

Fire Hydrant Operating Instructions



THE CITY OF KALAMA, WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

Hydrant Operation

Due to the high water pressure in hydrants, the potential for a serious accident is very high. Thus, to minimize the requirement for hydrant repairs and the inconvenience to the public, as well as ensure the safety of employees and contractors, this practice must be followed.

Before the hydrant is operated, the following items must be checked:

- Inspect all hoses and connections prior to connecting to the hydrant.
- Push and pull the hydrant to make sure it is firmly seated in the ground.
- Ensure all caps are tightly closed.
- Make sure the hydrant is in the "off" position before removing the cap.
- When opening the hydrant with the key, do not stand in front of the caps or the safety valve.

CAUTION: Use **extreme caution** when removing the hydrant caps. The hydrant must be turned off or the hydrant will be under high pressure.

To operate the hydrant:

1. Ensure the hydrant is yellow. **Do not use Blue hydrants or hydrants marked Fire Use Only.**
9. Ensure the hydrant is fully closed by turning the large operating nut on the top of the hydrant in a clockwise direction.
10. Remove the cap from the 2.5 inch outlet that you will be using. **Do not stand in front of any outlet cap when removing the cap or operating a hydrant.**
11. Ensure all other caps are securely closed.
12. A 2.5 inch control valve approved by the City of Kalama **must** be installed on the open outlet.
13. Fully open the control valve.
14. Open the hydrant **slowly** (by turning counter-clockwise) to let any air out of the barrel.

15. Close the control valve when water appears.
16. Slowly open the hydrant to the full open position using the hydrant key. **Do not use a pipe wrench.**
17. Open the control valve and let the water run until it is clear.
18. Close the control valve.
19. Install the fill hose on the control valve.
20. Open the control valve to regulate the water flow.
21. When loading is completed, slowly close the control valve.
22. Remove the hose from the control valve.
23. Slowly close the hydrant. (Turn clock-wise).
24. Open the control valve to drain the hydrant.
25. Remove the control valve.
26. Replace the outlet cap after the hydrant has fully drained (approximately 5 to 10 minutes).
27. Do not use excessive torque to close the hydrant.

NOTE: Place the palm of your hand over the outlet, suction will indicate the hydrant is still draining.

If case of problems or to report damaged and/or inoperable hydrants, call the City of Kalama Public Works Department during business hours at (360) 673-3706, or after hours call 911.

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