



Non-Emergency Use of Fire Hydrants

(Updated 01.09.2025)

The primary purpose of a hydrant is to provide a source of water for firefighting. Portland Water District(PWD), in cooperation with the fire departments, will rigidly control any other use of a public hydrant to ensure that the hydrants are in working condition in the event of an emergency.

• GENERAL CONDITIONS

- 1) All non-emergency hydrant use will be metered, and a backflow device will be utilized.
- 2) Fire hydrants will not be permitted for long term, continuous usage. In such cases a temporary construction service, new or existing, should be utilized (with appropriate metering).
- 3) Non-emergency use will be permitted for short intervals. Anything over 30 days will have to be approved by the Water Operations Supervisor.
- 4) Non-emergency use is restricted to 8:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m., weekdays. Usage will also be restricted to warm weather months, generally May 1st to October 1st.
- 5) Any unauthorized use of a fire hydrant is considered to be theft of PWD property.

• GENERAL RULES FOR CUSTOMERS USING HYDRANTS

- 1) PWD will be the sole operator of the fire hydrant.
- 2) The customer is responsible for contacting the PWD when the meter and backflow device need to be removed.
- 3) Meter and backflow device will not be left unattended, and the customer will be liable for damage and loss if left unattended.
- 4) The customer will also be liable for any damage to the meter and backflow device determined to have been caused by misuse. The customer will also be liable for any damage caused by vandals or any other misuse of the hydrant meter.
- 5) PWD does not supply hoses.
- 6) Hoses will not be allowed to cross streets without permission from Public Works or the field inspector.
- 7) Hoses will not cross private property, including driveways, without permission of the owners/residents.
- 8) During regular business hours, the cost to install/remove the hydrant meter and backflow device is a flat fee of \$227.00 plus the cost of water used at the current rate per hundred cubic feet (approximately 750 gallons). Outside of regular business hours, the cost of installation/removal will be \$385.00 plus the cost of the water used. The \$227.00 fee includes up to one month (30 days) hydrant meter use. A monthly fee of \$45.00 will be charged for each additional month (30 days) of use. The fee will not be prorated.