

FIRE HYDRANT FLUSHING & FLOW TESTING



QUESTIONS:	ANSWERS:
Why is the water pressure low?	Your water pressure may be low due to the flushing of fire hydrants, which lowers the water pressure in the area that is being tested.
Why is my water discolored?	Due to the fire hydrant flushing, customers could experience a temporary discoloration of water, which is due to the unsettling of rust in the water main.
What should I do about the discolored water?	Run the cold water for about five minutes - this should clear up the water.
My clothes have been discolored from the rust, what should I do?	You should clean them with a rust remover. Bottles of rust remover can be obtained from the Sandusky Customer Accounting Office located at City Hall.
Is the water safe to drink?	Yes. If the water would be unsafe for any reason to drink, a boil alert would be issued.

CITY OF
SANDUSKY,
OHIO

Sandusky Water Department Mission Statement

The Sandusky Water Department is dedicated to providing dependable, high quality water and service to the community in a most cost effective manner.

CITY OF SANDUSKY
DEPARTMENT OF WATER SERVICES
2425 FIRST STREET
SANDUSKY, OH 44870
PHONE: (419) 627-5805
www.ci.sandusky.oh.us

Have you ever been driving in Sandusky and noticed a City worker standing by a fire hydrant with water gushing out of it?

Have you ever wondered why they're "wasting" so much water? There are good reasons for the use of this water.

The employees you see flushing fire hydrants work for the Sandusky Water Department, and they are trained in sound and proven water system maintenance practices.

Flushing fire hydrants is one of the most important maintenance practices that can be performed on a water distribution system. When a worker fully opens a fire hydrant for the flushing process, the following are checked and recorded:

- Visible and audible leaks
- Proper operation of valve
- Flushing out corrosion & rust
- Water pressure
- Turbidity testing – *tests amount of dirt in water*
- Color of the water
- PH test of water in main – *identifies a potential problem with waterline*
- Chlorine level before and after flushing – *identifies organic contamination in line*
- Flow of gallons per minute

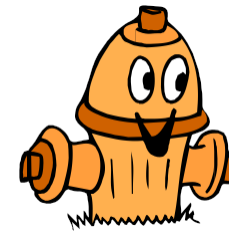
If ignored, corrosion and rust can cause problems such as:

- Severe rusty water
- Reduced water pressure
- Lower chlorine level



Replacing water that has been standing in the system with fresh water is especially important in dead end main areas and low flow areas in the system.

Flushing one fire hydrant may cost between \$30 - \$50, which includes wages, water cost and equipment. The cost of flushing fire hydrants is money well-invested. So, the next time you see a City worker flushing a hydrant, you can be rest assured that they are working hard to protect the safety of the public, improve water quality and properly maintain the water distribution system.



WHAT IS FIRE HYDRANT FLOW TESTING?

Flow testing of fire hydrants is done in cooperation with Sandusky Fire Department and the Adopt A Hydrant program to identify the amount of water a certain fire hydrant can deliver during an emergency situation.

This service is done on a continuing basis so that problems can be identified and then eliminated. All hydrants will be color coded so that Fire Department personnel can identify what gallons per minute an individual fire hydrant can deliver.

For additional information about this topic, please feel free to contact Orin McMonigle, Water Services Manager at 419.627.5815, or via email: omcmonigle@ci.sandusky.oh.us