

## **Hydrant Flushing Facts and Frequently Asked Questions**

### **Why does the City perform hydrant flushing?**

Hydrant flushing is the quick release of water from fire hydrants. It's a controlled procedure that is vital to the general maintenance of the City's water distribution system. It ensures adequate water flow is available to firefighters, residents and businesses. It also helps maintain the City's water clarity and quality by clearing iron and mineral deposits from the water mains (distribution pipes).

### **Why is my water rust/tea-colored from the hydrant flushing? Is the water safe?**

Sometimes hydrant flushing can make the water temporarily appear rust-colored because the iron and mineral deposits in the water get stirred up. Water is safe to use and consume during hydrant flushing, however it may stain laundry. Although the water is discolored during hydrant flushing and may look unclear or tinted the water is not harmful or contaminated.

### **My water is discolored. What should I do?**

Wait until flushing has subsided in your area then run the cold water tap until the water runs clear.

If you have a water softener and are experiencing discolored water, place the unit into regeneration or cleaning mode after hydrant flushing is completed in your area.

### **I was doing laundry when the flushing started now my clothes are stained. What do I do?**

Keep clothes wet and treat them with stain remover.

### **What should I do when I see crews flushing hydrants in my area?**

Please drive carefully and watch for workers in or near the roadway. In addition, the roads will be wet and the water may pond in low-lying areas for a short period of time.

In your home avoid turning on any faucets or fixtures while crews are flushing. This may draw discolored water into your home piping.

### **How will this affect my water?**

During the flushing process, water customers may experience some disturbance in their usual water service such as a short-term decrease in water pressure or discolored water. Although the water does not pose a health risk, the following are recommendations:

- Avoid drinking the water until it runs clear from the tap.
- Don't prepare baby food or formula if the water is discolored
- Do not wash clothes if the water is discolored. Wash a load of dark clothes first.
- It is okay to use the water for showering, bathing, and toilet flushing

**What should I do after the flushing?**

If you use tap water during or immediately after flushing, it could come out with sediment or be discolored. If it's discolored, shut the water off and wait approximately ten minutes. After ten minutes, open several cold water faucets in your home allowing new water to work its way into your pipes.

**What should I do if my water pressure or volume seems low after flushing?**

Check your faucet and washer screens for trapped debris.

**Doesn't the hydrant flushing program waste water?**

While it may appear wasteful, flushing is the most effective way to keep our drinking water safe, clean and pleasant tasting. Crews conducting the flushing keep careful records of the amount of water that is flushed through the lines so it can be accounted for and tracked along with other uses of water.

**How can I find out when hydrant flushing will be performed in my area?**

Visit the City of Tuscola website ([www.tuscola.org](http://www.tuscola.org)) or the City facebook page for announcements and schedules.