



## **Fire Hydrant Management May, 2009**

This month the Fire Department will begin testing fire hydrants connected to the City's water system. There are several reasons why we test hydrants. First of all, we want to make sure that the mechanical parts of the hydrant are working and that each hydrant has enough water. Second, we perform flow tests to determine the amount of water available in a particular neighborhood, and to monitor trends of the entire system for future expansion. Third, fire hydrants are sometimes located at dead ends in the water system. When we allow these hydrants to flow, fresh, chlorinated water is moved into these dead-end lines, resulting in a healthier system.

The down side to hydrant flow testing is that, in certain instances, sediment in the water lines can be stirred up, causing slightly discolored water in the area of the testing. While this can be a nuisance, the discoloration is completely harmless, and will go away in a short period of time. In most cases, opening a few water faucets and letting the water flow will help clear the discoloration more quickly.

The new testing process involves Fire Department personnel attaching a special stream diffuser to the hydrant, allowing the hydrant to flow briefly, while taking pressure and flow readings. Once the measurements are obtained, we close the hydrant in a way that provides the proper amount of flushing to the water system. With the utilization of new and modern methods, we can use the least amount of water possible and direct the used water away from lawns and planted areas. During this time, light maintenance will be completed, with any additional recommendations sent to the City's Water Department for correction.

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