

Frequently Asked Questions: Hydrant Flushing

Why does the City flush hydrants?

It improves drinking water quality by removing sediments from inside the mainline and flushing them out through the hydrant. It also identifies malfunctions of the hydrant and related valves; helps determine weaknesses in the water distribution system; identifies inadequate water volumes and pressures in the main lines.

When does the City flush hydrants?

The City utility maintenance crews will be flushing hydrants throughout the city in the spring. Prior to the Water Treatment Plant going on-line in 2016, the City was required to flush hydrants twice a year (i.e. Spring & Fall). Now that the iron and manganese is being removed from the water at the treatment plant, less hydrant flushing is required.

Why is my water discolored?

You may notice a color change in your tap water following the flushing of the water main. The discoloration is normal and will last only a short time after the nearby hydrants have been flushed. 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 discoloration is due to the suspended iron and manganese particles mixing with water that have not had time to settle. There is no health hazard associated with the discolored water.

What should I do if my water is discolored?

The discolored water is safe for drinking, but you may choose to reschedule laundry or other work that may be affected by discoloration. Turn on the tap water to clear the pipes in your home by running all water faucets for a few minutes.