

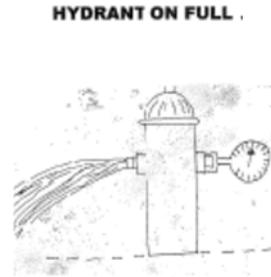
Hydrant Flushing and Flow Information

by Randy Hellbusch

The past year or so NeRWA has gotten increased calls for equipment to conduct fire hydrant flows. We currently have 2 gauged hydrant diffusers with direct read gauges. These diffusers make checking hydrant flows simple and also assist with diverting the water so as not to damage streets or lawns, etc. Feel free to contact any of us at NeRWA if you would like to use this equipment or would like some assistance with conducting hydrant flow tests.

There are however other options to conduct hydrant flows that do not require sophisticated equipment, only a simple pressure gauge and the chart shown below.

GAUGE READING IN PSI	FLOW IN GPM	GAUGE READING IN PSI	FLOW IN GPM
1	170	15	650
2	240	16	670
3	290	17	690
4	340	18	710
5	380	19	730
6	410	20	750
7	440	25	840
8	480	30	920
9	500	35	990
10	530	40	1055
11	560	45	1120
12	580	50	1182
13	610	55	1240
14	630	60	1294



Another thing to keep in mind is that a very important aspect of any hydrant flushing program is public relations. It is always an excellent idea to keep the public informed. Below is a sample message that many systems use to inform the public when hydrant flushing is going to occur and why it is being done.

SEASONAL FIRE HYDRANT FLUSHING

The City of _____ Water Department personnel would like to inform all water customers that they will begin flushing fire hydrants in the next few weeks. The purpose for this process is to insure the proper functioning of all fire hydrants and to draw attention to those in need of repairs. This process is also helpful in the removal of iron and manganese from the city water mains. During this procedure you may experience a few unfavorable occurrences with your water supply. Such problems may be a reduction in your water pressure, a discoloration of the water supply and some plugging of your faucet aerators. It is recommended that you do not use any water when you notice hydrants are being flushed in close proximity of your home. This should help reduce the chances of loose floating iron and manganese particles from entering your water service. To remedy these problems clean your sink faucet aerators if they should become plugged and flush a portion of water from your lines to clear up any discoloration before consumption. Water pressure should return to normal following this process. If you continue to have problems feel free to contact city personnel. Water personnel would like to apologize for any inconvenience this may cause but hope you understand that it is necessary.