

HYDRANT METER OPERATING PROCEDURES

When completing an application for a Thornton hydrant meter, you acknowledge you have read and agree to the procedures outlined below.

1. Inspect the fire hydrant before operating.
 - a. Ensure that the operating nut on top of hydrant is in good condition.
 - b. Check the ground around the fire hydrant to ensure there are no visible leaks.
 - c. Unscrew the 2-1/2" nozzle, check to make sure there is no water coming out of the hydrant before you begin your operation.
 - d. If any of the above discrepancies are found, please contact the Utilities Operations Division, 720-977-6500. Report the hydrant location and the issue found. **DO NOT OPERATE** the hydrant until repairs have been made.
2. Secure your hydrant meter and valve to the 2-1/2" nozzle of the hydrant. Check the other two caps to ensure they are tight enough and will not leak. Check the meter connection and hydrant to ensure there are no leaks. If a leak is discovered, contact the Utilities Operations Division, 720-977-6500 immediately to report.
3. To open the hydrant, rotate clockwise. Use only fire hydrant wrenches capable of opening a pentagon operating nut measuring 1-1/2" from point to opposite flat. Do NOT use a pipe wrench. Open the hydrant slowly with the meter valve open to ensure all air escapes from the barrel of the hydrant. Afterwards, you can then close the meter valve and open the hydrant all the way. **DO NOT EXERT ANY ADDITIONAL PRESSURE** in the "ON" position once it is opened all the way.
4. Use your meter valve, not the fire hydrant to turn water on/off and to regulate the desired flow. You should not have to touch the hydrant again until securing your job site at night. Always leave the fire hydrant on while you need water.
5. To secure the fire hydrant, reverse steps 3 and 4 above. Be sure to turn the hydrant off very slowly to ensure you do not damage the fire hydrant or the water main. After you have taken the meter and valve off of the hydrant, wait five minutes before putting the cap on to give the barrel of the hydrant an opportunity to drain. Then secure the cap to the hydrant securely.
6. In the event the hydrant won't shut down or won't drain down, try step 4 and reverse one or two times. If you are still unsuccessful, please contact Utilities Operations Division, 720-977-6500.

Important Safety Reminders when Operating a Fire Hydrant

- Never stand in front of a hydrant cap that is being removed.
- Do NOT use a pipe wrench on a fire hydrant nut. Doing so can cause severe damage to the hydrant and make the hydrant inoperable in the event of an emergency.
- Always stand to the side or behind the hydrant during the opening and closing process or when the hydrant is pressurized.
- Once the hydrant is pressurized, open the fire hydrant all the way. DO NOT leave the hydrant partially open. This will cause pressurized water to vent underground and may undermine the hydrant. A fully opened hydrant takes approximately 15-20 turns to be fully open.
- Do NOT apply pressure to the fire hydrant wrench once fully opened or when turning it off. Most hydrant damage occurs by over-torquing the wrench once the hydrant is fully opened or fully closed.
- The meter and the fire hydrant are your responsibility. Do not leave a wrench attached to the fire hydrant. You are liable for injuries sustained by people playing with an unattended hydrant and/or wrench.

Hydrant Use Violations & Penalties

- Use of a hydrant meter with an expired permit
- Use of an unapproved hydrant
- Reducing 3" meter to less than 1½"
- Use of a hydrant meter without a certified Reduced Pressure Backflow preventer or air gap
- Using a pipe wrench or tool other than a proper hydrant wrench to open and close the hydrant.
- Using a hydrant meter issued by another municipality or using a hydrant meter from Thornton in another city.
- Transporting water beyond Thornton's jurisdictional boundaries

If a violation occurs, the City of Thornton has the right to confiscate the meter and apply the current fines plus any usage, damage, and labor. Please report any fire hydrant operational problems and any meter problems to Utility Operations at 720-977-6500