



FALCON HIGHLANDS METROPOLITAN DISTRICT

Hydrant Flushing and Waterline Maintenance

You may notice the Falcon Highlands Metro District crew working at fire hydrants and see water running down the street. Normally, we flush out water mains through the use of fire hydrants, which is an important preventive maintenance activity. Although it may appear to waste water, the process is part of a routine maintenance program necessary to maintain the integrity of the water system and allowing us to ensure the hydrants are in proper working order. Hydrants that are found to not be in working order are tagged and scheduled for repairs.

As a result of the line flushing process, residents in the immediate vicinity of the hydrant may notice a temporary discoloration of their water. This discoloration consists primarily of air and silt and does not affect the safety of the water. If you experience discoloration of your water after crews have been flushing in your neighborhood, clear the pipes in your home by running your faucets for a few minutes.

The same philosophy of water line and hydrant preventive maintenance is one that you should use in your own home to ensure the quality of water inside your home. Your home's water heater should be drained and flushed on a yearly basis, according to manufacturers' recommendations to keep it working effectively and efficiently.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q: Why does the water system need to be routinely flushed?

A: The district's water distribution system is composed of a network of pipes and storage tank where sediment or deposits may naturally accumulate over time. If not removed, these materials may cause water quality deterioration, taste, odor, and discoloration problems. Water may also stagnate in lesser used parts of the distribution system. This can result in degraded water quality.

Q: When does flushing normal occur?

A. Normally, flushing takes place once a year. In an effort to cause fewer disturbances to our customers, we flush the lines between the hours of 8:00 PM to 4:00 PM.

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

A. If you see our crew flushing hydrants, PLEASE DRIVE CAREFULLY.

Q: What should I do 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 an hour or so. After waiting, check the clarity by running cold water for a few minutes allowing new water to work its way into your pipes. Remember, discoloration only affects the appearance of the water; it does not affect the taste or quality.

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. Why does the water look funny after hydrant flushing?

A. When a hydrant is opened, there will always be temporary incidences of discolored water containing fine sediment particles. There is no health hazard associated with discolored water. Allow a few hours for discoloration to dissipate. To verify the water has settled, allow your cold water tap to run a few minutes. If the discoloration persists for more than a day or two, please contact the Falcon Water Operator at (719) 210-2285, or (719) 886-4288.

Q. Is it OK to drink discolored water during or after flushing?

A. It is recommended that water users wait until the water has cleared before using it for potable purposes.

Q. What is the silt in the water system after flushing?

A. Water contains minerals and can accumulate in pipes. The flushing process removes much of this material which is why it is done annually.

Q. What will happen if fire hydrants are turned on or off too quickly?

A. This will cause “water hammer”, which is a pressure surge or wave when water in motion is forced to stop or change direction suddenly. The pressure wave can cause problems, from noise and vibrations to pipe collapse. In home plumbing, this is experienced as a loud bang resembling a hammering noise. Service personnel have been trained on how to operate fire hydrant valves slowly to avoid water pressure waves or “water hammer”.

Thank you!

Falcon Highlands Metro District