



## Cumberland Water Department

### Hydrant Flushing

#### **Why are fire hydrants flushed and how often does it occur?**

Fire hydrants are flushed to remove accumulated sediment from the distribution mains on an annual basis. The Department conducts a system wide unidirectional flushing program which usually begins in April (temperatures permitting) and concludes in mid to late June.

In addition to the annual flushing program, fire hydrants may be flushed at other times to remove discoloration which can occur due to a water main break, fire-fighting activities or a very high demand on the distribution system.

#### **How will I know when fire hydrant flushing will occur in my area?**

Hydrant Flushing has been delayed this year due to ramifications from COVID-19. Hydrant Flushing will take place in the Fall and when the schedule is finalized it will be posted to the Town's website. The schedule is also advertised in the Valley Breeze, bi-weekly, until the flushing process has been completed. Residents can also call the Water Department Monday through Friday between the hours of 7:00 AM and 3:00 PM, at 401-658- 0666 (option 1) with questions about when individual neighborhoods may be affected.

#### **What should I expect when fire hydrant flushing occurs in my area?**

Residents should expect to experience some water discoloration as well as fluctuations in water pressure while fire hydrant flushing is being conducted in their area. If you experience discoloration, run your cold water only for a couple of minutes to clear your service line. If the problem persists, contact the Water Department to see if the flushing activities are still in progress. If the flushing activities have concluded, we may have to open a fire hydrant near your property to assist in clearing the line.