



Fire Hydrant Fact Sheet

- WSSC Water maintains more than 43,000 fire hydrants throughout Montgomery and Prince George's counties of Maryland.
- Fire hydrants are made of cast iron materials and can last more than 50 years. However, the internal working parts, such as gaskets and seats, require routine maintenance or replacement. This is the reason why WSSC Water has a proactive inspection program.
- WSSC Water created the HyLo (Hydrant Locator) application for use by fire departments. This valuable app shows the location of all WSSC Water hydrants and their working status.
- WSSC Water has a robust fire hydrant inspection and maintenance program to ensure public safety and adequate fire protection for communities.
- WSSC Water crews physically inspect each hydrant once every three years. Approximately 13,000 inspections are conducted in the two counties every year.
- During a typical inspection, WSSC Water crews:
 - Conduct a visual inspection
 - Conduct routine maintenance (oiling and greasing cylinders, exercise valve, replace caps as necessary, etc.)
 - Check fire hydrant against WSSC Water records, including age of fire hydrant
 - Measure the water pressure and flow rate
 - Compare water pressure and flow rate against historical data
- WSSC Water conducts its hydrant inspections on a three-year cycle because of the size of our system. Our 41,000-plus hydrants are spread out over 5,700 miles of water pipes. This cycle is based on the amount of time it takes to conduct a full inspection of each hydrant.
- Most of the inspections occur during the summer months. More than 10,000 are conducted between April and September.
- WSSC Water's goal is to repair every hydrant taken out of service due to an unplanned disruption within seven calendar days. WSSC Water achieves this goal 95 percent of the time.