

Hydrant Flushing

Why are hydrants flushed?

Once a year we release water from hydrants in a sequence. Hydrant flushing is necessary to test the hydrants to make sure they are in working order and to test for adequate flow and pressure. Flushing creates a scouring action which removes sediment and rust from the pipes in order to maintain water clarity and quality in the distribution pipes.

What should I be concerned about?

While flushing hydrants near your home or business, you might notice a temporary discoloration of the water. High velocity flows while water rushes out of a hydrant will scour rust and sediment particles from the inside of the water mains. While most of the tinted water is flushed from the pipes, a small amount will remain suspended in the water. This water is chlorinated and disinfected. It is harmless and the water may be safely consumed.

The discoloration will dissipate quickly. After we have finished flushing in your area, run your cold water faucet or the bathtub to flush out the service line to your house. Rust could stain your laundry. Once hydrant flushing is completed in your neighborhood, please be sure that both your hot and cold water are rust-free before running your washer. In the event that such staining occurs with your laundry you can rewash the clothes using a laundry aid available at most grocery stores, which remove rust stains.

You might also notice a slight decrease in pressure at your property when hydrants are being flushed in your neighborhood. You will not be without water, only a little less water pressure at the faucet. This should only last for 10-15 minutes while each hydrant is open.

Is my water safe to drink after flushing?

Your water is safe to drink. All water in the system has adequate chlorine to disinfect it. Occasionally, water becomes discolored after hydrant flushing. If this happens, run your cold water tap, preferably in an outside spigot, laundry tub, or bathtub for a few minutes until the water clears. If it does not clear the first time, wait a few minutes and run the water again. You should avoid washing clothes until the water clears.

Information regarding hydrant flushing can be obtained by calling the St. Anthony Public Works Department at (612) 782-3441.

Thank you for your patience as we continue to maintain the water distribution system.