

Bloomington Township Public Water District

Water Distribution System Flush Hydrant Capabilities and Use Policy

Bloomington Township Public Water District (BTPWD) is considered a rural water system providing primarily residential water for basic consumption needs. The current customer base in both areas served, West Phase and Crestwicke, is residential and light commercial. The systems were designed and constructed to meet basic domestic water supply requirements in accordance with Public Health and Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA) requirements. The water mains require IEPA construction and operating permits.

The BTPWD water distribution systems were not physically designed for fire suppression because of materially higher construction cost, loan and grant money limitations, different requirements for rural subdivisions, and other factors. Direct connections to flushing hydrants can cause drops in water pressure below the legally required minimum system pressure of 20 psi. A drop in pressure could also affect the integrity of the water system, potentially causing gasket leakage and water main collapse.

Any drop in system pressure below 2- psi requires issuance of a boil order, system flushing and testing, and several days in which to restore the water distribution system to compliance. Drops in system pressure such as water main damage repairs, testing costs and labor costs associated with operational staff, engineering and legal assistance can result in significant cost to BTPWD.

It is BTPWD's policy to allow Fire District tanker trucks to connect to specific, approved flush hydrants in the system by soft hose with a certified air-gap device. The selection of these flush hydrants for tanker filling is determined by the BTPWD Manager. Factors in this decision include ease of access and the capability of the specific flush hydrant to fill a tanker in a timely manner.

BTPWD has, and will continue, to cooperate fully with Fire Districts to maximize their ability to draw water from District mains for fire protection purposes, given the physical limitations on the BTPWD system. The Fire Districts will be made aware of the limitations of the system as well as the location of the specific, approved flush hydrants that could aid in their fire protection.

Fire District Water Usage Volume Policy

1. 20,000 gallons are allowed for purposes of fighting a fire without cost to the Homeowner.
2. Usage over 20,000 gallons will be billed at cost from the City of Bloomington for water used to Homeowner.