

**City of West Richland
Fire Hydrant Flushing
PRESS RELEASE**



The City of West Richland Public Works Department and Benton County Fire District #4 will begin the annual fire hydrant flushing program Monday, April 5th, 2010. Hydrant flushing will take place Monday through Thursday between 8am to 3pm. The program should take between 8 - 12 weeks to complete.

The primary purpose of this program is to verify the proper operation of the City's 650 fire hydrants through periodic inspections, flow testing, and preventative maintenance. A pro-active hydrant flushing and preventative maintenance program is the key to mitigating water quality related aesthetic problems by removing accumulated iron and manganese mineral deposits from the water mains.

Fire hydrant flushing may cause temporary inconveniences such as a reduction in water pressure and aesthetic issues such as discoloration of the drinking water. Flushing stirs up sediment, iron and manganese mineral deposits in the water mains causing temporary discoloration. Discolored water poses no threat to the public's health, but may stain laundry and if consumed may have an unpleasant taste. Residents should be certain all discolored water is out of their home's plumbing lines and hot water heater and that the water is clear before laundering clothes or drinking it.

Although residents may experience some temporary inconveniences, the flushing program is necessary to maintain a good water supply for both firefighting and domestic consumption. Your patience with the annual fire hydrant flushing program is appreciated.

If you continue to experience discolored water after 3pm or after crews have completed the flushing in your neighborhood please run your water faucet for a couple of minutes if this does not seem to clear up your water, please contact the Public Works Department at 967-5434. In the event discolored water causes staining problems, do not place stained clothes into the dryer as drying the clothes will permanently set the stains. Rust remover is available free of charge at the Public Works Building, 3801 W. Van Giesen, during normal business hours. For additional information on the Fire Hydrant Maintenance Program, please contact the Public Works Department at 967-5434.