

[Title 11 WATER, SEWER AND ELECTRICITY CODE](#)

Chapter 1113 OFFENSES PERTAINING TO WATER SUPPLY

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Cross References

Preventing water pollution - see Ohio R.C. 743.25

Tampering with water equipment - see Ohio R.C. 2901.07

Polluting park water - see PUB. PROP. 919.26

Protection of watercourses - see W.S. & E. Ch. 1111

Destruction of property - see G. OFF. 2323.01

Obstructing fire hydrants - see F. PREV. 2517.04

Fire extinguishing apparatus - see F. PREV. Ch. 2519

1113.01 Protection against polluted water.

(A) If, in the opinion of the administrator of the Division of Power and Water or his/her designees, an approved backflow prevention device is necessary for the safety of the public

water system, the administrator of the Division of Power and Water will give notice to the water consumer to install such an approved device immediately. The water consumer shall, at his/her own expense, install an approved device at a location and in a manner approved by the administrator of the Division of Power and Water and shall have inspections and tests made of such approved device as required by the administrator of the Division of Power and Water.

(B) No person, firm or corporation shall establish or permit to be established or maintain or permit to be maintained any connection whereby a private, auxiliary or emergency water supply other than the regular public water supply of the city of Columbus, Ohio may enter the supply or distribution system of said municipality.

(C) The Division of Power and Water shall make surveys and investigations of industrial and other properties served by the public water supply where actual or potential hazards to the public water system may exist. Such surveys and investigations shall be made a matter of public record and shall be repeated as often as the administrator of the Division of Power and Water shall deem necessary.

(D) The administrator of the Division of Power and Water or his/her duly authorized representative shall have the right to enter any property served by a connection to the city's water supply for the purpose of inspecting the piping system or systems thereof. On request, the owner, lessees or occupants of any property so served shall furnish to the administrator of the Division of Power and Water any information, which the administrator may deem necessary, regarding the piping system or systems or water use on such property. The refusal of such information or entry, when requested, shall, within the discretion of the administrator of the Division of Power and Water, be deemed evidence of the presence of improper connections.

(E) The administrator of the Division of Power and Water shall be authorized to discontinue, after due notice to the occupants thereof, the water or electricity service to any property where any connection in violation of the provisions of this section is known to exist, and to take such other precautionary measures as he/she may deem necessary to eliminate any danger to the city's water supply distribution system. Water service to such property shall not be restored until any such dangerous conditions have been eliminated or corrected in compliance with the provisions of this section. (Ord. 1525-90.)

(F) The Director of Public Utilities shall have the authority as may be necessary in the interest of public safety, health, and general welfare to promulgate rules and regulations, to interpret and implement the provisions of this section and to secure the intent therefor. (Ord. 478-92; Ord. 422-06 § 2 (part).)

1113.02 Use of water from fire pipes.

Water shall not be used from any fire pipe, or extinguisher system, nor seals broken or removed, except in case of fire. In all cases where seals are broken or removed, written notice of the same must be given to the Director of Public Utilities within twenty-four (24) hours after its occurrence. (Ord. 478-92; Ord. 422-06 § 2 (part).)

1113.03 Obstructing, using or defacing fire hydrants; permits, fees and charges.

(A) (1) No person shall in any manner, obstruct or cause to be obstructed, any fire hydrant in the city, nor place or cause to be placed, in or upon any public place or thoroughfare of the city, within ten (10) feet of any fire hydrant any articles, things, materials, dirt, snow or other substances so as to obstruct such hydrant.

(2) No person other than employees of the city of Columbus, division of fire or Division of Power and Water, shall connect any hose with or draw any water from, nor in any way molest or interfere with any of the fire hydrants of the city, without a permit approved by the fire official and the administrator of the Division of Power and Water, or their designees. (Ord. 2902-88.)

(3) The fire official and the director of the Department of Public Utilities shall have authority as may be necessary in the interest of public safety, health and general welfare to promulgate rules and regulations, to interpret and implement the provisions of this chapter, to secure the intent thereof, to establish permit fees and to designate requirements applicable because of climatic or other conditions. (Ord. 478-92.)

(4) No person authorized to use a fire hydrant under a permit issued pursuant to (A)(2) above shall violate any of the conditions of the permit or any of the rules or regulations pertaining to said permit.

(5) Except when authorized by a permit issued pursuant to (A)(2) above, no person shall paint, decorate, deface, or in any manner destroy any fire hydrant in the city.

(B) Whoever violates Section 1113.03(A)(4), including any prescribed rule or regulation authorized by this chapter, shall be charged for unauthorized use of water through a fire hydrant in the amount of three hundred dollars (\$300.00) per occurrence plus the cost of repair for any damage to the fire hydrant. (Ord. 2902-88; Ord. 422-06 § 2 (part).)

1113.035 Sanctions and penalty.

(A) No person shall fail to pay a charge levied pursuant to Section 1113.03 (B). Further, no person shall violate Section 1113.03 (A)(4) more than two times in a one year period.

(B) Any person who violates Section 1113.035 (A) shall have all fire hydrant use permits revoked. In addition, no future fire hydrant use permits will be issued to said person.

(C) Any person who violates Section 1113.03 (A)(1) or (A)(2) or (A)(5) or Section 1113.035 (A) shall be subject to prosecution pursuant to Section 2501.99 of the Columbus City Code. (Ord. 2902-88.)

1113.04 Injuring, obstructing water system fixtures.

No person shall place or deposit any dirt or material in any fire hydrant or in any valve box or stopcock box, or commit any act tending to obstruct the use thereof or injure in any manner any fixture connected with the system of the Division of Power and Water. (Sec. 44.11: Ord. 422-06 § 2 (part).)

1113.05 Destruction of property.

No person shall commit any act tending to deface, damage or obstruct in any manner any building, machinery, pipe, apparatus or other fixture of the Division of Power and Water. (Sec.

44.12: Ord. 422-06 § 2 (part.)

1113.06 Liability of certain persons for acts of others.

In all cases where any servant, employee, apprentice or minor shall be guilty of any violation of the provisions of this chapter or any ordinance for the management and protection of the Division of Power and Water or any of the prescribed rules and regulations of the Division of Power and Water, the master, mistress, employer, parent or guardian of such person shall be held responsible for such violation as well as the persons committing the offense. (Sec. 44.9: Ord. 422-06 § 2 (part).)

1113.99 Penalty.

Whoever violates any provision of this chapter shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor and fined not exceeding one hundred dollars (\$100.00), or imprisoned for not more than thirty days, or both. Any such violation shall constitute a separate offense on each successive day continued.

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