



Frequently Asked Questions Hydrant Inspection / Storz Upgrade

On Oct. 2, 2012, the City of Burnsville approved an ordinance that requires proactive inspection and maintenance of private fire hydrants. Below are answers to some commonly-asked questions regarding the new ordinance and policy as they will impact private fire hydrant owners.

How do I know if I have private hydrants on my property?

Private hydrants are generally found at commercial and industrial sites along with apartment, townhome and condominium properties. Steve Albrecht, Public Works Director can help determine whether you have private fire hydrants on your property.

To find out if you have private hydrants on your property email steve.albrecht@ci.burnsville.mn.us or call 952-895-4544.

Why do my hydrants need to be inspected?

Reliability. Currently, it is estimated that between 15 and 20 percent of private hydrants do not operate properly when used by the Burnsville Fire Department. It is important that all fire hydrants (both public and private) work when they are needed.

How often must hydrants be inspected?

Annually. Section 508 of the State Fire Code requires that all fire hydrant systems be inspected and operated yearly and repaired if needed. The hydrants have to be in working condition at all times.

Why now?

Burnsville is home to close to 1,300 private hydrants. There is a greater potential of loss of property and life at commercial and multi-unit residential properties with private hydrants. In recent years, Burnsville firefighters have found that 15 to 20 percent of private hydrants do not operate properly. That means that 260 hydrants have the potential to malfunction. Now is the time to act.

Can I do the inspection myself?

The inspections must be completed by a Minnesota licensed fire hydrant inspection company.

What if the hydrants on my property are already inspected yearly by a licensed inspector?

Visit www.burnsville.org/hydrantinspections to submit your private fire hydrant inspection documentation to the City.

What if I don't get my hydrants inspected, or I want the City to contract for the inspection of hydrants on my property?

If the City does not receive documentation on your private hydrant inspections by March 1, you will automatically be included on the City's 2013 fire hydrant inspection list. You can also contact the Public Works Director to ensure you are on the list by emailing steve.albrecht@ci.burnsville.mn.us or calling 952-895-4534.

Do I have to pay for the City to inspect my hydrants? And if so, how much?

Yes, there is a charge if the City inspects your hydrants. It is estimated that the inspections will cost approximately \$42 per hydrant annually. The cost of the inspections will be billed to the property owner's utility bill over a 12 month time period.

What is the Storz Private Hydrant Upgrade Program (SPHUP)?

Storz is a new technology that allows firefighters to save between 60 and 90 seconds each time they connect to a hydrant by eliminating the need for hose adapters. SPHUP is the opportunity for private hydrant owners to upgrade their hydrants with the Storz technology. Over the next six years, the City will be upgrading all public hydrants.

Does it really save time?

Yes. With two to five hydrants used at each commercial or multi-unit residential fire, a hydrant upgrade can potentially save two to eight minutes at your site. And in a fire, seconds matter.

What are the benefits of participating in the upgrade?

Upgrading your private fire hydrants will better protect your property and will potentially reduce damage if there is a fire. By joining the City initiative it will also provide buying power, keeping costs for the upgrade low.

How much will this upgrade cost, and how do I pay for it?

If you choose to participate in SPHUP, the estimated cost is \$250 per hydrant. Costs for upgrades will be assessed to the property's tax bill in accordance with City policy.

For information regarding payment contact molly.stone@ci.burnsville.mn.us or call 952-895-4495.

Do I have to upgrade all of my hydrants at once?

The City prefers that all private hydrants on a property are upgraded at the same time. However, partial upgrades may be permitted on a case by case basis.

How do I sign up for the program or learn more?

Visit www.burnsville.org/storz.