

When you see us out flushing hydrants we aren't just wasting water.

This is a controlled procedure that is vital to the general maintenance of the City's water distribution system. It ensures adequate water flow is available to fire fighters, residents and businesses.

Flushing the water system on a routine basis removes sediment from lines and keeps the entire distribution system "refreshed". The flushing route is carefully planned.

You may experience rusty brown, or cloudy water. These conditions should subside after the flushing is completed.



### **Regular flushing serves the following purposes:**

- ◆ Identifies inadequate water volumes and pressures in the mainlines.
- ◆ Helps determine fire flows at the hydrant.
- ◆ Enhances long term water quality by removing sediments from inside the mainline and flushing them out through the hydrant.
- ◆ Identifies malfunctions of the hydrant and related valve issues.
- ◆ Helps determine weaknesses in the water distribution system.

You may encounter a temporary drop in water pressure to your residence or place of business during hydrant flushing operations.

This same philosophy of water line preventive maintenance is one that you should also use in your home to ensure the quality of water. If you go out of town and there is no water use in your home for a week or more, it's always a good idea to run all your faucets for a minute or so when you return before using the water. This ensures that you don't use any stagnant water that may have developed in your home's pipes while you were away.

# Frequently Asked Questions

Other than why we are doing this—here are some other questions that we get most often:

**Q. Will this be added to my bill?**

*A. No. Maintenance like this is included with your service.*

**Q. Is that sewer water?**

*A. No. the water that you see coming out of the hydrant is the same water that comes out of your tap for drinking.*

**Q. Why does my water look rusty or cloudy after hydrant flushing?**

*A. When a hydrant is opened, the water in the mainline will flow out at a high velocity. This creates a scouring action in the pipe and dislodges fine sediment particles that have accumulated in the pipe. The fine sediment mixes with the water, turning the water a cloudy or rusty brown color.*

**Q. If my water does become brown or cloudy, is it safe to drink?**

*A. Yes, although it may not look great, the water is still safe to drink. You may want to run the faucet a little while to see if the line to the house needs cleared out.*



# WHY DO WE FLUSH HYDRANTS?

