fire Chief Larry Meyer

FIRE HYDRANT TESTING AND FLUSHING

By the time you read this fall hydrant testing will have been completed. Hydrants are tested in the spring and fall as required by the National Fire Protection Association. The hydrants need testing because they are buried in the ground and can't be inspected any other way. Most of the hydrants are only operated twice a year when we test them. We need to know that the hydrants will operate in the event of a fire. If we find deficiencies, the hydrants are replaced or repaired usually within a few days.

Testing the hydrants also flushes the water main pipes of sediment that builds up over time. This sediment consists of minerals in the water and pipes. It is not dirt or mud. You will see discolored water when hydrant testing is happening. If the flushing is not done, the water mains will be clogged by the sediment build up. The water flow will be fine for normal use like flushing toilets and washing dishes, but higher flows needed for a fire would not be available.

We send out notifications before hydrant testing so when you see cloudy water you will know why. Don't do laundry on these days, your whites will be dingy and you'll be upset. It usually takes two days to complete the hydrant testing; the water should clear up in a few hours.