

FCWSA to Conduct Fire Hydrant Testing

FCWSA in conjunction with Wachs Water Services will be conducting fire hydrant testing and condition assessments in New Baltimore and Vint Hill.

Testing will occur Monday – Friday from 7 am to 3 pm. There will be no disruption to your service. It will take approximately 15 minutes per hydrant to perform a maintenance condition assessment, pressure and flow test. Similar to flushing, you may experience a brief discoloration of water. If this does occur, please run your tap for a few minutes.

Why are Fire Hydrants Tested?

Fire and Emergency Response

Fire hydrants spend most of their time idle, yet they are called upon in a moment's notice to provide fire flow for the protection of a business or home. It is important to regularly test fire hydrants to determine their capabilities in an emergency. The National Fire Protection Association, NFPA 25 standard, governs the baseline for inspection, testing, and maintenance of water-based fire protection systems. Testing compliance helps maximize system integrity to avoid failure and ensure fast, effective response in a fire emergency.

The fire hydrant testing helps to obtain and document valuable information necessary for fire personnel. This information is put into a computer geographical information system (GIS) that is available to the Fauquier County Fire and Rescue Services during an emergency. In the field, the hydrant paint color conveys key information to aid in firefighting as in how much water is available and what is the water pressure.

Impact on Your Fire Premium Insurance

Insurance Service Offices (ISO): ISO is a leading source of information about property/casualty insurance risk. To help establish appropriate fire insurance premiums for residential and commercial properties, insurance companies need reliable, up-to-date information about a community's fire-protection services. ISO provides that information.

ISO collects information on municipal fire-protection efforts in communities throughout the United States. In each of those communities, ISO analyzes the relevant data using the Fire Suppression Rating Schedule (FSRS). ISO then assign a Public Protection Classification from 1 to 10. Class 1 generally represents superior property fire protection, and Class 10 indicates that the area's fire-suppression program doesn't meet ISO's minimum criteria.

By classifying communities' ability to suppress fires, ISO helps the communities evaluate their public fire-protection services. The program provides an objective, countrywide standard that helps fire departments in planning and budgeting for

facilities, equipment, and training. And by securing lower fire insurance premiums for communities with better public protection, the PPC program provides incentives and rewards for communities that choose to improve their firefighting services.

A review of the water-supply system accounts for 40% of the total classification. ISO reviews the water supply a community uses to determine the adequacy for fire-suppression purposes. ISO also consider hydrant size, type, and installation, as well as the inspection frequency and condition of fire hydrants.

If we can answer any questions please call our office (540) 349 2092 between 8:30 am and 4:30 pm, Monday through Friday.