

FIRE HYDRANT USE POLICY
River Falls Municipal Utility
River Falls, WI

Purpose of Policy:

The purpose of this policy is to define the intended use of fire hydrants, maintenance requirements, and bulk water options for purposes other than municipal use.

Use of Hydrants:

Fire hydrants are to be maintained and available at all times for the use of fire fighting, training, and water system maintenance. In order to accommodate the needs of bulk water users, such as contractors, the River Falls Municipal Utility has installed metered bulk water fill sites. Those sites are located at the Public Works/Utility Garage and the Sycamore Water Tower.

The opening or closing, damaging, tampering, connection to, or withdrawal of water from any publicly owned or privately owned fire hydrant connected to the River Falls Municipal Utility water system is expressly prohibited, except in compliance with the terms of this Policy. Authorized withdrawal of water from any fire hydrant defined above is strictly limited to the following persons and purposes:

- A. Fire fighting activities by personnel of the River Falls Fire Department and by personnel of other fire departments engaged in mutual aid situations upon request by the River Falls Fire Department.
- B. Fire fighting training activities and community events authorized by the River Falls Fire Department.
- C. Test operations to establish the rate of the flow of water available from fire hydrants by authorized personnel of the River Falls Municipal Utility water department. These test operations may include the testing necessary to furnish data needed for fire insurance evaluations or engineering evaluations for the effectiveness of the water system.
- D. Water flushing and collecting of water samples by authorized River Falls Municipal Utility water department personnel for improving or determining the quality of water in the municipal water system, or to minimize the possibility of impurities remaining in the water system from breaks, leaks, or repairs to the water system.
- E. Water withdrawal from publicly owned fire hydrants by authorized River Falls Municipal Utility water department personnel, or their designee, for the purpose of municipal maintenance, such as cleaning of sanitary or storm sewer lines.

- F. Water withdrawal for emergency purposes. Hydrant connections may be authorized in a demonstrated case of emergency. Any connection to the water system for an emergency situation requires the prior approval of the River Falls Municipal Utility. If the River Falls Municipal Utility determines that the bulk fill location will accommodate the emergency need, no additional consideration will be given to requests for hydrant connections.

- G. Water withdrawal for specific projects when bulk fill locations are not practical. Hydrant connections may be authorized for specific projects where the fill locations would not fill that need in practical manner. In the case of new subdivisions, the authorized period for this use will only be allowed after completed testing of newly installed water mains and services and prior to the request for approval of water and sanitary sewer improvements by the Utility Commission. Authorized utility personnel will complete all connections to public or private hydrants, including the opening and closing of hydrants. Only utility owned and maintained hydrant meters will be allowed for connection. Upon removal of connection, utility staff will inspect the operation of the hydrant and meter for any damages. Necessary repairs will be completed and the cost paid by the applicant. Payment for repairs needs to be completed prior to requesting Utility Commission approval of water and sanitary sewer improvements.

The following uses are to be accommodated by bulk fill locations at the Public Works/Utility Garage or Sycamore Tower:

- A. Routine construction, maintenance, lawn services.

- B. Private irrigation where seasonal irrigation meter is not practical or available.

- C. Filling of swimming pools, retaining ponds, or other ornamental purposes.

NOTES:

Any request for hydrant connection must be made with a utility Application for Hydrant Connection form, which is available at the Utility Office, 222 Lewis Street. Approved applications are good for 30 days, which is renewable depending on hydrant meter availability. The Utility maintains the right to refuse use of hydrant meters for any reason or no reason at all in order to preserve the integrity of the water system and the fire safety needs of the city. Approval will be dependent upon the practicality of using existing bulk water fill locations for the specific project, meter availability, and staffing.

All uses of bulk water are subject to the water utility rates as approved by the Wisconsin Public Service Commission. Any applicant, person, or entity that causes damage to a hydrant for any authorized or unauthorized use is responsible for full repair cost.

Use of hydrant meters will be a very rare and limited situation. If a permanent or long-term use of bulk water is necessary and the bulk fill tanks are not practical for the project, the River Falls Municipal Utility water department personnel will assist the applicant in evaluating options. In the case of construction, a permanent water service connection could be established and used as the project develops. In the case of a permanent irrigation need, seasonal meters are available if proper plumbing connections and a backflow preventer are in place.

Hydrant meter availability will be limited to dates when there is no threat of freezing, generally May 1 to October 1. If a threat of freezing is imminent, the utility maintains the right to deny meter use or to remove a meter in use to prevent damage from freezing. If a meter is damaged due to freezing, the applicant is responsible for the repair cost of those damages.

As noted previously, only authorized utility personnel will complete all connections to public and private hydrants, including the opening and closing of hydrants. Only utility owned and maintained hydrant meters will be allowed for connection to a hydrant. Upon removal of connection, utility staff will inspect the operation of the hydrant and meter for any damages. Necessary repairs will be completed and the repair cost paid by the applicant.

Any questions regarding this policy should be directed to the Water/Wastewater Superintendent at 715-426-3428 or the Lead Water Works Operator at 715-426-3492.

Approved: July 10, 2006
Amended:



A WPPI Energy community

Application #

River Falls Municipal Utilities • 222 Lewis Street • River Falls, WI 54022
715-425-0906 • Fax: 715-425-7217 • www.rfmu.org

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RIVER FALLS MUNICIPAL UTILITY APPLICATION FOR HYDRANT CONNECTION

Applicant acknowledges receipt of the River Falls Municipal Utility Hydrant Use Policy. It is clearly understood that hydrant connection for withdrawal of bulk water is not a standard practice and will only be granted in rare cases for emergency purposes or in cases where bulk water fill tanks are not practical. If the Utility determines that a bulk fill tank is appropriate for a specific situation, the hydrant connection will be denied.

Hydrant connections can only be made by authorized Utility water personnel using Utility owned and maintained meter equipment. Applicants are responsible for the replacement or repair cost of any and all damages to the meter or hydrant in cases including, but not limited to, tampering, vandalism, misuse, and theft. Charges apply to use of a meter at the specific hydrant indicated and may not be relocated by the applicant. Use of the meter on a different hydrant will require a new application. All applications will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis.

Water usage cost is based on rates approved by the Wisconsin Public Service Commission.

CUSTOMER INFORMATION

Applicant name _____ Contact name _____

Home phone _____ Cell phone _____

Fax number _____

Billing address _____ Apt# _____, River Falls, WI 54022
Street

Intended use of Hydrant, including approximate number of gallons:

Location of Hydrant (attach site map of the location of the hydrant)

Date(s) Hydrant will be used (cannot exceed 30 days): _____

NOTE: Meter will be collected by the RFMU Water Department after 30 days or on the last date listed above unless other arrangements have been made by appointment with the Utility at 715-425-0906.

OFFICE USE - Deposit amount \$40.00 fee on billing statement

Form of Payment: _____ Check # _____ Receipt # _____

Deposit Refunded Date: _____ Water Use Invoice Issued: _____

WATER DEPARTMENT USE

Type of Meter: _____ Meter I.D. _____ Start Reading _____

Final Reading: _____ Hydrant Inspected By: _____

Meter Inspected By: _____ Total Water Used: _____

Damage Cost (if any): _____