



The City of Shelby will begin testing and flushing hydrants on May 13, 2008. The work will be scheduled from 7:30AM to 2:00 PM Tuesday through Thursday until completion. A weekly schedule of areas to be tested and flushed will be posted on the City's website, in the local paper and on Channel 19. All hydrants on the City's water system will be tested. It will take approximately 13 weeks to complete all hydrants.

Flushing rids the water of mineral sediment, facilitates regular maintenance and ensures the hydrants are in a high state of serviceability in the event of an emergency. During flushing the hydrants are tested as well. Periodic testing of fire hydrants is required to maintain the fire departments protection rating and is necessary to ensure that the hydrants have adequate flow and pressure for firefighting.

Residents are encouraged to check for possible water discoloration prior to use. If water is discolored, it can usually be remedied by running a cold water tap for 4-5 minutes or until the water clears. Postponing laundry until water is clear (usually no more than one day) is recommended.

FAQ

Why is hydrant flushing necessary?

Flushing is done to remove sediment and mineral deposits from the pipes in order to maintain water clarity and quality in the distribution pipes.

What takes place during Fire Hydrant Flushing?

During the flushing process, an operator opens each hydrant to its maximum flow. The flow stirs up iron deposits and settlements and removes them from the system. The operator cleans and lubricates the accessible operating parts, checks the operation of the hydrant and valve and records any deficiencies for repairs. Testing of flow pressure is also measured.

How often are hydrants flushed?

The City of Shelby flushes all hydrants every other year.



Will hydrant flushing affect your water?

During the flushing process, you may experience some water discoloration, especially when work is being done in your immediate neighborhood. Any discoloration only affects the appearance of the water; it does not affect the taste or water quality.

What should I do when there is flushing in my area?

If you see a crew flushing a hydrant on your street, avoid running tap water and using the washing machine or the dish washer until flushing is done.

What should I do after the flushing?

- If tap water is used during flushing, it could come out full of sediment that causes discoloration. If you encounter discolored water, shut the water off and wait several minutes. After waiting, check the clarity by running cold water for a few minutes, allowing new water to work its way into your pipes. If the water is clear, it's OK to use. If not, wait a few more minutes and check again. In some cases, there may be slight discoloration for a few hours. This discoloration only affects the appearance of the water; it does not affect the taste or water quality.
- Avoid washing laundry during scheduled flushing times. Wait until the water runs clear at the tap, then wash a load of dark clothes first.
- If pressure or volume seems low, check your faucet screens for trapped particles.

Why does my water look funny after hydrant flushing?

When a hydrant is opened, there will be temporary incidences of discolored water while fine sediment particles are flushed out. There is no health hazard associated with the discolored water. Allow a few hours for discoloration to dissipate. To verify water is clear, run your cold water tap a few minutes.