



## FIRE HYDRANT FLUSHING PROGRAM

**Question: How many fire hydrants are in Magna Water District's water system?**

- A) Under 300      B) 500      C) 800      D) Over 1,100**

You may not know how many fire hydrants there are in our water system (correct answer is D) but you do know how important they are when a firefighter needs a lot of water to put out a fire. To help ensure these hydrants are in good working condition when they are needed most, District water operator(s) will be out inspecting, exercising, flushing and testing fire hydrants periodically over the next couple months.

Operators will conduct a visual inspection and exercise the hydrant and valve assembly to determine if any repairs are necessary prior to flushing. Although flushing water into the street may seem to be a waste of water (especially in a drought), it is an important preventative maintenance effort that helps remove any accumulated sediment or deposits that have built up in our buried pipelines and improve water quality in the system. This occurs when the velocity of the water in the pipeline is raised above normal operating range which creates turbulence and has a scouring effect along the inside of the pipe wall stirring up sediments and breaking up deposits that can then be flushed out the opening of the hydrant. Flushing times for each hydrant will vary anywhere from 2-3 minutes up to 15-20 minutes depending on how quickly the flushed water clears up. Operators will complete testing of the hydrant by measuring available fire flow and water pressure at the hydrant.



You may experience lower than normal water pressure and a short period of water discoloration during flushing and shortly thereafter. Though the water may be discolored, it is safe to drink. However, until the water runs clear, it is advisable to avoid washing clothes, especially white fabrics. If any rust stains appear on your wet laundry, do not dry your clothes. Simply run the cold water in your house or from your hose bib until it is clear and then wash clothing again. This will flush any rusty water out of your water service line. Never run warm or hot water immediately after a hydrant has been flushed, as this could lead to sediment getting into your water heater. Normally rusty/cloudy water events dissipate soon after flushing but could last for a couple of hours upon completion of flushing depending on water usage in the area. In an effort to minimize this inconvenience to our customers, routine hydrant flushing will normally occur between the hours of 9:00 am to 3:00 pm, Monday thru Thursday.



## **FAQ ON FIRE HYDRANT FLUSHING PROGRAM**

***Q: Why is a routine hydrant flushing program necessary?***

A: The District's water distribution system is a complex network of pipes and storage reservoirs where sediment or deposits may naturally accumulate over time. If not removed, these materials may cause water quality deterioration, taste and odor problems, or discoloration of the water. Water may also stagnate in lesser used parts of the distribution system which can result in degraded water quality. This process also helps identify hydrants and valves in need of repair or inadequate flows or pressures in the water system near the hydrant.

***Q. What should I do during or after the flushing?***

A. If the tap water is used during flushing, it could come out with sediment and 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 not, wait a few more minutes and check again. In some cases, you may experience slight discoloration for a couple hours. This discoloration only affects the appearance of the water; it does not affect the taste or water quality. Avoid using any hot water, the dishwasher, washing machine and faucets until water is clear.

***Q. What should I do if my water pressure or volume seems low after flushing?***

A. Check your faucet and washer screens for trapped debris.

***Q. What should I do if I have any questions or concerns?***

A. Please call the office at 801-250-2118 or message us at [www.magnawater.com/contact-us](http://www.magnawater.com/contact-us)

## **UPDATE ON EQUAL PAY PLAN**

Many of our customers have chosen to be on an equal pay plan. If you are one of them, please make note that we have recalculated your equal pay for the year. The first billing that will reflect this new equal pay will be received by you on or shortly after June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021. Your equal pay has been recalculated based on the past couple of years of water usage. The system averages two years of billings into a monthly payment. If you have questions, please contact our office and we will do our best to assist you. If you are a customer of Magna Water District and wish to sign up for an equal pay plan, please let us know. The only requirement for this equal pay plan is that you have been a customer for at least one year. This is for us to get a good year-round average of your water usage. Any questions, please give us a call or email us at [www.magnawater.com/contact-us](http://www.magnawater.com/contact-us).

