



CITY OF BURLINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
WATER RESOURCES

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INFORMATIONAL RELEASE

April 23, 2024

Annual Hydrant Flushing

Burlington Water Resources plans to begin inspecting and flushing all fire hydrants on Wednesday April 24, 2024. This is a controlled procedure that is a vital component of our maintenance plan to ensure the distribution system is delivering the best possible water and all hydrants are in working order.

Description:

Field Services will be conducting most flushing exercises during the work week between 7:30 am to 2:30 pm. 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.

Impacts:

Residents can expect localized discoloration at the tap and fluctuating water pressure while the hydrants closest to them are being operated. Properties located in the vicinity of several hydrants may be impacted to a greater extent. Discoloration occurs when the naturally forming minerals and sediments that accumulate in water mains are disturbed by the flushing process. Water throughout the distribution system will remain safe to drink; however, we recommend waiting until water quality is restored before using it for drinking or laundry. This will ensure customers are receiving the best possible water and will eliminate the possibility staining clothing or drawing sediment into the hot water tank. In order to restore water clarity, we advise running 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) in the immediate area.

Contacts:

Hydrant Map & Daily Flushing Schedule: burlingtonvt.gov/water/Hydrants

Water Resources Customer Care: Email us at water-resources@burlingtonvt.gov or call 802-863-4501 (M-F, 8-4:00) for non-urgent questions or interpretation services.

Urgent Questions or Emergencies (24/7): 802-863-4501