

# 2021 FIRE HYDRANT FLUSHING SCHEDULE

## THORNE BAY WATER DEPARTMENT



The City of Thorne Bay Water Department will be flushing fire hydrants on **Tuesday & Wednesday each week between the hours of 10am and 2pm.**

Customers may experience fluctuations in pressure and/or discoloration of their water during flushing. If your residence has a history of water service interruptions during hydrant flushing's, we encourage you to avoid doing laundry or performing other tasks which require large water consumption between these hours.

If you wish to be notified if we deviate from our regular schedule of Tuesdays and Wednesdays, you may sign up for text alerts by **texting the word "thornealert" to 79516** or email [cityclerk@thornebay-ak.gov](mailto:cityclerk@thornebay-ak.gov), with the subject line to read "hydrant flushing notifications" to receive email alerts.

### 2021/2022 Schedule

Flushing is generally conducted between 10:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m., Tuesdays and Wednesdays.

# Why Are We Flushing?

Each spring, the Water Department begins its comprehensive flushing program of all the fire hydrants throughout the City. Because water mains are sized to allow adequate and safe flows for fire protection, water typically is moving through the mains at a slow rate. This slow movement allows mineral deposits to build up and accumulate in mains over time. The buildup can restrict water flow in the mains and contribute to corrosion and watercolor problems. Periodic flushing of water mains removes the mineral deposits which helps maintain the City's infrastructure and assures consistent high-quality water.

Hydrant flushing is routine maintenance for a water system and accomplishes the following:

1. Improves water quality by removing minerals that have collected in the water mains.
2. By removing these minerals, the inside diameter of a water main is increased and therefore allows a better flow of water.
3. A fire hydrant is a mechanical device; operation of a hydrant lubricates internal mechanisms.
4. Hydrant deficiencies are noted and repaired as necessary to ensure each hydrant will perform when needed for an emergency.

## When Will Flushing Be Done in My Area?

Hydrant flushing typically begins in March each year and is on-going throughout the spring, summer and fall months.

It is hard to determine a precise schedule of which hydrants will be flushed each week, so we encourage residents to plan for hydrant flushing in your neighborhood every Tuesday and Wednesday between the hours of 10am-2pm.

Some residences have a history of water service interruptions during hydrant flushing's, so we encourage you to avoid doing laundry or performing other tasks which require large water consumption between these hours.

### 2021/2022 Schedule

Flushing is generally conducted between 10:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m., Tuesdays and Wednesdays.

# How Will Flushing Affect Water Service?

When flushing hydrants close to your residence or business, you may experience periods of very low pressure or even a complete stoppage of service. In some cases of water stoppage, may be a result of the resident's water lines being "slimed".

If this occurs, it can be fixed by the resident by cleaning the screen on the main water filter into the home. Reference Exhibit #1 for instructions.

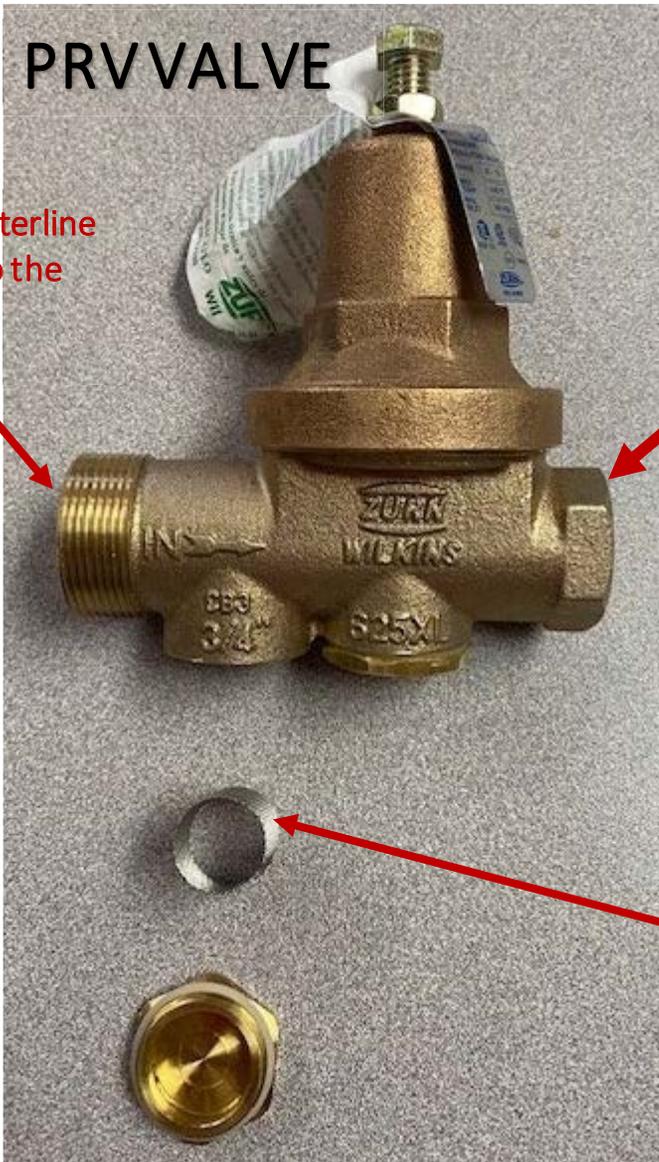
Contact City Hall for tips on how to address your water system if this occurs.

Flushing operations may also lead to discolored water, which can be drawn into homes and businesses if the water is being used during or immediately following the flushing. Such events should affect customers for a few hours at most. The discoloration is caused by iron (red color), or manganese (black color) particles being dislodged from the water main which can stain porcelain and laundry. If discoloration occurs, open the cold tap nearest the water meter to full flow until the water runs clear. In some situations, this may take 5 to 10 minutes. It is also advised that you make sure your water is clear before doing laundry or other projects for which discolored water could cause problems.

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## EXHIBIT # 1 - WATERLINE FILTER

Locate the PRV valve which is either under your home or in water meter box. Feeding from the meter box is the water filter, pictured below. Not all filters will look like the one below, if you have troubles locating this, contact City Hall at (907) 828-3380.



This is the waterline connection to the house

### Step#1:

There should be a valve handle located here, if not contact City Hall

- Turn it to shut off water

### Step#2:

- Remove screen & clean
- Then turn water on to push any slime out.
- Replace screen & tighten
- Turn water back on

