



City of Columbus
Mayor Michael B. Coleman

Department of Public Utilities
Tatyana Arsh, P.E. Director

RULE AND REGULATION NO. 09-04
Division of Power & Water
Department of Public Utilities

April 2009

SUBJECT: USAGE OF FIRE HYDRANTS

Pursuant to the authority granted under Columbus City Codes Sections 1113.03 and 2517.04, the Director of the Department of Public Utilities hereby adopts, establishes and publishes this rule and regulation to be effective July 1, 2009. This rule and regulation supersedes Division of Power and Water Rule and Regulation 06-05, published June 24, 2006 and July 1, 2006 in the *City Bulletin* of Columbus, Ohio. This rule and regulation is in addition to any established requirements that have not been superseded or rescinded by this or any previous act.

APPLICATION:

This Rule and Regulation applies to all fire hydrants connected directly or indirectly to the City of Columbus distribution system, with the exception of wholesale contract areas.

DEFINITIONS:

Retail Contract Area: Areas or Municipalities that own water main lines but have a contract with the Division of Power and Water to provide water and to maintain the water main lines.

Wholesale Contract Area: Areas or Municipalities that own and maintain their own water distribution systems, but have a contract with the Division of Power and Water to provide water service through a master meter.

GENERAL REGULATION:

In accordance with Sections 1113.03 and 2517.04 of the Columbus City Codes, 1959, this rule and regulation is hereby established regarding fire hydrant usage on the City of Columbus, Division of Power & Water distribution system.

Fire hydrants on the City of Columbus, Division of Power & Water distribution system are for the purpose of fighting fires and the protection and preservation of public health, property and safety.

Utilities Complex	910 Dublin Road	Columbus, Ohio 43215
Director's Office	614/645-6141	FAX: 614/645-8019 TDD: 614/645-6454
Power and Water Division	614/645-7020	FAX: 614/645-8177 TDD: 614/645-7188

Fairwood Complex	1250 Fairwood Avenue	Columbus, Ohio 43206
Sewerage and Drainage Division	614/645-7175	FAX: 614/645-3801 TDD: 614/645-6338

Rule and Regulation 09-04, Continued...

A hydrant permit shall be obtained from the City of Columbus prior to any connection to a hydrant, with exception made for other City of Columbus Departments and Retail Contract Areas using the hydrant(s) for operational uses such as street cleaning, sewer cleaning or system flushing and testing. In lieu of obtaining a hydrant permit, these excluded entities must follow the Hydrant Usage Guidelines and Requirements developed by the City of Columbus Division of Power and Water.

The hydrant permit shall be signed by an authorized agent of the Division of Power & Water and the applicant. Such permits will be available for only a select number of hydrants, as authorized by the Director of Public Utilities or an authorized agent. A permit may be issued for a hydrant other than the usually designated hydrants only for use on Capital Improvement Projects (CIP) and contracted sewer cleaning operations funded by the City of Columbus or their Retail Contract Areas. In order to receive this consideration, the applicant must provide either documentation of contract with the City of Columbus or Retail Contract Area or a confirmation letter from the City of Columbus or Retail Contract Area's CIP representative of said project at the time of permit application. The Division of Power & Water maintains the right to refuse granting a permit, based on privately owned hydrant, water quality issues, water main age or safety measures associated with the ability to fight fires.

A fire hydrant use permit may be obtained for any of the following purposes:

1. New construction (metered service is not available).
2. Nurseries
3. Water hauling
4. Dust control and/or street cleaning during construction/demolition

Any other use must be authorized, in writing, by the Director of Public Utilities. In such cases, a Fire Official must operate the hydrant and remain at the hydrant during its use.

Fire hydrants shall not be used for:

1. Watering established lawns
2. Drawing water from hydrants within a designated watering restriction area
3. Drawing water from a hydrant to circumvent a metering system
4. Filling Residential (single family) swimming pools

Fire hydrants located within a Retail Contract Area will require an additional permit from the corresponding jurisdiction. This permit will be required prior to the issuing of a permit by the City of Columbus.

Each City of Columbus hydrant permit will apply to only one (1) fire hydrant and for the time period and purpose stated on the permit. The time period will be consecutive days, but will not exceed thirty (30) days, unless approved by the Appointing Authority.

The charge for a City of Columbus hydrant permit will be thirty dollars (\$30.00). In addition, there will be a water usage charge of fifty dollars (\$50.00) per day for each day this permit is in effect, with the exception of community swimming pools. The water usage charge for filling community swimming pools will be based upon the volume of the pool and current water usage rates. Payment shall be made in advance with no prorating of charges. No metering system shall be permitted with the connection for the purpose of billing.

An approved backflow prevention device (a two single check device at minimum) and fire hydrant wrench shall be used on all fire hydrant connections. A limited number of these backflow prevention devices are available for loan from the Division with a six hundred dollar (\$600.00) deposit. Fire hydrant wrenches are available for loan with a one hundred dollar (\$100.00) deposit. Connections and wrenches are property of the City of Columbus, Division of Power & Water, and may not under any circumstances be kept by the permit holder past the scheduled date of return, unless a new permit is obtained.

An agent designated by the applicant shall be located at the hydrant each day of hydrant use from the time that the connection is made, to the time the connection is removed. The applicant shall maintain an air gap (equal to twice the diameter of pipe at point of use from the collection receptacle) at all points of use. The agent shall have the applicant's copy of the valid fire hydrant permit at the location of the hydrant during use. This permit shall be presented to any individual employed by the City of Columbus or the corresponding jurisdiction (if any) upon request of inspection of the permit.

The backflow prevention device and hydrant wrench shall be immediately removed from fire hydrant whenever water is not being actively drawn from hydrant and shall be removed from the hydrant site each day, upon completion of daily hydrant usage.

The applicant shall pump dry, to the foot valve or a minimum of five (5) feet below the existing ground surface around the hydrant, the barrel of any fire hydrant used between the dates of September 15th and April 15th, immediately after each time the fire hydrant is operated.

Upon expiration of the permit or as the Division of Power & Water deems necessary, an inspection of the permitted fire hydrant will be made.

SPECIAL EVENTS REGULATION:

Special Events (carnivals, charity events, festivals, etc.) requesting temporary water usage for public consumption will be required to submit a Special Event Fire Hydrant Application/Permit.

All temporary connections to fire hydrants for Special Events shall have a Reduced Pressure Zone (RPZ) backflow prevention device in accordance with American

Rule and Regulation 09-04, Continued...

Society of Sanitary Engineers (ASSE) Standard 1013. The RPZ backflow preventer must be tested by a certified backflow inspector after installation.

A Special Event Fire Hydrant Application/Permit form must be submitted to the Division of Power and Water a minimum of thirty (30) days prior to the event. The charge for the Special Event Fire Hydrant Application/Permit will be seventy-five dollars (\$75.00) per permit when using five (5) or fewer hydrants and one hundred fifty dollars (\$150.00) per permit when using more than five (5) hydrants. The charge for water used from a fire hydrant will be fifty dollars (\$50.00) per day for each day the applicant has use of the fire hydrant(s). Fees must be paid to the City of Columbus, Division of Power and Water in advance of issuance of the permit.

If the Special Event requires construction of temporary water lines by the City, a site plan and five hundred dollar (\$500.00) refundable security deposit shall be submitted at least thirty (30) days prior to the event so that work can be planned and scheduled. The event coordinator is responsible for all labor costs for this work and replacement costs for equipment or materials damaged during the event. If the total cost exceeds the security deposit, a separate bill will be sent to the event coordinator for the balance due. If the total cost is less than the deposit, the remaining balance will be refunded to the event coordinator.

If the event coordinator elects to provide all labor and materials required for the construction of the temporary water lines, a fifty dollar (\$50.00) fire hydrant inspection fee will be required to inspect the fire hydrant for operational integrity before and after the event.

Unless waived by the Appointing Authority or an appointed designee, a one hundred dollar (\$100.00) late fee shall be assessed if the permit application is submitted less than thirty (30) days prior to the event or if all fees have not been paid within ten (10) days of the event. This late fee is non-refundable.

DAMAGE TO HYDRANT


The applicant shall be responsible for all damage to the fire hydrant and water system caused by the applicant's use of the fire hydrant. A surety bond, other security, or insurance may be required at the time of application for the permit.

PENALTY FOR VIOLATION


Violators of the rule and regulation will be penalized in accordance with Columbus City Code Sections 1113.03, 1113.035, 2501.99 and 2517.04. As written, penalties may comprise up to and including, a misdemeanor of the first degree, an unauthorized water usage charge, loss of deposit amount(s), the cost for repair of any damage to the hydrant, and the revocation of all current fire hydrant permits. Unauthorized water use charge and the cost to repair any damage to a hydrant shall be

Rule and Regulation 09-04, Continued...

paid before any future hydrants permits are issued to the applicant. No future permits will be issued if the applicant violates this rule and regulation or conditions of the permit more than two (2) times in a one year (365 days) period.

APPROVED: 
RICHARD C. WESTERFIELD, Ph.D., P.E.
Administrator
Division of Power & Water

4-29-09
DATE


TATANYA ARSH, P.E.
Director
Department of Public Utilities

4/29/9
DATE

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