

6-33 PRIVATE FIRE HYDRANT INSTALLATION AND MAINTENANCE

Section 1. – Purpose

To establish installation and maintenance standards, for fire hydrants located on private property to insure compatibility with the public water infrastructure supporting fire protection, and related needs.

Section 2. – Definitions

Hydrant: The above ground appliance (as defined by the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA)) used to provide a water supply to fire apparatus in the event of a fire or other emergency.

Private hydrant: A fire hydrant within a private residential or commercial development, whose water is provided by the Town, but the underground piping in which the water moves and the hydrants are owned and maintained by the property owner.

Hydrant owner: The person or entity (or their designee) according to Town records, that is responsible for tax payments (or other payments to the Town) for the property on which the hydrant is installed.

Hydrant maintenance: The process of regular maintenance of a fire hydrant to determine its capability to provide the desired water supply for which it was designed; and to exercise all valves, caps, etc.; and to lubricate and paint as needed.

Applicable Standard: American Water Works Association, Manual of Water Supply Practices, M-17, Installation, Field Testing and Maintenance of Fire Hydrants, fourth edition or newer.

Section 3 – Plan Review

The plan review process by the permit granting authority for both residential and commercial building shall include an assessment of fire protection needs by the Fire Chief or his/her designee and the Director of the Public Works Department or his/her designee (“Director”). If it is determined during the assessment that the public water infrastructure is not sufficient to support the fire protection needs of the project, the Fire Chief (or designee) may require the installation of additional fire hydrants (“Private Hydrant”).

Section 4. – Initial Installation

1. The Hanover Department of Public Works (“Department”) shall oversee the installation of all Private Hydrants. Installation shall conform to all applicable standards.
2. Failure to meet these standards shall be cause to deny either a temporary or final Occupancy Permit by the Building Commissioner.
3. Upon installation and prior to the flowing of any water via a newly installed Private Hydrant the Water Division of the Department shall be contacted and shall inspect the Private Hydrant. No water shall be allowed to flow through any Private Hydrant without documentation by the Department of the inspections and a determination by the Fire Chief and Director that the Private Hydrant complies with all applicable standards, rules and regulations.

Section 5. - Identification of Private Hydrants

1. All Private Fire Hydrants shall be painted as follows:
 - a. Barrel – Safety Yellow
 - b. Caps & Stem – Black
 - c. Bonnet – White
2. All Private Hydrants shall be marked by an approved identification means.

Section 6. – Maintenance

1. Once installed, the Property Owner shall ensure any Private Hydrants are inspected regularly, but in no event less than once annually, to insure satisfactory operation.
2. The inspection shall be performed to meet the applicable standard for hydrant inspection standards, and include, at minimum:
 - a. Verify ability to find hydrant, debris cleared
 - b. Verify ability to open hydrant
 - c. Verify ability to utilize hydrant for fire protection or maintenance purposes.
 - d. Verify hydrant drains properly
 - e. Reasonably assess status of paint and repaint, if necessary
 - f. Lubricate all caps with food grade grease
 - g. Confirm auxiliary valve is open
 - h. Confirm a measured clearance of no less than fourteen inches between the bottom of all connections and the ground or installed base.
 - i. Tag inoperable hydrants with a clearly visible mark.
3. The Department of Public Works – Water Division shall be contacted prior to the flowing of any water via private fire hydrants.
4. The Fire Department shall be notified if such a water flow could also result in receipt of a false alarm from an installed fire suppression system.

Section 7 – Authorized Inspection

1. The owner of a Private Hydrant System or Hydrant (collectively, “hydrant”) located on non-Town owned property shall maintain and have such hydrant annually inspected by a qualified person or entity chosen from a list provided by the DPW.
2. Such inspection must be performed to the standards required herein and must be reported to the DPW and Fire Department in a format approved by the Town

Section 8. – Notifications and Access

1. The Fire Department shall be contacted regarding any Private Hydrant that is taken out of service immediately upon discovery of the issue placing the hydrant out of service.

2. Upon completion of any work performed on a Private Hydrant, prior to placing a Private Hydrant back in service, the Water Division of the Department shall be contacted and shall inspect the Private Hydrant. No water shall be allowed to flow through any Private Hydrant without documentation by the Department of the inspection and a determination by the Fire Chief and Director that the Private Hydrant complies with all applicable standards, rules and regulations.
3. In accordance with M.G.L. Ch.148, Section 27A no person will shut off, disconnect, remove or disable a private hydrant without Town approval.
4. The Department of Public Works shall have access onto properties containing Private Hydrants, as necessary, for the purposes of inspecting for leaks.

Section 9 – Duty to repair

1. Upon notice of required repair issued by the Fire Department, Water Department or inspecting plumber, the property owner must complete such repairs and certify that the hydrant meets the inspection standards herein, within 30 days of such notice.

Section 10. – Penalties – Failure to Inspect, Failure to Repair, Non-compliance, Fraud

1. The penalty/fines for violation of this bylaw shall be as follows:
 - a. Failure to have hydrants maintained annually - \$300
 - b. Failure to notify the Water Division, Department of Public Works, and the Fire Department of failed hydrants, and furnish a repair plan - \$300
 - c. Failure to mark and/or clear snow from hydrants - \$100
 - d. Failure to remove landscape material(s) from hydrant - \$300
 - e. Failure to notify the Water Division, Department of Public Works, and the Fire Department 24 hours prior to performing maintenance procedures - \$100
2. Prior to commencing enforcement action for a violation of this bylaw, the enforcing person shall give the property owner a 30 day written notice to comply with the bylaw. Each day a hydrant is not in compliance with this by-law, and each hydrant found to be in violation of this bylaw, shall constitute a separate offense. All penalties and fines shall be payable to the Town's General Fund. Enforcement of this bylaw may be made pursuant to the General Laws, c. 40, sec. 21D, and the Town's General Bylaws, Article I, Section 4.0, and any other applicable enforcement authority.

(Adopted May 2019), (Approved by the Attorney General July, 2019)