



Fire Hydrants

The International Fire Code (IFC) sets forth requirements for the location, required fire (water) flow, accessibility, clearance, physical protection, inspection, testing and maintenance of fire hydrants.

Hydrant Location

Where any portion of the facility or building hereafter constructed or moved into or within the jurisdiction is more than 400 feet from a hydrant on a fire apparatus access road, on-site fire hydrants and mains shall be provided where required by the fire code official.

Exception: For single family homes, duplexes, and private garages (R-3 and U) occupancies equipped throughout with an approved automatic sprinkler system, the distance may be up to 600 feet.

Obstruction

Unobstructed access to fire hydrants shall be maintained at all times. This includes the parking of vehicles. RCW 46.61.570(ii) prohibits the parking of vehicles within 15 feet of hydrants. Violators are subject to penalties and/or impoundment.

Clearance

A 3-foot clear space shall be maintained around the circumference of fire hydrants. Meeting this requirement ensures fire fighters have the necessary room to connect fire hoses and safely operate the hydrant during emergency conditions. Vegetation, trash, fences, or other obstructions placed too close to hydrants

will hinder the emergency use of the hydrant.

Physical Protection

Where fire hydrants are subject to impact by a motor vehicle, guard posts or other approved means of protection shall be in accordance with the following:



Posts

1. Constructed of steel not less than 4 inches in diameter and concrete filled.
2. Spaced not more than 4 feet between posts on center.
3. Set not less than 3 feet deep in a concrete footing of not less than a 15-inch diameter.
4. Set with the top of the posts not less than 3 feet above ground.
5. Located not less than 3 feet from the protected object.

Other Barriers

Physical barriers shall be a minimum of 3 feet in height and shall resist a force of 12,000 pounds applied 3 feet above the adjacent ground surface.



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Public Hydrants

Public hydrants are primarily located in the right-of-way, on the side of public streets, or other public property. They are YELLOW in color and are maintained by the Public Works Departments in both Camas and Washougal.



Private Hydrants



Private hydrants are typically located on private property. Consistent with nationally developed consensus standards, private hydrants are "SAFETY RED" in color to clearly distinguish them from public hydrants. Private hydrants are maintained solely by the property owner. The maintenance, testing, and inspection of private hydrants must be performed only by a "qualified inspector".

Inspection, Testing and Maintenance

Fire hydrant systems shall be subject to periodic tests as outlined below (Confidence Testing) to ensure they will work properly during an emergency. Fire hydrant systems shall be maintained in an operative condition at all times and shall be repaired where defective.

Confidence Testing

Private fire service mains and water tanks shall be periodically inspected, tested and maintained in accordance with NFPA 25

(Standard for the Inspection, Testing, and Maintenance of Water- Based Fire Protection Systems) at the following intervals:

1. Private fire hydrants (all types):
Inspection annually and after each operation; flow test and maintenance annually. Property owners with private hydrants are responsible to obtain annual, satisfactory inspection of their private hydrant(s) from a qualified inspector. A "qualified inspector" is employed by a Washington State licensed sprinkler contractor or underground system contractor. See this [List of Active Contractors](#) for more information.
2. Fire service main piping: Inspection of exposed, annually; flow test every 5 years.
3. Fire service main piping strainers: Inspection and maintenance after each use.

Inspection Reports

Inspection reports of private hydrants must be submitted within 5 working days of the date of inspection by the servicing inspector. Reports must be submitted on the Camas-Washougal ["Test and Maintenance Report for Private Hydrants"](#) Other forms will not be accepted.

Hydrant Use

No person may open damage, interfere with, or otherwise use a fire hydrant,



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except in an approved manner as determined by the fire code official.

A portable hydrant meter is required to utilize a yellow public hydrant in both the City of Camas and the City of Washougal. Meters are available for rent and application can be made in the Finance



Department/City Hall of the respective cities. A deposit is required. Please call the Finance Department for further questions regarding the process, deposit amounts etc.

Damage / Malfunction

1. If you encounter damage to a public hydrant, immediately contact the Camas or Washougal Public Works Departments or the Camas-Washougal Fire Department.
2. Property owners, their agents and tenants with private hydrants shall immediately contact the Camas-Washougal Fire Department in the event a private hydrant is damaged, malfunctions, or is otherwise "out of order." The term "Immediately" means not more than 48 hours after a problem is noticed or should have been noticed in the exercise of reasonable care.

3. Hydrants that are inoperable must be clearly identified:



Contact Information

Camas Public Works Dept.:
(360) 817-1563

Washougal Public Works Dept.:
(360) 835-2662

Camas-Washougal Fire Dept.:
(360) 834-2262

Camas Finance Dept.:
(360) 834-2462

Washougal Finance Dept.:
(360) 835 -8501