	Cincinnati Fire Department Fire Training Supplement DRILL BOOK	SECTION #3 Engine Co. Operations
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TOPIC #10 PRIVATE FIRE HYDRANTS

PRIVATE FIRE HYDRANTS:

Private fire hydrants are hydrants which do not belong to the City of Cincinnati and which are located in areas other than a public street or easement. (A public street is one which is used as a public thoroughfare, whether the street is dedicated or not). All hydrants which belong to the City of Cincinnati or any of its Departments or Divisions will be considered to be public hydrants.

For Fire Department purposes, private hydrants can be divided into two classes:

Class 1: Hydrants on governmental property, other than that which belongs to the City of Cincinnati. This would include but not be limited to the Board of Education, MSD, SORTA, Hamilton County, the State of Ohio or the Federal Government.


Class 2: All other private hydrants.

All City-owned hydrants which need repair shall be properly reported to the Supervisor of Fire Hydrant Maintenance, who will arrange for their repair.

All Class 1 private hydrants that need repair can either be repaired by a private contractor at the owner's expense or by the Water Works, also at the owners expense. If the owner requests repair by the Water Works, he must supply a written document requesting the repair under the name of a responsible individual.

All Class 2 private hydrants that need repair must be repaired by a private contractor except in the rarest of cases when, due to extreme emergency conditions, it is determined by the Supervisor of Fire Hydrant Maintenance that it is in the best interest of Public Safety to have the hydrant immediately repaired by the Water Works. In this case, the owner will be billed for all costs which are incurred by the Fire Division.

The Cincinnati Fire Prevention Code requires that all required private fire hydrants must be kept in operable condition at all times. When either a Class 1 or Class 2 private hydrants are found to need repair, orders from the CFPC should be issued to have the defects corrected. If, after a reasonable time, proper repairs have not been made, refer the violation to the Supervisor of Fire Hydrant Maintenance for prosecution.

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SERVICING PRIVATE HYDRANTS:

All private hydrants that can be used for fire service are to be serviced by the fire companies the same as public hydrants where possible. This includes routine and winter inspections.

To test and flush annually or after a major repair, a written permission form must be signed by the owner of the property or his representative. Inform him that he will be billed by the Water Works for having a non-metered hydrant tested and flushed. A Water Works inspector will visit the premises for the purpose of reseating outlets, reading the detector check meter and estimating the amount of water used. The Water Works fee does not apply to fully metered hydrants. If there is any objection, do not test and flush the hydrant. However, inform the owner or his representative that he must either test and flush the hydrant, or have it tested and flushed, in the presence of a Fire Division representative at least once a year as directed by the Cincinnati Fire Prevention Code. Completed permission forms shall be forwarded to the Supervisor of Fire Hydrant Maintenance.


Some Class 2 private hydrants that are not metered are sealed by the Water Works. Whenever these seals are broken for any reason, notify the Supervisor of Fire Hydrant Maintenance and follow such notification with a Form 47. Return the broken seal with the F-47, if it is available. Metered hydrants cannot be distinguished from non-metered ones, except by this seal.

When the Fire Division uses private hydrants, the amount of water discharged is computed by the time of use and rate of discharge. The particulars are to be forwarded on a F-47.

Detector checks are placed in large lines to some non-metered private hydrants by the Water Works Department to detect any flow from these hydrants. A standard charge to the owner is made when a flow is detected. When hydrants having these detector checks are used by the Fire Division, a F-47 should immediately be forwarded, so the owner will not be charged for the flow.

There will be no charge for water used for fire fighting purposes, provided the owners of the property served, or their agents, notify the Water Works in writing within 48 hours after water is used for fire fighting purposes.

Records of private hydrants shall be kept the same as public hydrants, except that they will be marked Class 1 or Class 2, as the case may be. All company diary information shall be kept up to date at all times.

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UNAUTHORIZED USE OF FIRE HYDRANTS:

It is unlawful to use, or to be connected to use, water from a fire hydrant (or other non-metered source) unless persons engaged in its use are operating in a public works capacity or a properly authorized temporary permit tag is attached to the connection. This permit is obtained through the office of the Supervisor of Fire Hydrant Maintenance.

Whenever a member of the Fire Department discovers a violator using a hydrant without a proper permit, he shall gather as much information as possible, including witnesses' names and then contact the Company Officer, who in turn will contact the Supervisor of Fire Hydrant Maintenance, who will advise the proper course of action.