

Clarksville Fire Hydrant Flushing Program

Clarksville Gas and Water is committed to delivering the safest and highest quality of water to your tap each and every time you turn it on and our Fire Hydrant Flushing Program is one of several processes designed to help us meet that commitment.

Fire hydrant flushing is a routine maintenance process where hydrants are turned on to allow water to flow for several hours. Flushing is necessary to remove sediment and iron compounds from water mains and to circulate the water to help prevent stagnant water problems from developing.

Throughout the year, you may notice water running along the street where water department personnel are flushing hydrants. Hydrants are often left unattended, but don't be alarmed; personnel will return to turn them off once the flushing process is finished.

A list of scheduled hydrant flushing and testing is maintained on our web site and will be routinely updated. Please check this list often to learn if hydrant flushing is scheduled in your neighborhood. If you notice a leaking hydrant not on the schedule it may in fact need repair. Please report it to our customer service department, (931) 645-7400.

It's also important to know that residents in the immediate vicinity of hydrant flushing may experience temporary discoloration of their water. The discoloration consists primarily of harmless silt and air and does not affect the safety of the water. If you experience discoloration in your water after hydrant flushing in your neighborhood, clear the pipes in your home by running all water faucets for a few minutes.

Here are a few commonly asked questions and steps to take when fire hydrant flushing occurs in your neighborhood.

Q. Why does my water look discolored after hydrant flushing?

A. When a hydrant is opened, there will always be temporary incidences of discolored water containing fine sediment particles. There is no health hazard associated with this discolored water. It is safe to drink and continues to meet all federal and state drinking water standards. Allow a few minutes but up to 4 hours for discoloration to dissipate. If the discoloration persists for more than twenty-four (24) hours, please contact our Water Treatment Plant at (931) 553-2440.

Q. Is the Water Department the only ones who flush fire hydrants and lines?

A. No, Fire Departments are required to flush hydrants when they are testing them to ensure adequate flow and pressure is available.

Q. When does flushing normally occur?

A. The Water Department flushes throughout the year so that the water does not stagnate in less active parts of the water distribution system. Clarksville Fire and Rescue flushes all hydrants within city limits during the spring beginning in April.

Q. How does hydrant flushing affect me?

A. Again, the largest complaint during and just after hydrant flushing is discolored water. Here's what you should do if hydrant flushing is taking place in your neighborhood:

- If possible, avoid using water while the hydrant flushing is taking place. By not taking water from the tap or running appliances that use water (dishwashers and washing machines), you can prevent discolored water from entering your household plumbing altogether.
- Avoid doing laundry while hydrant flushing is taking place. The discolored water can sometimes stain fabrics. Wait until water runs clear at the tap before using your washing machine, and wash a load of dark clothes first. If laundry appears to be stained, keep articles wet and do not dry them. Rewash load using a stain/rust remover (such as a product called "Rust Out"). Do Not Use Bleach on stained laundry as bleach will "set" the stain.
- If you encounter discolored water following hydrant flushing, run the cold water taps throughout your home (bathroom sinks and tubs, kitchen faucets, etc.) for 5 to 10 minutes or until water clears. This allows discolored water to work its way out of your household plumbing.
- If, after hydrant flushing, your water pressure or volume seems low, clean faucet screens to remove silt and mineral sediment that could be obstructing water flow.

Thank you for your cooperation as we do the important and necessary job of maintaining the integrity of our water system in order to continue delivering safe and high water quality to your home!