

What are they doing?

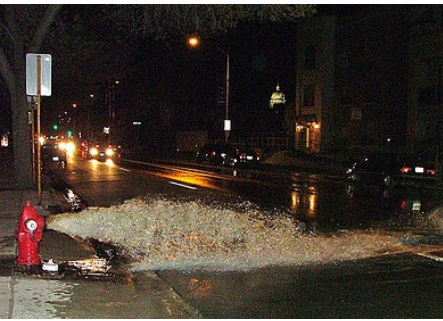


Have you ever gone past a fire hydrant and seen water gushing out of it? Sometimes, firefighters test the hydrants to make sure they're working properly in case there is a fire. Utility crews from the Cape Fear

Public Utility Authority also test the hydrants, as well as the pipes and valves connected to them. Fire hydrants are connected to the drinking water distribution system which means that the water that comes out of the hydrants to be used to fight fires is the same high quality treated water that comes out of your faucet at home. This system needs to be cleaned and tested periodically. The utility crews conduct water main, or fire hydrant, flushing exercises to help clean out the water distribution system. They use special wrenches and tools to open the fire hydrants. During this activity, water is forced through pipes at high velocity and systematically flushed out of the fire hydrants, removing accumulated mineral sediment until the water is clear. The workers usually do the flushing exercises at night when everyone's asleep so they don't disrupt service while you're home. Water main flushing is a routine operation



that results in a clean, well maintained drinking water system. As part of CFPUA's commitment to provide safe, reliable drinking water, a flushing program is used to improve water quality, restore water pressure and protect pipe integrity. Part of the program also involves testing the large water main lines and valves that deliver the water. CFPUA maintains 1,000+ miles of distribution pipelines, 7,139 fire hydrants and 14,743 valves.



Visit our web-site at: www.cfpua.org for more information about CFPUA's Flushing Program and fun puzzles and utility facts.

Learn more about your utilities by clicking on the Education & Outreach link under Public Info.



Cape Fear
Public Utility Authority

Stewardship. Sustainability. Service.