

Gallup fire hydrant maintenance, testing coming up

Written by By Bernie Dotson Sun Correspondent
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The Gallup Fire Department will conduct its annual fire hydrant testing and maintenance operation, starting June 1, officials said.

Gallup Deputy Fire Chief Jesus Morales said the program is very important as it allows the city fire department to identify the amount of water available for firefighting purposes. “This testing will be done to all of the hydrants in the city,” Morales said. “It doesn’t require that the water be turned off by the fire department or residents.”

“Fire hydrant testing and maintenance includes pressure readings, flowing water of the fire hydrant, cleaning and painting and documenting inefficiency,” Morales said. “There have been no problems with the testing over the years.” Morales noted that the GFD must get permission if the hydrant is privately-owned.

The maintenance is performed solely by the Gallup Fire Department. “There are more than 1,100 hydrants in the city,” Morales said. “We will divide the duties according to crews.”

Customers who experience discolored water problems after the hydrants are tested are encouraged to turn on a cold-water faucet outside of the house and let it run for five or 10 minutes, Morales said. “This will normally clear up the agitated water from the service line to the residence. Sediment can accumulate in the lines which can cause discoloration. It is recommended to check that both the hot and cold laundry water is clear before washing.”

“A slight decline in water quality is common immediately after fire hydrant testing occurs,”

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Morales said. "If water does not improve or further problems occur, contact the city of Gallup water department at (505) 863-1200."

Testing is expected to take place Monday through Sunday between the hours of 8 am to 4 pm. The testing will be completed by July 31.

"I have no problems with what they're doing," George Lane, 65, of west Gallup said. "It is for everyone's benefit."

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