

# Fire Protection Service

## ***RESPONSIBLE FOR ADMINISTERING POLICY:***

Executive Director, Board of Commissioners

## ***BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE***

It is accepted utility practice in the United States among utilities located in suburban and rural areas that fire protection be provided only in areas where population density justifies the installation of storage tanks and pipelines adequately sized to meet fire flow requirements. Tanks and pipelines should not be sized to meet fire flow requirements if customer density will not create a sufficient turnover in water usage, since water that remains in such low use areas over long periods of time is prone to taste and odor problems, bacterial growth, dissipation of chlorine residual and other quality and health concerns. Additionally, the costs of providing fire service that meets strict state and insurance guidelines go far beyond merely adding fire hydrants.

The Authority is run for the benefit of all present and future customers, and while no customer shall intentionally be treated unfairly, no customer shall be treated in a way that compromises the interests of other current and future customers.

## ***LIMITATIONS***

The Authority is subject to various state and federal regulations and has no discretion to provide fire protection service in a manner which would violate these regulations.

## ***RECORD KEEPING DURATION***

All records regarding fire protection service shall be kept indefinitely.

## ***OMISSIONS***

In the absence of specific rules or policies, the disposition of situations involving fire protection service shall be made by the Board of Commissioners in accordance with its usual and customary practices.

***Authority approval of hydrants***

***POLICY STATEMENT***

1 ... The Authority reserves the right to install and approve the installation of all fire hydrants at any place within its system as it deems necessary and appropriate and to refuse to allow hydrants on all or any part of the system if it is determined that the system can not adequately support such hydrants.

2 ... The Authority reserves the right to approve the location and specifications of fire hydrants and appurtenances on all lines furnished by others in subdivisions, commercial or industrial areas or other such locations.

***Hydrant installation***

3 ... All fire hydrants and appurtenances shall be installed either by the Authority or by an approved contractor, with installation meeting the Authority's specifications.

***Operation of hydrants***

4 ... No fire hydrant shall be operated by anyone other than authorized fire department or Authority personnel, without the written consent of the Authority.

5 ... Fire hydrants shall be operated only with a wrench that is approved by the Authority.

***Hydrant color coding***

6 ... Fire hydrants shall be color coded by either painting the entire hydrant, painting the nozzle caps or attaching weather resistant color coded tags to the nozzles according to the following standard, at 20 psi residual pressure:

- a) Red        0 - 499 gallons per minute
- b) Orange    500 - 999 gallons per minute
- c) Green     1000 - 1500 gallons per minute
- d) Blue      >1500 gallons per minute

Flow testing of fire hydrants shall be performed by Authority personnel only

7 ... The Authority does not in any way guarantee any pressure or flow minimums with regard to fire hydrants or sprinkler systems.

***Hydrant installation***

8... All fire hydrants and their appurtenances shall be installed within Authority easements on private property whenever possible and not within any public right-of-way.

9 ... Customers must pay for all labor and materials necessary to properly install fire hydrants that are not normally supplied by the Authority.

***Use of hydrants for filling pools, etc.***

10. ... Customers or builders who wish to use hydrants to fill swimming pools or to obtain water to construct buildings must obtain permission from the Authority.

11. ... When hydrants are used for such purposes as building construction or filling of pools, a reducing appliance shall be attached to the nozzle of the hydrant with an independent valve capable of regulating the supply. The main valve of the hydrant must be fully opened at the beginning of each work day and remain fully opened until the close of work at night, at which time it must be fully closed.

***Unauthorized use of hydrants***

12 ... Any unauthorized person operating a hydrant without the consent of the Authority shall be liable for water usage as estimated by the Authority and any damage to equipment.

***Hydrant damage***

13 ... Hydrant damage caused by vehicle accidents or any other circumstance shall be reimbursed by the responsible party.

***Fire sprinkler systems***

14 ... All fire sprinkler systems connections shall be subject to the approval of the Authority.

15 ... Customers are not permitted to use the water from sprinkler systems for any purpose other than fire protection.

16 ... No cross-connection is allowed between the sprinkler system and potable water lines.

17 ... The Authority shall have right of access during business hours to customers' premises for the purpose of inspecting fire protection systems.

18 ... Facilities installed for providing water to automatic sprinkler systems for fire protection shall be owned and maintained by the customer.

19 ... Multiple connections for sprinkler service to one structure that is in service at the effective date of this policy shall, for billing purposes only, be considered a single connection.

***No Authority responsibility for customer installation***

20 ... By furnishing water service to a customer, the Authority assumes no responsibility for seeing that the customer's installation complies with any codes, regulations or standards other than those of the Authority.

**ADOPTION DATE: September 18, 2003**

**EFFECTIVE DATE: September 18, 2003**

**Sample Sprinkler System Rates**

<b>Fireline Pipe Size</b>		<b>Monthly BaseCharge</b>
2-inch		2 Minimum Bills
4-inch		4 Minimum Bills
6-inch		6 Minimum Bills
8-inch		8 Minimum Bills

The monthly charge for water shall be at the current prevailing rate.