

SOUTH PORTLAND FIRE DEPARTMENT

STANDARD OPERATING GUIDELINES

Policy #:	5.125	Effective Date:	3/5/2024
Title:	Fire Hydrants	# of pages:	2
Category:	Administration	Classification:	Green

1. **PURPOSE:** The purpose of this guideline is to ensure municipal hydrants in the City are maintained appropriately throughout the year.

2. **POLICY:**
 The Portland Water District (PWD) is responsible for the care and maintenance of fire hydrants in the City which includes:
 - Testing and the pumping of municipal hydrants
 - Painting
 - Rechecking hydrants that have been used by the department in the fall and winter

The South Portland Fire Department is responsible for the following with public hydrants:

- If the hydrant is used during winter months (Oct-April), it every attempt to pump it dry using the 12 volt pump from Central shall be made. Dispatch shall be notified of the hydrant usage and will in turn notify PWD that a hydrant at a certain location was used and whether it was pumped or not.
- Trimming grass/brush from around hydrants as needed
- Flagging the hydrants for the winter
- Shoveling the hydrants

When a hydrant is to be used in any situation, including a fire incident:

- The hydrant shall be turned on slowly and then flushed before and hose is attached to a port. This clears any debris that may be in the hydrant and ensures the hydrant is operation.
- If for any reason the hydrant does not work, this enables the SPFD to move to a different one before the hose line is hooked up.
- When a hydrant isn't operational this should be relayed by radio to Command.

Trimming:

- As needed from time to time the hydrants should be inspected and trimmed to ensure ease of location and use.

Flagging:

- It is the responsibility of the Company Captains (or their designee) to ensure that the hydrant shoveling lists are up to date, and the hydrant flags are attached prior to any storms.

- Flags should be installed on the right side port (when looking at the hydrant from the street) to assist in locating the hydrant when plowing.

Shoveling:

- Shoveling of hydrants shall begin as soon as possible after Public Works has completed plowing and winging back and will continue until all hydrants have been shoveled. The Duty Chief will consider the safety of the crews when determining when to stop shoveling. Shoveling after sunset and during periods of extreme cold should be avoided.
- The Duty Chief will determine if the call companies will be activated.
- The Officers/Officer Candidates of the stations shall coordinate shoveling with the Duty Chief to ensure an even workload (emergency calls or other interruptions) between the three stations and any call company members.
- Employees **shall** wear an ANSI Class 2 vest or equivalent at all times.
- Park vehicles, with the warning lights operating, prior to the hydrant (relative to traffic flow) to protect personnel from traffic. Turn off headlights if facing traffic.
- During heavy traffic congestion (rush hour) complete the side streets first and then return to the main arteries.
- Plowing of hydrants will be allowed as long as there is no damage to city vehicles, hydrants, or private property (i.e. lawns) when doing so. Plowing should normally occur overnight when traffic is at a minimum. Trucks will plows shall NOT respond Code 3 to calls but may respond with traffic.

Private Use of Hydrants:

- Hydrants are not to be used for private purposes (non-firefighting) without the permission of the Portland Water District.

3. REFERENCES:

- By Order Of:



Phil Selberg
Fire Chief