

Town of Grafton Fire Hydrant Maintenance Policy

November 2000

1. On or about May of each year, the Highway Department will flush out each fire hydrant for at least 5 minutes to remove any debris that might have collected in the piping system. This will be done using means approved by the Highway Department Supervisor. This will also allow a visual check of each hydrant to be sure that all caps and valves operate properly and repair any winter damage that might have occurred. Also remove any winter flagging.
2. Before cold weather of each year, the Highway Department will check each fire hydrant, to remove any standing water left in the hydrant barrel to prevent freezing and cracking the hydrant. This will be done by means approved by the Highway Department Supervisor. This will allow a visual inspection, to be sure that all caps are in place, valves operate properly and install any winter flagging material.
3. During the winter months the Highway Department will see that the hydrants are kept accessible and not covered by snow or other debris.
4. Periodically the Highway Department will check the condition of the fire pond, to be sure that the valve control rod is in its proper position (UP). That the pond is not be inhabited by a large number of fish of any type(they get sucked up and clog the strainers). And the pond is not being choked by aquatic plants. Also the grass and brush around the pond is mowed down, and an adequate access to the pond is maintained.
5. The Highway Department will maintain an inventory of hydrant repair parts to make any needed repairs as quickly as possible. Also maintain a log book of any repairs and annual work done on the hydrant system. This log will be made available for review by insurance inspectors.
6. The Fire Department will see that the Highway Department is notified if any opening of the hydrant system occurs during cold weather. This will allow the system can be checked for proper drainage, to prevent hydrant damage from freezing and splitting.