

BTV Water: Hydrant Flushing Begins & CCR Now Available

PENDING PUBLICATION Water Resources • Dept. of Public Works, Burlington

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Jun 7, 2020

*****Annual Hydrant Flushing*****

Burlington Water Resources will begin inspecting and flushing all fire hydrants on Monday 6/8/20. This is a controlled procedure that is a vital component of our preventative maintenance plan to ensure the distribution system is delivering the best possible water and all hydrants are in working order.

What Actually Happens?

Field Services will be conducting flushing exercises Monday-Friday between 7:30-2:30 and will be in a clearly marked DPW vehicle. We will visit each City owned fire hydrant, attach a diffuser to the outlet, open it fully and flow the water at a high velocity until it clears. A diffuser is attached to the hydrant so our sidewalks, roads and unpaved surfaces are not damaged by the velocity. The flushing route is optimized so each water main (major and minor) is completed along with the related side streets before advancing to another area. The condition of the hydrant and relevant flushing details are electronically recorded onsite and updated to GIS in real time. We will be exercising 708 hydrants and expect the process to take approximately three months. The Flushing Team will be adhering to all recommended social distancing and sanitization practices, and we ask that you refrain from approaching them any closer than 6' in support of our efforts to ensure the safety of residents and employees.

How Will Residents Be Impacted?

In light of the ongoing public health emergency, we anticipate an increased number of customers will be home and likely experiencing hydrant flushing for the first time. Residents should expect there to be fluctuating water pressure or discolored water when the hydrants closest to them are being operated. Properties located in the vicinity of several hydrants may be impacted to a greater extent. Discoloration happens when the naturally occurring minerals and sediments that accumulate in water mains are disturbed by the flushing process. If your water becomes discolored, we recommend waiting until water quality is restored before using it for drinking or laundry. We also recommend that you avoid using the hot water because sediment can be drawn into the water heater. In order to restore water clarity, residents are advised to run a cold water tap for several minutes or until the discoloration is gone. This is most effective when done after we have finished flushing the hydrant(s) on your street. You can review the interactive hydrant map, the daily flushing schedule and other pertinent details by visiting www.burlingtonvt.gov/dpw/hydrants.

*****2019 Consumer Confidence Report for Water Quality*****

Burlington Water Resources is committed to delivering the highest quality drinking water possible, and we are pleased to report that we met and surpassed all federal and state water quality regulations once again. The Consumer Confidence Report (CCR) contains a snapshot of the quality of water that we provided in 2019. Included are the details about where your water comes from, what it contains, and how it compares to Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and state standards. The 2019 CCR is now available for review online by visiting <http://bit.ly/btvccr2019> or you may request a hard copy.

Please reach out to Water Resources Customer Care with any additional questions or feedback at 802-863-4501 or water-resources@burlingtonvt.gov. Thank you.