

The Woodlands Fire Department Operational Guidelines

A-14 – OUT-OF-SERVICE / OBSTRUCTED HYDRANTS

1.0 PURPOSE

- 1.1 To ensure timely communication between The Woodlands Fire Department (TWFD) and appropriate MUD operators (The Woodlands Joint Powers Agency- TWJPA, and Municipal District Services- MDS) regarding fire hydrant problems in The Woodlands response area

2.0 SCOPE

- 2.1 This guideline will be utilized when TWFD receives notification from a MUD operator regarding an Out-Of-Service (OOS) flushing valve/fire hydrant.
- 2.2 This guideline will be utilized when TWFD crews encounter an OOS fire hydrant requiring attention from a MUD operator that has not previously been reported or marked as OOS by either TWFD or the MUD operator.
- 2.3 This guideline will be utilized when TWFD crews encounter a fire hydrant that is obstructed or impaired as defined by the Uniform Fire Code (UFC) chapter 1001.7 and 1001.8 (see Table A14-1).

3.0 FIRE DEPARTMENT ACTIONS UPON NOTIFICATION FROM A MUD OPERATOR

- 3.1 MUD operators routinely notify TWFD Administration via fax of fire hydrants that have been placed out-of-service or in-service. Upon receipt of such notification, TWFD Administration will broadcast the fax to all TWFD fire stations and retain the original fax in the Flushing Valve Master Log located at the Administrative Assistant's work station.
- 3.2 Upon receipt of notification at the station, the Company Officer (CO) will determine if the valve identified is in their station's still alarm response area. If not, the fax may be discarded. If so, the crew will report to the location and:
 - A. If the hydrant has been placed OOS by the MUD operator, the crew will determine whether the hydrant has an OOS steamer marker in place. If not, the crew will affix one to the steamer connection.
 - B. If the hydrant has been placed In-Service by the MUD operator, the crew will test the functionality of the hydrant. If the hydrant is in working order, any OOS

The Woodlands Fire Department Operational Guidelines

A-14 – OUT-OF-SERVICE / OBSTRUCTED HYDRANTS

steamer markers in place will be removed and returned to the station. If the hydrant is not in working order, an OOS steamer maker will be left on the hydrant and the hydrant failure will be reported to the MUD operator. See Table A14-2 for appropriate contact information.

- 3.3 If a crew is unable to physically check the status of a hydrant for which notification has been received, the CO will pass the fax form to the relieving CO at shift change, and the oncoming crew will be responsible for checking the hydrant.
- 3.4 After a hydrant for which notification has been received has been physically checked and acted on by TWFD, the fax form at the station may be discarded.

4.0 FIRE DEPARTMENT ACTIONS UPON ENCOUNTERING AN OOS / OBSTRUCTED HYDRANT

- 4.1 If during the course of normal activities any TWFD crew encounters a fire hydrant that is OOS, and does not already have an OOS steamer marker in place, the crew will:
 - A. Affix an OOS steamer marker to the hydrant and document the 5-digit number stamped on the brass tag (if equipped), as well as the nearest address or intersection.
 - B. As early as practicable, the CO will notify the appropriate MUD operator, giving the location of the hydrant and the problems encountered. See table A14-2 for appropriate contact information.
- 4.2 If during the course of normal activities any TWFD crew encounters a fire hydrant that does not have at least three feet of clear space around the circumference of the hydrant, or is otherwise obstructed or not discernable as described in Table A14-1 by items considered not readily movable (posts, fences, growth, vegetation, etc.), the crew will document the 5-digit number stamped on the brass tag (if equipped), as well as the nearest address or intersection, and the CO will, as early as practicable, notify the appropriate MUD operator, giving the location of the hydrant and the problems encountered. See table A14-2 for appropriate contact information.

The Woodlands Fire Department Operational Guidelines

A-14 – OUT-OF-SERVICE / OBSTRUCTED HYDRANTS

Table A14-1

Applicable Uniform Fire Code (UFC) Sections
<p>The following sections taken from the Uniform Fire Code, 1997 edition, either contain references to fire hydrants and fire hydrant systems or are referenced by other sections that address fire hydrants and fire hydrant systems.</p>
<p>1001.7 Obstruction and Impairment of Fire Hydrants and Fire-Protection Equipment.</p>
<p>1001.7.1 General Posts, fences, vehicles, growth, trash, storage and other materials or things shall not be placed or kept near fire hydrants, fire department inlet connections or fire department control valves in a manner that would prevent such equipment or fire hydrants from being immediately discernible. The fire department shall not be deterred or hindered from gaining access to fire-protection equipment or hydrants.</p>
<p>1001.7.2 Clear space around hydrants. A 3-foot (.9144m) clear space shall be maintained around the circumference of fire hydrants except as otherwise required or approved.</p>
<p>1001.8 Marking of Fire-protection Equipment and Fire Hydrants. Fire-protection equipment and fire hydrants shall be clearly identified in an approved manner to prevent obstruction by parking and other obstructions.</p>

Table A14-2

The Woodlands Water District Contact Information			
<u>Agency</u>	<u>Contact</u>	<u>Email</u>	<u>Phone</u>
The Woodlands Joint Powers Agency (TWJPA) – (Montgomery County)	Mike Mooney*	mmooney@wpja.org	281.367.1271 (main) ext. 640 or 647 for immediate help
Municipal District Services (MDS) – (Harris County- VOCP and May Valley- VOSR)	Dispatcher	N/A	281.290.6503 (24-hr)

*prefers contact by email