



City of Silverton Fire Hydrant Flushing Operations

Annual hydrant-flushing is an important part of domestic water distribution system maintenance. Each year Maintenance Division utility crews systematically open hydrants throughout the City to allow water to flow at a high velocity through distribution mainlines. This operation serves the following purposes:

- Enhances water quality by removing sediments from inside the mainline and flushing them out through the hydrant.
- Identifies malfunctions of hydrants and related valves.
- Helps determine weaknesses in the water distribution system.
- Identifies inadequate water volume and pressure in mainlines.
- Helps determine fire flow at the hydrant.

You may encounter the following conditions during hydrant flushing operations:

- A temporary drop in the water pressure to your home or business.
- Rusty brown or cloudy water. Discolored water is not harmful; these conditions will subside a few hours after flushing is completed.

Helpful information to remember after the flushing operation is complete:

- Open the cold water faucets and let the water flow until it is clear. Turn off the faucets.
- Open the hot water faucets and let the water flow until it is clear. Turn off the faucets.
- When both hot and cold water are clear, the water is ready for use as normal.
- Check the faucet screens for trapped particles.

FAQs

Q: Why is hydrant flushing necessary?

A: It enhances water quality by removing sediments from inside the mainline and flushing them out through the hydrant; identifies malfunctions of the hydrant and related valves; helps determine weaknesses in the water distribution system; identifies inadequate water volumes and pressures in the mainlines and helps determine fire flow adequacy.

Q: What should I do when City crews are flushing hydrants in my area?

A: If you are driving in the work zone, please slow down and drive carefully.

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 mineral particles that have accumulated in the pipe. The fine sediment mixes with water which can turn it a cloudy or rusty brown color. This mixture is discharged out of the hydrant. There is no health hazard associated with the discolored water.

Q: Who do I call for more information?

A: For more information, please call the Maintenance Division at (503) 873-6359.