

Hoquiam Water Department to Begin Cleaning Lines, Checking Hydrants

Local News

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HOQUIAM, Wash. - The Hoquiam Water Department has established a preventative maintenance program to annually clean water lines and check the operation of fire hydrants throughout the distribution system. Field crews operate fire hydrants and blow-off valves to create high velocity flows that scour and clean the inside of water lines. This type of activity, often called "flushing", is a common utility practice used to improve water quality and maintain the water distribution system. Minerals and other materials that accumulate in the lines are removed by flushing. This material is not harmful to your health but it can temporarily cause discolored water. Customers may notice discolored water or a change in water pressure when flushing is conducted in their area. When flushing is taking place, we recommend that customers check to ensure tap water is running clear before using it for drinking, cooking or clothes washing. Customers who experience some coloring or sediment in their water should let the water flow from their taps for a short time (5-15 minutes). Flushing their household or business plumbing after crews have completed their work should clear up any "stirred up" water. Flushing activities often involve release of large volumes of water from fire hydrants or other outlets. Residents may notice this water flowing along the gutter line of the street and entering storm drains. **Flushing activities begin on April 29, 2013 and continue until June 14, 2013.**

Because the distribution system contains about 60 miles of pipe, it is expected to take one month to complete the flushing. However, some portions of the water system require flushing on a more frequent basis. Water quality sampling throughout the distribution system helps staff determine which portions of the system should be scheduled more frequently for flushing each year. For more information about the flushing program, call the Water Department at 360-637-6036 or email atelecky@cityofhoquiam.com.