

Fire Hydrant Testing  
Conducted Yearly April 1st - June 30th

## **Purpose of Testing**

The Terrell Fire Department annually tests (flush) fire hydrants to ensure that they are functioning properly, have adequate pressure, and that they are operationally ready. Although it may appear to waste water, “flushing” the hydrants is an important part of a routine maintenance program necessary to maintain the integrity of the water system. Flushing hydrants or dead-end water lines is a State of Texas requirement by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ).



Performing regular hydrant maintenance is also considered by the Insurance Services Office (ISO) when determining a community's Public Protection Classification (PPC). The testing, maintenance, and documentation of fire hydrants is part of an overall 40 points which may be earned towards a community's overall PPC. The final PPC indicates how well a community is protected against fire and is utilized by insurance companies to determine fire insurance rates. The best rating is a 1 while a rating of 10 is the poorest.

### **Commonly Asked Question:**

*How does hydrant flushing maintain water quality?*

Flushing maintains water quality by removing sediments and circulating the water. Flushing also helps remove stale water and ensures the presence of fresh water with sufficient dissolved oxygen, disinfectant levels, and an acceptable taste and smell.

*How will I be impacted?*

Given the scouring velocities involved, flushing operations may result in discolored water, which can be drawn into homes and businesses if the water is being used during, or immediately following, the flushing. Such events should affect customers for only a brief time. The discoloration is caused by iron (red color) or manganese (black color) particles being dislodged from the water main.

*Is my water safe to drink after hydrants have been flushed in my area?*

Water can become discolored after flushing; however, it is safe to drink. If discoloration occurs, open the cold tap nearest the water meter, like sink or an outside spigot, to full flow until the water runs clear.

To learn more about why and when hydrant flushing occurs please visit <https://www.ntmwd.com/purpose-of-flushing/>