

City Of Highwood Water Distribution Division
FIRE HYDRANT FLUSHING AND FLOW TESTING

July 7 – 21, 2017

FIRE HYDRANT FLUSHING

Have you ever been driving in Highwood and noticed a City worker standing by a fire hydrant with water gushing out of it? Have you ever wondered why they're "wasting" so much water? There are good reasons for the use of this water. The workers you see flushing fire hydrants work for the City of Highwood Water Department, and they are trained in sound and proven water system maintenance practices. Flushing fire hydrants is one of the most important maintenance practices that can be performed on a water distribution system.

When a worker fully opens a fire hydrant for the flushing process, the following are checked and recorded:

- ✓ Visible and audible leaks
- ✓ Proper operation of valve
- ✓ Flushing out corrosion & rust
- ✓ Water pressure
- ✓ Flow of gallons per minute

If ignored, corrosion and rust can cause problems such as: severe rusty water, reduced water pressure or lower chlorine levels. Replacing water that has been standing in the system with fresh water is especially important in dead end main areas and low flow areas in the system. So, the next time you see a City worker flushing a hydrant, you can rest assured that they are working hard to protect the safety of the public, improve water quality and properly maintain the water distribution system.

FIRE HYDRANT FLOW TESTING

Flow testing of fire hydrants is done in cooperation with staff from the City of Highwood Water Department to identify the amount of water a certain fire hydrant can deliver during an emergency situation.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Why is the water pressure low?

Your water pressure may be low as flushing may lower the water pressure in the area being tested.

Why is my water discolored?

Customers may experience a temporary discoloration of water, which is due to the unsettling of rust in the water main.

What should I do about the discolored water?

Run the cold water for about five minutes - this should clear up the water.

My clothes have been discolored from the rust, what should I do?

You should clean them with a rust remover.

Is the water safe to drink?

Yes. If the water would be unsafe to drink for any reason, a boil alert will be issued by the City.