



## **TOWN OF BENNINGTON**



# **Hydrant Flushing F.A.Q.'s**



### **Why does the Town need to flush the hydrants?**

This is a State Mandated Flushing Program used to maintain water quality. The action of opening hydrants and allowing water to escape under high pressure allows us to rid the large water mains of stagnant water and foreign matter which can be corrosive to the pipelines and overall system. At the same time it also allows us to verify the hydrants are working and exercise them for proper fire protection.



### **When does the Town do this?**

Each year we conduct the Water Main Flushing program in both Spring and Fall. This event is conducted over an approximate 2-week period during a Monday thru Friday 7:00am to 5:00pm schedule.



### **I have water in yard/driveway, can't they direct the water elsewhere?**

The four main trucks used in the flushing program are now equipped with what's called a flush monster. These are used to help angle flows and diffuse the width of flow to help prevent washouts. However, due to varying grades of the land they are not always as successful as we would like. Wet driveways and yards are at times unavoidable.



### **I have water in basement – Why did this happen?**

Many times this is due to a home (or building) that is missing, or has a failing piece of plumbing equipment called a *Pressure Reducer*. These are a state and locally required plumbing fixture. If you experience this problem and need to replace or to install a pressure reducer, you should call a licensed plumber to assist you.



### **When I turn my water on, it gurgles, bangs or sputters. What should I do?**

This is due to air that may have entered into the water line. If you run the cold water line at a medium flow, the air will work itself out. If the pipes bang and **no** water flows, turn the faucet off and call the Water Department for assistance.



### **My water is dirty is it safe to drink?**

The high flow of water through the main lines many times creates temporary discoloration of the water or “dirty water”. Although aesthetically unpleasant in color and taste, it is safe. To rid the discoloration simply **run the cold-water tap until it runs clear**. We do recommend rescheduling laundry and/or other water based cleaning till evening hours to avoid potential problems.



### **I have low or no water pressure. Why is that and how long will it last?**

During the timeframe of the program it can be expected that some or all areas of town may be affected. In order to have the necessary effective pressure and flow of the main lines we are required to shut certain valves down completely. This is a temporary issue, however we are unable to tell you exactly how long the issue will continue during the program. When the program is complete the water pressure will return to its normal gauge.



### **Why can't the Water Department Flush at night?**

There are many reasons why we need to conduct the program during the day, the primary reason being safety and proper lighting. Traffic control and observation of work zones are problematic at night. Freezing of the released water across roadways etc can also become an issue during nighttime hours. Additionally, we are unable to control direction of water that causes erosion, flooding of lawns and driveways during

the evening. And lastly there are no office contacts or additional personnel available to assist the crews or the public during nighttime hours.



### **Why it takes so long?**

Here in Bennington, VT we have over 100 miles of water distribution lines and over 400 hydrants to maintain. Many times there are issues that arise during the process and some must be addressed immediately. Therefore, some areas of Town may take longer than expected. We simply ask for your patience.



### **When will you be in my area / done in my area?**

The program designed has divided the town into approximately 9 zones. Each zone should take approximately 1 ½ days however, as stated above, many issues can and do arise during the flow. Therefore it is difficult to determine exactly how long crews will be in each zone. Additionally, even though we may not be in your zone, flushing in other zones can affect another on a different side of town.

If you have any further questions or concerns, please call the Town Offices at (802) 442-1037.