



Newton County Fire Prevention Bureau
4136 GA Hwy 278
Covington, GA 30014
678-625-5015

PRIVATE FIRE HYDRANT SYSTEMS

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).

PURPOSE:

Is to develop a program that insures that each and every fire hydrant stay functional at all times and to help in eliminating preventable property damage, and prevent unwanted injuries or fatalities to the general public and fire personnel.

Program:

Is to bring a uniformed process of ensuring that all privately-owned fire hydrants stay in a state of readiness in the case of an event. The program will be monitored by Newton County Fire Prevention Bureau. The program consists of four parts. These parts are as follows; Inspections, maintenance, testing and documentation.

Responsibilities:

All property owners that have private fire hydrant systems shall be responsible for having a qualified company to perform all inspections, maintenance and testing.

Accurate records of all inspections, maintenance, and testing shall be emailed to Newton County Fire Prevention Bureau (rthomas@co.newton.ga.us) for retention of records.

Frequency of service shall be:

1. All private fire hydrant inspections and maintenance shall be performed by a qualified company annually.
 2. All private fire hydrant testing (measured flow) shall be performed by a qualified company every 3 years.
-

Visibility and access:

- All private hydrants shall be painted Red in color and maintained.
 - Green 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 green reflective tape shall be one that is approved by Newton County Fire Prevention Bureau.
 - 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 bushes shall be maintained.
 - The center of the 5-inch hose outlet shall be not less than 18 inches above grade.
-

Publications:

The following publication shall govern this program;

1. American Water Works Association (AWWA), M17 installation, Field Testing, and Maintenance.
2. Newton Water and Sewage
3. National Fire Protection Association (NFPA 25, 2014)
4. International Fire Codes, 2012

Thank you for helping to keep our community safe!

Capt. Robert Thomas

Capt. Robert Thomas

Newton County Fire Marshal's Office