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Private Fire Hydrant Guide

EFFECTIVE DATE: 4/1/09	REVISED: 12/23/16
ISSUED BY: Division Chief / Fire Marshal Jay S. Westbrook	Page 1 of 1
SUBJECT: To provide guidance to FMO personnel and Fire Alarm Contractors in the installation of visual notification appliances.	

A Private Fire Hydrant is defined by the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA 25) as the pipe and its appurtenances located on the private property between a source of water and the base of the riser. The private service main begins at a point designated by the public water utility, usually at a manually operated valve near the property line (master meter).

All inspections, maintenance, and testing shall be performed by a qualified company on file with the Cobb County Fire Marshal's Office.

Accurate records of all inspections, maintenance, and testing shall be maintained on the premises at all times for inspection by Cobb County Fire Marshal's Office.

Frequency of service shall be:

- Inspection and maintenance performed annually
- Measured flow test performed every 3 years

Visibility and access requirements shall be:

- Hydrants in Cobb County shall be painted silver, as needed. Orange reflective tape shall be used on all private hydrants. The reflective tape shall be wrapped around the entire diameter of the base of the bonnet and the ends shall overlap 1-inch. The orange reflective tape shall be one that has been approved by the Cobb County Fire Marshal's Office. Visit www.cobbfire.org for a list of approved tapes.
- The fire hydrant shall be visible from all directions of travel to responding fire apparatus. The nearness of shrubs, plants, fences, posts, etc. shall not prevent access to the hydrant for proper operation.
- A 3-foot clear space shall be maintained around the circumference of fire hydrants.
- A 6-foot, 8-inch clear space from the top of the hydrant vertically to the bottom of any tree limbs, hedges, or bush shall be maintained.
- The center of the 5 inch hose outlet shall be not less than 18 inches above grade.

The following publications shall govern this program:

- American Water Works Association (AWWA), M17 Installation, Field Testing, and Maintenance of Fire Hydrants.
- Cobb County Development Standards, Section 410.05.02.
- Official Code of Cobb County Georgia, Section 54-59
- National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) 25, 2011 Edition, Standard for Inspection, Testing, and Maintenance of Water-Based Fire Protection Systems
- 2012 International Fire Code