

1. Purpose: The purpose of this policy is allow continued emergency access to fire hydrants, provide a mechanism for training, and for accessing water for non-emergency uses while maintaining accountability of the water being consumed.
2. Scope: This policy is in effect for all hydrants belonging to the Allegany County Utilities Division (ACUD).
3. Definitions:
  - a. ACUD: Allegany County Utilities Division.
  - b. Hydrant Meter: A device used to measure water flow from a fire hydrant.
4. Policy:
  - a. Operations:
    - i. Fire hydrants are the Property of Allegany County Utilities Division (ACUD). Improper use can cause damage to the hydrants and pipe, and also produce unacceptable water quality.
    - ii. In emergency use, hydrants shall always be closed slowly and opened as slowly as the situation allows.
    - iii. In non-emergency use and training, hydrants shall be opened and closed slowly to prevent damage to the system.
    - iv. Hydrants shall only be opened with a suitable hydrant wrench.
    - v. When using a hydrant, emergency or non-emergency, the hydrant should be opened fully to prevent damage to the hydrant and/or lines.
  - b. Emergency Usage:
    - i. Hydrants are for use in emergencies.
    - ii. No part of this policy is intended to deter the use of hydrants in emergency situations.
    - iii. During emergency incidents, high flow usage of water should be reported to the ACUD Supervisor by the 911 Joint Communications Center.

- c. Non-Emergency Usage:
    - i. Unreported use of hydrants for non-emergencies shall be considered trespassing and theft. This includes non-emergency use by the fire department.
    - ii. ACUD reserves the right to restrict use of particular hydrants for non-emergency use and direct the user, including Fire Department to a suitable hydrant.
5. Administration:
- a. This policy will be maintained by the Allegany County Fire Chief's Subcommittee of the Emergency Services Board with guidance from the Allegany County Utilities Office.
  - b. Issues or problems with this policy should be directed to the Chairman of the Allegany County Fire Chief's Subcommittee.
  - c. This policy will be reviewed on an annual basis for the purposes of updating procedures and information contained within this policy.



Richard L. DeVore, Chairman  
Allegany County Emergency Services Board

8-13-2013

Date