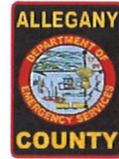




Allegany County Emergency Services Board Policies and Standards



Subject: Hydrant Policy

Approved: December 13th, 2022

Approved: , **Emergency Services Board Chair**

1. Purpose and Scope

1.1 Purpose - To allow continued emergency access to fire hydrants, provide a mechanism for training, and for accessing water for non-emergency uses while maintaining accountability of the water being consumed.

1.2 Scope – This policy is in effect for all hydrants in Allegany County, Maryland.

2. Definitions

2.1 Entity – The controlling party (County, Municipality, Company) of the water system.

2.2 Hydrant Meter – A device used to measure water flow from a fire hydrant.

3. Policy

3.1 Operations

3.1.a. – Improper use can cause damage to the hydrants and pipe, and also produce unacceptable water quality.

3.1.b. – In emergency use, hydrants shall always be closed slowly and opened as slowly as the situation allows.

3.1.c – In non-emergency use and training, hydrants shall be opened and closed slowly to prevent damage to the system.

3.1d – Hydrants shall only be opened with a suitable hydrant wrench.

3.1e – When using a hydrant, emergency or non-emergency, the hydrant should be opened fully to prevent damage to the hydrant and/or lines.

3.2 Emergency Usage

3.2.a – Hydrants are for use in emergencies

3.2.b – No part of this policy is intended to deter the use of hydrants in emergency situations.

3.2.c – During emergency incidents, high flow usage of water should be reported to the appropriate entity by the 911 Joint Communications Center.

3.3. Non-Emergency Usage

3.3.a – Unreported use of hydrants for non-emergencies shall be considered trespassing and theft. This includes non-emergency use by the fire department.

3.3.b – The entity reserves the right to restrict use of particular hydrants for non-emergency use and direct the user, including the fire department to a suitable hydrant.

4. Administration

4.1 – This policy will be maintained by the Allegany County Fire Chief's Subcommittee of the Emergency Services Board with guidance from the entity controlling the water system.

4.2 – Issues or problems with this policy should be directed to the chairman of the Allegany County Fire Chief's Subcommittee.

4.3 – The policy will be reviewed on an annual basis for the purposes of updating procedures and information contained within this policy.