

2021 Hydrant Flushing Program Notice

North Branch Water and Light (NBWL) will be flushing and exercising fire hydrants starting Tuesday May 5th, with a plan to complete the flushing in three-four weeks. Our plan is to exercise the hydrants Monday-Friday between the hours of 8:00 am to 4:00 pm; however, these times may vary. This is a vital process to ensure the hydrants are in good working order. Hydrant flushing will also remove any accumulated sediment that is built up in the pipes and help insure the cleanest water possible. Hydrant flushing is a routine activity; NBWL performs hydrant flushing at least once a year.

You may experience lower than normal water pressure and a short period of water discoloration during flushing and shortly thereafter. Though the water may be discolored, it is safe to drink. However, until the water runs clear, it is advisable to avoid washing clothes, especially white fabrics. If any rust stains appear on your wet laundry, do not dry your clothes. Simply run the cold water in your house or at a hose until it is clear and then wash clothing again. This will flush any rusty water out of your water service line. Never run warm or hot water immediately after a hydrant has been flushed, as this could lead to sediment getting into your water heater. Normally rusty water events dissipate in 4-6 hours but could last longer depending on water usage in the area.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q: Why does the water system need to be routinely flushed?

A: The city's water distribution system is a complex network of pipes and storage reservoirs where sediment or deposits may naturally accumulate over time. If not removed, these materials may cause water quality deterioration, taste and odor problems, or discoloration of the water.

Q. What should I do after the flushing?

A. If the tap water is used during flushing, it could come out with sediment and discoloration. If you encounter discolored water, shut the water off and wait several minutes. After waiting, check the clarity by running cold water for a few minutes allowing new water to work its way into your pipes. If not, wait a few more minutes and check again. In some cases, you may experience slight discoloration for a few hours. This discoloration only affects the appearance of the water; it does not affect the taste or water quality.

Q. What should I do if my water pressure or volume seems low after flushing?

A. Check your faucet and washer screens for trapped debris.

If you have any further questions, please call us at 651-674-7100.