

Dear Resident,

On behalf of Loudoun Water, and in cooperation with Loudoun County Department of Fire, Rescue and Emergency Management, I am writing today to inform you that your community of Elysian Heights has been selected to take part in an important pilot program aimed at improving the understanding of fire hydrant capabilities in rural communities serviced by Loudoun Water.

In accordance with the Loudoun County rural land policy, your community well system was not designed nor intended to yield flow rates needed for firefighting purposes. For rural communities, in most cases, Loudoun County Department of Fire, Rescue and Emergency Management has required that developers provide water storage units (underground tanks), ponds, or other sources for use by their tankers in fighting fires.

The hydrants connected to the potable water distribution system are for the purpose of testing and flushing the pipelines periodically for maintenance. However, there may be cases where the flow is sufficient to supplement the other resources that the Department of Fire, Rescue and Emergency Management maintains in these communities for fighting fires. It is the goal of this program to clearly identify the capabilities of these hydrants so that firefighters responding to an emergency will have immediate, on-site information about what resources are at their disposal.

To begin the program, Loudoun Water will assist Loudoun County Fire, Rescue and Emergency Management in identifying the optimal hydrants available to fill tanker trucks within your community. These hydrants will be identified as supplemental resources for their tankers within their operation plans.

Working together, Loudoun Water and the Department of Fire, Rescue and Emergency Management will then take the following steps, beginning on or about June 13, 2011:

- 1) Hydrants that are capable of supplying a flow rate greater than 500 gallons per minute (gpm) under normal conditions at maximum customer demand will have the bonnet and nozzle caps painted orange.
- 2) Hydrants that cannot supply a flow rate of at least 500 gpm under normal conditions at maximum customer demand will have the bonnet and nozzle caps painted black.
- 3) Loudoun Water will periodically conduct flow tests to confirm hydrant flow capabilities and keep the Department of Fire, Rescue and Emergency Management informed of any substantive changes.
- 4) A standard sign or disc for hydrants will be developed and used to indicate they are for Emergency Use Only.

Thank you for your time and the opportunity to better serve you. After an initial assessment period the effectiveness of the pilot program will be reviewed and potential modifications will be considered prior to full implementation. You will be informed about the program's results before it is introduced in other rural developments served by Loudoun Water. For more information about the program's progress, please contact Mike McGill, Loudoun Water's Manager of Community Relations, at (571) 291-7700.

Sincerely,

Roddy Mowe  
Director, Operations and Maintenance  
Loudoun Water

