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City of King Fire Department

Why we test fire hydrants?

The City of King Fire Department tests our fire hydrants annually. Due to the size of the water system and the number of fire hydrants in the system is divided into two sections. By dividing the system in half it does two things; makes the testing easier to manage and creates less of a shock to our water system. Hydrant testing is conducted in April and October of each year. Testing hours will be Monday–Thursday 7am to 5pm and Friday 7am to 12pm. The Fire Department has divided our water system into 12 zones. Six zones are tested during each cycle. A map of these zones is located on the City of King website under Fire Department. Due to the complexity of this project and the size of our water system it is very difficult to determine which day testing will be conducted in a specific area.

The testing of fire hydrants is required by the NC Department of Insurance so that the Fire Department can keep insurance costs down for our citizens. Fire hydrant testing also helps to insure that your firefighters are knowledgeable about the general water volumes available for firefighting operations and whether there are any major flow changes since last year's test. Hydrant maintenance is critical to fire suppression and the protection of life and property.

How may this test affect you? You may notice a drop in water pressure during testing and the water may become slightly discolored after testing. If you experience discolored water, you may wish to run water from one or more faucets for a couple of minutes until the water is clear again and you may wish to do so prior to cooking, bathing or washing clothes. The discolored water is nonhazardous but can stain clothing. If your water does not clear within 24 hours, please contact the City of King Water Department at 336-944-6870.

The City of King Fire Department would like to thank you for your cooperation and understanding of our fire hydrant testing program. Please, be patient with us during this operation as we are working to maintain the level of fire safety that you have come to expect.

If you have any additional questions please feel free to contact the City of King Fire Department at 336-944-6868.
