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Burlington Water Resources: Annual Hydrant Flushing

[Far North End – No. 4617](#) • Water Resources • Department of Public Works, Burlington
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Apr 28, 2023

Announcement

Burlington Water Resources will begin inspecting and flushing all fire hydrants on Monday 5/1/23. This annual event 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. Please review the details below and share with anyone who lives or works at your property.

****Process Description****

Field Services will be conducting flushing exercises during the work week between 7:30-2:30 and will be in a clearly marked DPW vehicle. We will visit each 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 969 hydrants and expect the process to take approximately four months.

****Customer Impacts****

Residents should expect fluctuating water pressure and/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.

****Learn More****

We will post the daily flushing schedule on our website and you can also track our real time progress through an interactive hydrant map. Those tools and other relevant information about hydrant flushing and maintenance can be found at <http://burlingtonvt.gov/water/Hydrants>. We will also be using VT-Alert to support this and many of our upcoming construction projects. Stay in the loop, sign up today at <http://burlingtonvt.gov/btv-alerts>. For urgent questions, please call Water Resources at 802-863-4501, and for less urgent matters email us at water-resources@burlingtonvt.gov. Thank you for your support during this critical annual maintenance event.