

# CHARLESTON

FIRE DEPARTMENT



## Hydrant Flushing and Maintenance

Contact: Community Educator Ryan Kunitzer

Phone: 843-958-6401

E-mail: [kunitzerr@charleston-sc.gov](mailto:kunitzerr@charleston-sc.gov)

Charleston, SC (April 21, 2015): Members of the Charleston Fire Department personnel will begin fire hydrant flushing and preventive maintenance on the peninsula of Charleston over the course of the next four months. Hydrants will be checked between 8:00 AM and 3:00 PM on Monday through Thursday, and 8:00 AM and 11:00 AM on Friday.

The primary purpose of this program is to verify the readiness and proper operation of hydrants located within the City through flushing, pressure testing, and basic preventive maintenance. The preventive maintenance involves visual inspection for any damage, removing and checking of caps, cleaning and lubrication of all threaded outlets, checking for adequate water pressure as well as flushing the hydrant to clear out any debris and sediment that may have accumulated in the water lines. Items requiring further repair are forwarded to the local water authority.

Fire Department personnel will be wearing traffic safety vests when working near the roadway performing hydrant maintenance. Motorists are encouraged to slow down and use caution when approaching personnel conducting the maintenance. Move slowly through any standing water that may have accumulated on the roadway during the testing process. When possible, hydrant testing signs will be placed in residential neighborhoods in advance to provide notice to residents.

Water customers in the immediate vicinity of the work may experience temporary discoloration of their water. If this takes place, customers are advised to clear the pipes in their home or business by running all the water faucets for a few minutes, and to postpone washing clothes. This discoloration usually lasts no more than a few hours.

Residents are encouraged to assist fire department personnel by maintaining a 3 foot clearance around fire hydrants as required by International Fire Code. Hydrants must be clearly visible and unobstructed by vegetation, fences, and vehicles.

If you have any questions, you can email the Charleston Fire Department at [cfid@charleston-sc.gov](mailto:cfid@charleston-sc.gov) or you call 843-720-1981. Residents can also contact Charleston Water System at [customerservice@charlestoncpw.com](mailto:customerservice@charlestoncpw.com) or at 843-727-6800 for additional information.

###