

**Chuckanut Trail Water Association
Fire Hydrant Maintenance Program
July 2017 Update**

Background:

In March 2015, the Chuckanut Trail Water Association (CTWA) initiated a Fire Hydrant Maintenance Program to meet the requirements of Section 70.315.060 of Washington State Statutes relating to fire suppression. The program covers all of the current 23 fire hydrants owned and served by CTWA and will be extended to any new hydrants approved by CTWA's Board of Directors.

The Fire Hydrant Maintenance Program is managed by CTWA's Water System Manager, John Mercer, owner of Water System Services, Inc. John works under the general direction of the CTWA Board of Directors. Water System Services, Inc. utilizes industry standard methods to inspect and document the condition and performance of each element of our fire hydrants. Following the 2017 inspections, Water System Services reported that all hydrants are in good working order.

Elements of the Maintenance Program Include the Following:

General Maintenance: Hydrants must be kept free from obstructions that would otherwise hinder the view of the hydrant from the road and convenient access to the hydrant. Periodically, CTWA will visually inspect all hydrants and notify homeowners of obstructions that require removal. CTWA's Water System Manager will paint hydrants a uniform color as needed to protect the assembly from deterioration and to aid in recognition of all CTWA hydrants.

Members are advised that:

1. It is critical that all hydrants are visible from the road or if necessary, have appropriate signage identifying the location of the hydrant.
2. It is the responsibility of homeowners to clear and maintain a three-foot radius around their hydrant and to ensure unobstructed emergency access from the road. Members should arrange for their gardeners to periodically trim bushes and possibly relocate any plant or bush that obstructs access to their hydrant.

Planned maintenance follow-up activities include the following:

- Two of our hydrants on Brighton Crest Drive (1156 and 1195) have inadequate clearance from the ground to the pumper port caps. Water System Services will be installing extension kits on both of these hydrants.
- Water System Services will also rotate the hydrant located near 1228 Brighton Crest Drive so the hydrant port faces the road.

- CTWA has requested the South Whatcom Fire Authority to reinstall blue reflectors on our roads to identify the location of all our hydrants. This work should be completed this summer.

Hydrant Exercising: The CTWA Water System Manager will continue to annually inspect and exercise every fire hydrant and any valve which isolates the hydrant from the water distribution system to ensure all hydrants and valves are in good working order. All deficiencies will be immediately recorded and reported to the Board of Directors.

Deficient Hydrants: Any hydrant that is found to be damaged, deficient or is otherwise unable to be used will be removed from service. The Water System Manager will immediately notify the fire department of the deficient hydrant and will cover the hydrant with a black bag until repairs are completed. The use of the black bag is the common method used to ensure fire officials know that a hydrant is deficient.

Hydrant Repair: The Board of Directors will direct the Water System Manager to make all hydrant repairs as quickly as possible in accordance with standard industry practices.

Hydrant Records: The Water System Manager will file records of all completed repairs and testing results with the Board of Directors.

Hydrant Removal and Replacement: Any deficient hydrant that cannot practically be repaired in a reasonable amount of time will be removed and replaced.

Coordination with the Fire Department: The Water System Manager will inform the Fire Department whenever: (a) a fire hydrant is deficient and removed from service, (b) a hydrant is relocated, or (c) there are changes or events in the water distribution system that could impact hydrant performance.

Summary of Annual Hydrant Testing Results: A summary of annual hydrant testing results are available upon request. Members of CTWA can obtain a spreadsheet of the 2015, 2016 and 2017 test results for all hydrants or members can request test results for a specific hydrant by contacting member of the CTWA Board of Directors.

Questions or Concerns? Please contact one of our CTWA Board Members.

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