

Springdale Fire Department

Policy & Procedures Manual

Volume 5 – General

Section 501 – Miscellaneous

501.15 – Hydrant Maintenance

In an effort to ensure the ready availability of water and ease of operation from all of our hydrants the fire department will service all hydrants at least twice per year. Hydrant maintenance will include the following components.

Hydrant Visibility and Access

In non-landscaped/maintained areas, weed-eat the immediate area and/or apply department provided herbicide (Do not spray herbicides on lawns or ornamental shrubs). During herbicide application, be aware of wind conditions. Herbicide application is not typically necessary during the fall maintenance cycle. For other locations (parking areas, lawns, etc) weed-eating or making contact with the property owner may be necessary. If a visibility or obstruction issue can not be resolved by the company performing the maintenance, information regarding the hydrant location and problem shall be forwarded to your Battalion Chief.

Note - During the peak growing season, companies shall provide additional weed-eating and/or herbicide application as necessary to keep hydrants visible.

Hydrant Operation

With hydrant caps in place, the hydrant should be fully opened and closed to check functionality. After closing, remove and inspect hydrant caps. Slowly open hydrant until water flows out discharge openings (This should be a minimal flow). If the water has high turbidity, allow the hydrant to flow for a few minutes until flow clears. If the flow does not clear after a few minutes close the hydrant and report the situation to your Battalion Chief.

Lubricate caps and threads with food service grade lubricant provided by the department maintenance division. Check, and fill if needed, the stem oil reservoir.

Problem Hydrants

If a problem is encountered that requires water department servicing, email a detailed description of the problem and hydrant location to your Battalion Chief. If a problem is found that causes a hydrant to be out of service, contact dispatch, provide them a location and nature of the problem and ask them to contact the water department. Send a follow up email regarding the situation to your Battalion Chief.

Safety

Since most hydrants are located near roadways, all personnel shall wear a department issued traffic safety vest while performing hydrant maintenance. Safety glasses shall be worn while operating weed eaters. Efforts should be made to minimize traffic flow disruptions. Hydrants located near high volume/ high speed roadways should be serviced during non-peak traffic times, i.e. weekends.