



# City of Burnsville

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **CITY TO IMPROVE FIRE HYDRANTS WITH PRIVATE HYDRANT INSPECTIONS, STORZ NOZZLES**

### **Did You Know?**

It takes Burnsville firefighters between two and three minutes to connect to a fire hydrant during a fire. That's fast – but what if it could be faster? Also, between 15 and 20 percent of the privately-owned hydrants used by the Fire Department don't work. And that's a problem. When these trends began to appear, the City started two initiatives to better protect life and property from fire.

### **Private Hydrant Inspections**

Minnesota Fire Code requires that all fire hydrants be tested yearly. There are more than 3,800 fire hydrants in Burnsville – one-third of which are privately owned (primarily on commercial property or in multi-unit residential complexes). While the City tracks and tests all public hydrants, the Fire Department has very few records on the City's 1,300 private hydrants. In an attempt to eliminate private hydrant failures, the City will require that private hydrant owners provide documentation of hydrant testing/certification in 2013.

Private hydrant owners who have independent inspections performed on their hydrants can submit their documentation online at [burnsville.org/hydrantinspections](http://burnsville.org/hydrantinspections) **by April 1**. If owners do not submit documentation of an inspection, the City will contract to complete the inspection. The cost of this inspection is estimated to be \$42 per hydrant, and will be charged over a 12-month period to the owner's utility bill.

### **Storz Nozzles**

The City will also begin updating all public hydrants with new "Storz" fire hose connectors. Storz connectors allow firefighters to save between 60 and 90 seconds when connecting to hydrants because hoses won't need additional adaptors.

The Storz Private Hydrant Upgrade Program (SPHUP) will allow private hydrant owners to voluntarily join the City initiative to upgrade to Storz technology. By joining the City initiative, costs for the hydrant upgrades will be approximately \$250 per hydrant (installed) for private hydrant owners and be assessed to the property. Private hydrant owners interested in updating to Storz technology in 2013 can apply at [burnsville.org/storz](http://burnsville.org/storz) **by June 1**.

*For more information contact Public Works Director Steve Albrecht at 952-895-4544 or visit [www.burnsville.org/privatehydrants](http://www.burnsville.org/privatehydrants).*

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