

# **Fire Hydrant Maintenance**

**To Our Valued Customers,**

**The Bedminster Municipal Authority** strives to ensure that all of the Authority's fire hydrants are in good working order at all times. It would be unacceptable in the event that ANY part of our water system should fail to work properly at any time!

Flushing fire hydrants twice a year (Spring and Fall) may, at first glance, seem like a waste of water, but there are a number of things taking place during this exercise. We hope an explanation helps to ease any concerns you may have. Flushing every 6 months helps maintain water quality throughout the distribution system. During the Spring flush we inspect each hydrant to ensure it was not damaged during the winter months. On occasion a hydrant is struck by a vehicle or a plow and is damaged below ground or may have been used and the water was not pumped out causing freeze damage. Inspectors will schedule repairs in a timely manner. During the fall flush, each hydrant is rechecked and any necessary repairs are made before winter sets in.

While flushing hydrants near your home, you can expect to see a temporary discoloration of the water in your home. High velocity flows scour rust particles from the inside of the water mains. While most of the rust is flushed from the pipes, a small amount will remain suspended in the water. This rust is harmless and the water may be safely consumed. Your water is safe to drink. The discoloration will dissipate quickly. After we have finished flushing in your area, run your cold water faucet to flush out the service line to your house. However, if you are running water when we are flushing, you could get some dirty water. If this happened, you should not run your hot water or do any laundry. Turn on and run your cold water in a laundry sink or through an outside spigot until the dirty water clears out of your pipes.

You may also want to flush your hot water tank by opening the valve at the bottom of the tank. If you are doing laundry, do not dry the wet clothes. A word of caution: Rust will stain light colored laundry. Once hydrant flushing is done in your neighborhood, please be sure that both your hot and cold water are rust-free before running your washer. In the event that such staining occurs, there is a remedy. Most grocery and hardware stores carry laundry aids which remove rust stains. Rewashing them before drying will normally rinse any minerals that may have ended up in the load.

Thank you for your patience,  
Bedminster Municipal Authority