

ESCAMBIA COUNTY FIRE-RESCUE

Rules, Policies, and Guidelines

1225.020

Annual Hydrant Inspections

Implemented: 02/15/11

Revised: 7/23/14



Patrick T Grace, Fire Chief

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PURPOSE:

The purpose of this directive is to formalize policy and procedures for conducting annual fire hydrant inspections for Escambia County Fire Rescue. This inspection is necessary to determine if the area immediately around the fire hydrant is clear of any obstructions that may impede its use. The inspection will also conclude that the hydrant is functioning and in service.

OBJECTIVE:

To familiarize ECFR personnel with hydrant locations in their first due territory and ensure their functionality. In addition, this procedure will provide direction to ECFR personnel should they identify any deficiencies related to a fire hydrant within their first due territory and a procedure to report such deficiencies to the proper agency for repairs.

SCOPE:

All Personnel

PROCEDURE

Fire hydrant inspections will be conducted twice annually by ECFR personnel (Refer to ECFR SOG 1225.030).

A review of the procedures to be utilized when conducting hydrant inspections shall be provided for all ECFR personnel prior to inspecting.

Private hydrants are the responsibility of the property owner and shall not be checked by ECFR personnel.

Fire hydrant inspections shall be entered in the Firehouse Report System as soon as possible when inspections are completed.

For detailed, step-by-step instructions on how to properly enter hydrant inspections/testing activities, see the "hydrant testing & activity records entry" users guide under Firehouse software at www.escambiafirerescue.com

EQUIPMENT REQUIRED

Tools for removing brush and limbs, lubricant, hydrant wrench

PROCEDURE CONTINUED

- a. When inspecting hydrants consideration should be given to potential interference from traffic and/or water damage to the surrounding environment.



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- b. Prior to inspection on private property, notification must be made to the owner/manager. Specific location information regarding where inspection will occur may be required for privately owned/operated utilities.
- c. The water distribution system, i.e. E.C.U.A, People's Water, Farm Hill Utilities, etc., should be notified of the scheduled inspections prior to the fire department performing any inspections.
- d. Procedures for conducting hydrant inspections:
 - 1. Area immediately around fire hydrant should be clear of any obstructions that may block the hydrant from view or impede the function of the hydrant. Any discrepancies should be reported to the proper water distribution system and/or the county fire marshal.
 - 2. All caps should be tightened.
 - 3. Fully open hydrant (Do not flow water).
 - 4. Check for any leaks.
 - 5. Close hydrant and remove 2.5" cap, check weep-hole operation by looking to see if water has evacuated hydrant.
 - 6. **Open hydrant slowly** until a low pressure flush is achieved and flow until clear.
 - 7. Re-install 2.5" cap.
 - 8. Record the hydrant's exact location using the Global Positioning System (GPS) if available.
- e. Recording information on fire hydrant inspection sheet.
 - 1. Record hydrant information first to include the hydrant number, hydrant make and location (i.e., closest building or address of nearest residence). Record other required information for annual inspection.
- f. Recording information on hydrant maintenance form.
 - 1. Item B – Enter the date, station/shift and the name of the individual recording the information, site or nearest building and hydrant number.



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2. Item C – Identify any obstructions or impairments to the hydrant.
 3. Item D – Identify any hydrant deficiencies.
 4. Item E – If hydrant is found to be completely out of service, meaning no water flows or you cannot open the hydrant, place it out of service to the fire dispatcher and the water distribution authority.
- g. Safety precautions to consider during flow testing.
1. Certain precautions must be observed during and after conducting hydrant inspections in order to avoid injuries to those participating in the inspections or to passersby. Efforts must also be made to minimize damage to property from the flowing stream. Both pedestrians and automobile traffic must be controlled during all phases of the inspection.
 2. Other safety measures include:
 - Tighten caps on hydrant outlets when not in use
 - Stand away from and out of direct line from closed caps
 - Never lean over the top of the hydrant when in operation
 - Wear traffic safety vests while performing inspections
 3. Property damage control measures include opening and closing hydrants slowly to avoid water hammers. Check downstream to determine where water will flow, since flowing water across a busy street could cause an accident. It is imperative that proper measures be taken before hand to slow or stop traffic.