

Sandusky Fire Department

Bureau of Fire Prevention & Risk Reduction

Adopt a Hydrant Program



Program Intent

Working in partnership with the Sandusky Fire Department (SFD) and the City of Sandusky Water Department the Adopt-A-Hydrant program encourages neighborhoods and civic organizations to participate in the preservation of fire hydrants in neighborhoods or other areas throughout the city. There are about 1,000 fire hydrants scattered throughout the city and some are in need of upkeep and maintenance such as painting.

Program Terms

- SFD and the interested group will jointly identify hydrants that will be adopted and develop a locator of selected hydrants.
- SFD will provide necessary training to clean, paint and clear hydrants for improved visibility.
- The Sandusky Water Department will provide the necessary paint, tools and materials to be used on the fire hydrant.
- Fire Hydrants will be painted no more than once every five years or as approved on an exception basis.
- The Sandusky Water Department will inspect and refurbished all fire hydrants.

Maintenance Steps

- Clear vegetation and lose objects from around fire hydrant so it is visible from the street. There should be at least a three-foot cleared area around the fire hydrant.
- Remove loose material and debris from the hydrant, i.e., paint, weeds, dirt.
- Clean hydrant with wire brushes and rags to remove dirt and excessive or peeling paint. All loose paint must be removed prior to painting. Be sure to lay plastic sheeting or cardboard around base, so all paint chips can be collected. This will also keep paint off areas having grass or plants.
- Remove fire hydrant caps, and clean threads on hydrant body and caps with wire brush.

- Paint caps and bonnet (top) with white paint and let dry while you paint main body.
- The bonnet trim will be painted a specified color appropriate to the gallons per minute the hydrant provides.
- Tape steamer cap threads, so no paint will get on them, and then paint main body of hydrant with red paint.
- Remove tape as soon as you are through painting the body with red paint.
- Once body of fire hydrant is dry, lightly lubricate steamer cap threads with appropriate oil (white mineral oil, which is food grade).
- Check gaskets and reinstall steamer caps to fire hydrant body and hand tighten. Assure cap is properly secured but without over tightening. This step will be demonstrated during your training session.

Fire Hydrant Regulations

2007 Ohio Fire Code section (d) 508.5.4 - Obstruction:

Posts, fences, vehicles, growth, trash, storage and other materials or objects shall not be placed or kept near fire hydrants, fire department inlet connections or fire protection system control valves in a manner that would prevent such equipment or fire hydrants from being immediately discernable. The fire department shall not be deterred or hindered from gaining immediate access to fire protection equipment or fire hydrants.

2007 Ohio Fire Code section (e) 508.5.5 - Clear space around hydrants:

A 3-foot clear space shall be maintained around the circumference of fire hydrants except as otherwise required or approved.

Sign Up!

To participate in the Adopt-A-Hydrant program, call the Sandusky Fire Department Bureau of Fire Prevention and Risk Reduction 419-627-5823