



**EAST LAKE TARPON
SPECIAL FIRE CONTROL DISTRICT**
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Information Bulletin: Private Fire Hydrants

All public and private fire hydrants are subject to regulation under the Florida Fire Prevention Code. This code specifies that fire hydrants are to be inspected, tested, and maintained on an annual basis. The Fire Prevention Code sets these standards to protect life and property by ensuring that private fire protection systems, such as private fire hydrants, work when they are needed in an emergency. The responsibility for properly maintaining a water-based fire protection system belongs to the owner of the property where the private system is located. In our fire district, this pertains to business complex owners, management company agents, and a few homeowner's associations.

To ensure that the fire hydrants under your ownership are in good working order, the maintenance, testing, and inspection of private hydrants must be performed by a registered contractor in accordance with *Florida State Statute 633.312: Inspection of fire control systems, fire hydrants, and fire protection systems*. Owners of fire hydrants shall also report all available results of testing to East Lake Tarpon Special Fire Control by January 1st of each year. Please note that in any case, the property owner assumes all liability not otherwise contractually dictated for the proper operation, maintenance, and marking of the hydrant system(s).

A guide for the fire flow testing and marking of hydrants can be found in the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) Standard 291: "*Recommended Practice for Fire Flow Testing and Marking of Hydrants*." The maintenance and periodic testing of hydrants is covered in NFPA Standard 25: "*Standard for the Inspection, Testing, and Maintenance of Water-Based Fire Protecting Systems*." Specifically, Chapter 4 of this standard addresses private water mains and their appurtenances. Additionally, an outstanding reference guide on this is the American Water Works Association (AWWA) Manual M-17 "*Installation, Field Testing and Maintenance of Fire Hydrants*."

Please contact Deputy Chief Jason Gennaro at 727.784.8668 ext. 205 or via email at jgennaro@elfr.org if you have additional questions regarding private fire hydrants.