

# Three Lakes Water Association Notice of Hydrant & Blowoff Maintenance and System Flushing

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Dear Members,

The Three Lakes Water Association will be conducting annual maintenance on fire hydrants and blowoffs throughout the water distribution system in the coming weeks. This maintenance will generally occur between 9:00am and 1:00pm Monday thru Thursday during the months of April and May.

This work is part of our ongoing commitment to providing safe, reliable, and high-quality drinking water to our members.

## **WHAT WORK IS BEING PERFORMED**

During this maintenance period, Association staff will be:

- Operating and inspecting fire hydrants and blowoffs
- Conducting system flushing of water mains
- Performing pressure and flow rate testing to evaluate system performance and fire flow capacity
- Verifying proper operation of valves and hydrants

These activities are essential to ensure the distribution system continues to operate effectively and meets fire protection and water quality standards.

## **WHAT YOU MAY EXPERIENCE**

While crews are working in your area, you may notice:

- Temporary drops in water pressure
- Fluctuations in flow
- Discolored (cloudy or rusty) water

These conditions are temporary and not harmful. Discoloration is caused by naturally occurring sediment being stirred up and will clear after flushing is complete.

If you experience discoloration:

- Run cold water from a faucet until it clears
- Avoid doing laundry (especially whites) until water is clear

## **WHY FLUSHING IS AN ANNUAL MAINTENANCE ACTIVITY**

Routine flushing is a critical component of maintaining a safe drinking water system and is recommended by industry standards and state guidance.

Over time, water mains can accumulate:

- Natural mineral deposits (iron, manganese, sediment)
- Biofilm (naturally occurring microorganisms)
- Areas of stagnant or low-flow water

Flushing uses high-velocity water to remove these materials and refresh the system. This process:

- Improves water quality, taste, and clarity
- Removes sediment and buildup from pipes
- Maintains proper disinfectant levels
- Ensures adequate system pressure and flow for firefighting
- Identifies system issues such as valve or hydrant malfunctions

Health and regulatory agencies, including the Washington State Department of Health, recognize flushing as an important and necessary practice to maintain compliance with drinking water quality standards and protect public health.

### **OUR COMMITMENT TO YOU**

Although flushing may appear to waste water, it is a planned and necessary investment in maintaining the integrity of the distribution system and ensuring safe drinking water for all members.

We make every effort to minimize inconvenience and appreciate your patience while this important work is completed.

### **QUESTIONS**

If you have any questions or experience prolonged water quality issues, please contact the Three Lakes Water Association office at [customerservice@3LWA.org](mailto:customerservice@3LWA.org).