



FIRE HYDRANT USE

Fire hydrants are used by many people for different reasons as outlined below. Use of public fire hydrants by unauthorized persons poses a threat to the health and safety of our customers, as well as a potential loss of revenue. Hydrants that are owned and maintained by the Riverhead Water District are identified by its color of **orange** and **silver**.

- **Fire Protection.** The main function of fire hydrants is to supply water for firefighting operations. Because of this critical function, fire hydrants must be maintained in an operative condition at all times, periodically inspected and tested, protected from physical damage, and free from obstructions that would prevent its immediate use.
- **System Maintenance.** RWD uses fire hydrants to periodically flush out water main sediments. Hydrants are also used by us to conduct fire flow tests for fire rating organizations, insurance companies, fire departments and other interested parties.

Obtaining a Hydrant Permit:

- Except for Fire Departments and the Riverhead Water District, anyone using a fire hydrant must have a valid permit. This is to prevent water contamination from back-flows and improper operation. The Water District inspects user's equipment, vehicles, certifications, registrations and provides instructions on proper use prior to issuing permits. A permit is required for each vehicle that will be using hydrants.
- A written permit to represent the approval of use by the Riverhead Water District will be issued. A copy of the permit **must** be kept in the user's vehicle and shall be made available upon request from employees of RWD, Suffolk County Department of Health Services, NYS DEC, Fire Department, police or local Code enforcement officials.
- Non-compliance with any operating provisions, procedures and or rules of hydrant use, constitutes a violation of Riverhead Town Code §291-12, and would mean a loss of permit use, and or a potential violation fine.



Hydrant Permit Application Procedure

- In order to apply for the use of a RWD hydrant permit, you must be able to provide the following information.
 1. Name, address and telephone number of the company and representative name requesting permit
 2. For permit types without a vehicle inspection, an RPZ is required. The RPZ and current passing test form must be brought to the RWD office.
 3. If a vehicle it to be used it must be equipped with an adjustable hydrant wrench, an air gap two times the diameter of the fill pipe, and a 1.5-inch fill pipe gate or ball valve permanently mounted on the fill pipe (If the tank is not fitted with filler pipe and air gap, a Reduced Pressure Zone Assembly (RPZ) must be permanently mounted on the vehicle and a copy of a current passing test form must be presented (even if the RPZ is newly purchased). A copy of the vehicle registration must be presented to a Water District representative.
 4. Location of hydrant to be used.
- Hydrant permits are issued on a daily basis at a fee of \$50 per day up to 20,000 gallons used. This fee is to be paid at the time of application via a check at the Riverhead Water District office.
- Permits will be issued when all of these requirements are met.
- Rules for hydrant use and proper operating instructions will be listed on the hydrant rental permit.



Hydrant Flow Test Requests

The Riverhead Water District works together with the Riverhead Fire Marshall's office in the coordination of hydrant flow tests.

If the you are required to schedule a hydrant flow test, please contact the Fire Marshall's office to request a specific date and time. Once you have secured a date and time, confirm the date and time with the Water District office (631) 727-3205. The Water District office will then forward a Hydrant Flow Test Authorization form to the requestor for completion and payment of the applicable witness fee of \$150.00. This authorization form and payment (in the form of a check made payable to the Riverhead Water District) must be received by the Water District prior to the flow test appointment for scheduling.

The Riverhead Water District does not conduct the flow test. The Riverhead Water District attends the flow test to verify proper operation of the hydrants being used. The flow test is conducted by a certified hydrant flow tester.

**** PLEASE BE ADVISED THAT FLOW TESTS WILL NOT BE SCHEDULED DURING THE MONTHS OF JULY AND AUGUST**