

FIRE HYDRANTS

Section 1. PURPOSE

In order to ensure safe, reliable, and high quality potable water, the Bedford Regional Water Authority (“Authority”) has this policy related to fire hydrants and their use.

Section 2. POLICY

- A. The primary purpose of a fire hydrant is to provide water for fire suppression by the local Fire Departments. As such, the Fire Departments are authorized to use the fire hydrants for fire suppression and to provide maintenance of the fire hydrants per the Authority’s procedures provided that they:
 1. Ensure that appropriate measures are in place to prevent backflow into the Authority’s system. This is of critical importance in order to prevent contamination to the potable water system.
 2. Keep record of all hydrant use, attempt to quantify to the extent possible the amount of water that was used, and report this information to the Authority on a regular basis per the Authority’s procedures.
 3. Follow the general procedures listed below and any additional procedures as provided to the County and Town’s Fire Administration Officials.
- B. Except for the provisions above, water may not be obtained from the Authority’s hydrants except as authorized by the Authority in advance of the use. All water from hydrants must be duly metered.
- C. Any use of a fire hydrant without Authority approval shall be considered unauthorized use of such hydrant and shall be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law, and Unauthorized Connection fees will be charged.

Section 3. GENERAL PROCEDURE FOR USE

- A. Wrenches designed for use on fire hydrants shall be used when opening and closing hydrants. Pipe wrenches must not be used on a hydrant.
- B. When turning on and off the hydrant, the valve should be operated slowly to reduce the water hammer that may damage the hydrant or other parts of the water distribution system.
- C. The operator of the pumper truck shall not allow the flow from the hydrant to exceed the expected available flow based upon the color of the bonnet, if the hydrant is painted according to National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) standards as identified in the Authority’s master specifications. If the hydrant bonnet is not painted to NFPA standards, the operator of the pumper truck shall not allow the residual pressure at the flow hydrant to drop below twenty pounds per square inch (20psi).
- D. No rigid hard suction hose shall be used on any Authority fire hydrant.

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Section 4. REVISIONS

- A. This policy was approved and adopted by the Authority's Board of Directors on March 26, 2013, effective July 1, 2013.
- B. This policy was modified as follows:
 - 1. Approved August 16, 2016, effective August 17, 2016:
 - a. Section 2 was revised to allow for maintenance of the hydrants by Fire Departments, and to clarify the policy for using the hydrants
 - b. Section 3 was modified to provide protection for the water system based on NFPA standards.