HYDRANT INSPECTION PROCEDURE FOR HAHNVILLE VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

The following shall be the procedure used for inspection of fire hydrants located in Fire District #3.

Below is the hydrant inspection procedure for Dry-Barrel Hydrants from the AWWA-M17 Manual. This 21 step procedure will be followed when performing inspection of hydrants.

1) Check the hydrant appearance. Remove obstructions around it. If paint is needed, either paint the hydrant or schedule it for painting. Check to see whether the hydrant needs to be raised or lowered because of change in the ground-surface grade. If adjustments are needed, schedule the work.

1) On traffic-model hydrants, check the breakaway device for damage***. (All of St. Charles Parish hydrants are of this type)***

2) Remove one outlet-nozzle cap and use a listening device to check for main-valve leakage.

3) Check for the presence of water or ice in the barrel, by use of a plumb bob or other suitable means.

4) Attach a section of fire hose or other deflector to protect the street, traffic, and private property from water expelled at high velocity.

5) Open the hydrant and flush to remove foreign material from the interior and lead.

6) Close the hydrant. Remove the deflector or hose and check the operation of the drain valve by placing the palm of one hand over the outlet nozzle. Drainage should be sufficiently rapid to create noticeable suction. For no-drain hydrants, pump the water from the barrel.

7) Using a listening device, check the main value for leakage.

8) Replace the outlet-nozzle cap. Leave it loose enough to allow air to escape.

9) Open the hydrant only a few turns. Allow air to vent from the outlet-nozzle cap.

10) Tighten the outlet-nozzle cap.

11) Open the hydrant fully. Check for ease of operation. Certain water conditions may cause hard-water buildup on the stem threads of toggle and slide-gate hydrants and on the threads of wet-top hydrants. Opening and closing the hydrant repeatedly usually removes this buildup. If the hydrant has no threads in the water, but operates with difficulty, check the lubrication before proceeding with the inspection. Other problems that may make operation difficult are stuck packing and bent stems.

12) With the hydrant fully open, check for leakage at the flanges, around outlet nozzles, at the packing or seals, and around the opening stem. Repair as needed.

13) Partially close the hydrant so the drains open and water flows through under pressure for about 10 sec, flushing the drain outlets.

14) Close the hydrant completely. Back off the operating nut enough to take pressure off of the thrust bearing or packing.

15) Remove all outlet-nozzle caps, clean the threads, check the condition of the gaskets, and lubricate the threads. (Graphite powder in oil works well, as do several of the never-seize compounds) Check the ease of operation of each cap. ***(St. Charles Waterworks Department only allows food grade grease to be installed on these threads –DO NOT USE ANYTHING ELSE BESIDES FOOD GRADE GREASE.)***

16) Check outlet-nozzle cap chains or cables for free action on each cap. If the chains or cables bind, open the loop around the cap until they move freely. This will keep chains or cables from kinking when the cap is removed during an emergency.

17) Replace the caps. Tighten them, and then back off slightly so they will not be excessively tight. Leave them tight enough to prevent their removal by hand.

18) Check the lubrication of operating-nut threads. Lubricate per the manufacture's recommendations.

19) Locate and exercise the auxiliary valve. Leave it in the open position. ***(This would be the valve off of the main line which feed the hydrant)***

20) If the hydrant is inoperable, tag it with a clearly visible mark and notify the fire department. This may save fire fighters valuable time in an emergency. Schedule the hydrant for repair.

Turn in any information on hydrant inspected to Chief so the data base can be updated. Any deficiencies will be made know to the parish Waterworks Department. They in turn will notify the fire service when the deficiencies are complete for a follow up inspection.