

Fire Hydrant Flushing Program Frequently Asked Questions

Q) How often do we flush the City's Fire Hydrants?

A) It the City's Public Works Department goal to flush and test 1474 fire hydrants in total over the course of two years. The program is biannual and begins in the spring and will go into the fall late fall.

Q) Why do we flush the fire hydrants?

A) Over time mineral deposits accumulate at the bottom of the City's water mains. Through our fire hydrant flushing program we are able to expel the mineral deposits that have built up over time. The more mineral deposits there are in the main, the better of a chance that main isn't reaching its full potential which can impact and restrict the water flow to our businesses and residents. The deposits can also add to the corrosion of the pipes, as well as alter the color of the water. It is essential for firefighting operations, businesses, and our residents that we ensure adequate water flow within the City. It also allows staff to operate the hydrant to note any deficiencies with the hydrants operations, lubricate the needed mechanical pieces, and inspect its operability.

Q) Why is there a rust color coming from the fire hydrant while flushing?

A) This is the naturally occurring mineral deposits that settle out of the lake water, one of the goals of flushing is to remove some of these deposits from our water mains. Our staff runs the water long enough for the water to return to its clear properties.

Q) Why does the water in my house or business look rust colored from flushing the fire hydrants within our neighborhood?

A) The mineral deposits can sometimes get into private lines. This can cause water to temporarily have a rust color to it. In order to remove the rust colored water you want to flow cold water through your sink at the lowest elevation of the house.

Q) Is the water safe to drink or use while the City is flushing hydrants?

A) The answer is yes, the water is safe to use as well as consume during fire hydrant flushing in your neighborhood. Even if the water is rust colored it is

just mineral deposits like iron that have been stirred up from the bottom of the water main.

Q) Is it safe to do laundry while the City is flushing the water mains?

A) You will want to avoid doing laundry as the minerals may affect light colored clothing. If you do get rust colored water from your faucet it is a good idea to let the water run from a sink tap until it clears, once it's cleared it is advisable to run an empty wash cycle. If your clothes do get stained from the rust from the water, there are many products such as Iron out that can help remove stains from white clothing.

Q) Does the City of Rolling Meadows regularly test its water?

A) The City of Rolling Meadows Public Works Department conducts more than fifty test in various locations around the City monthly to ensure outstanding water quality to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for our businesses and residents. The water is also tested daily for proper chlorine levels as well as proper pressure.

Q) Where are you intending to flush the fire hydrants in 2021?

A) See the figure below.

