

Application, Policy, and Procedures for the use of Fire Hydrant Meters

March 2024



**City of Wichita Falls
Public Utilities**

FAQ

1. **How long does it take to install the meter after the application is submitted?**
 - a. It can take up to 5-7 business days for Water Distribution to install the Fire Hydrant Meter.
2. **How much does the City of Wichita Falls charge for water on a Fire Hydrant meter?**
 - a. There is a Base Charge of \$208.78 per month for the meter.
 - b. Charges for Water Use are \$4.31 per consumption.
 - i. Each Consumption is 748 gallons.
3. **What happens if I go past the 90-day use of the Fire Hydrant meter?**
 - a. If a **90-day extension** form is not submitted, the meter will be removed and the account will be closed.
 - i. **90-day extension** forms can be found on the city's website in the Utility Billing and Collections Division.
4. **What if I need to move the location of my Fire Hydrant meter?**
 - a. A move order must be submitted for Water Distribution to move the Fire Hydrant meter.
 - i. A \$50 fee will be applied to the bill for each move order.
5. **What happens if the Fire Hydrant meter is damaged or stolen?**
 - a. The customer is liable should anything happen to the meter.
 - b. If the Fire Hydrant meter is stolen, contact the Wichita Falls PD and Utility Collections immediately.
 - i. Meter damage charges will be assessed on the monthly bill.
6. **What happens if I am delinquent on my monthly bill payment?**
 - a. If the monthly bill is 2 months or more behind, the Fire Hydrant meter can be removed and the account can be closed without additional notice.
 - i. Utility Collections gives customers until their second month due date before disconnection.

Terms and Conditions for Use of Fire Hydrant Meters

The City of Wichita Falls recognizes the short-term need of contractors and selected other persons to take water from a City owned/operated fire hydrant, therefore a Fire Hydrant Meter may be provided by the City of Wichita Falls, under the following conditions.

Failure to comply with the requirements outlined below may result in removal of the Fire Hydrant Meter and cancellation of the account.

1. Application Process

At the time of making Initial Application (See Form A: Fire Hydrant Meter Use Application) with Utility Collections, the permittee is required to provide the following information:

- a) **Name, address, telephone number(s) and a copy of a photo I.D. of the firm representative that will be responsible for the meter, the reduced pressure zone (RPZ) backflow prevention device, the fire hydrant and the surrounding area.**
- b) Billing information, to include the name and address of person or firm to be billed for monthly charges.
- c) Name and phone number of local contact for the Company that is making application for the Fire Hydrant Meter.
- c) Address where meter is desired to be set.

NOTE: The City of Wichita Falls Water Distribution Division will evaluate the requested fire hydrant and determine if it is feasible to place a Fire Hydrant Meter at that location. If not, then Water Distribution will coordinate with the permittee for an alternate fire hydrant location.

2. Duration

Fire Hydrant Meters are issued for periods not to exceed 90 calendar days. At the end of 90 calendar days, the City of Wichita Falls will remove the Fire Hydrant Meter.

Use of a Fire Hydrant Meter for more than 90 calendar days must be pre-approved by the Utilities Operations Manager, or converted to a permanent tap. The permittee must request a 90 calendar day extension from the Utilities Operations Manager, in writing, at least 10 calendar days before the expiration of the initial 90 calendar day period. The permittee must use the City's Extension Form when making their requests. (See Form B: Fire Hydrant Meter 90-day Extension Request)

Any Fire Hydrant Meter with no usage for a period of (1) month will be removed by the City of Wichita Falls and the deposit refunded.

3. Use

All water withdrawn from the City of Wichita Falls Public Water System is required to be metered. Therefore, any water drawn from a fire hydrant can only be done so through a Fire Hydrant Meter. **Straight hook-ups to a fire hydrant are not allowed. Any hose and/or other straight connections found on City owned/operated fire hydrants will be removed and retained by the City of Wichita Falls. An unmetered straight connection to a City owned/operated fire hydrant may be grounds for filing of a complaint in the Municipal Court and/or loss of service.**

The Fire Hydrant Meter and RPZ shall be, and remain the property of the City of Wichita Falls and may not be assigned or subleased by the permittee, nor shall the permittee allow the use of the Fire Hydrant Meter by any other party.

City Ordinance Section 106-96 (Control of meters and equipment, tampering with prohibited)

The Fire Hydrant Meter is issued only for the use described within the application, and shall not be used to create a permanent water source or attached in any manner to private plumbing.

4. Deposits and Fees

A \$1900.00 equipment deposit and a \$100.00 billing deposit are required to be paid to Utility Collections at the time of establishing the account.

City Ordinance Section 106-129 (Fees for Services Provided by the Public Utilities Division), paragraph (c)

The following charges will be assessed monthly against each installed meter and should be paid by the due date shown on the bill.

- a) Standard rate for amount of water used.
- b) A standard readiness-to-serve charge, based on the meter size (3").
- c) A service charge of \$50.00 for each time a meter is moved.

Note: This service charge will not apply to the initial setting or the final removal of the Fire Hydrant Meter.)

All forms and payments must be sent into City Hall before process is to begin.

- a) Mail: P.O. Box 1440, Wichita Falls, TX 76307
- b) Delivered: 705 8th Street., Wichita Falls, TX 76301
- c) Email: firehydrants@wichitafallstx.gov

5. Cross Connection Control

The potential for cross-connection is of particular concern to the City of Wichita Falls. Therefore, the City of Wichita Falls provides a Certified Reduced Pressure Zone (RPZ) backflow prevention device with all of its Fire Hydrant Meters.

The City will properly install the Fire Hydrant Meter and associated RPZ, making sure it is properly braced and continuously supported in accordance with Figure 1 (*Detail for Support of Fire Hydrant Meter RPZ Assembly*) immediately downstream of the Fire Hydrant Meter so as to prevent damage to the hydrant and meter.

City personnel will remove any Fire Hydrant Meter found attached to a hydrant without an approved RPZ. Additionally, if City personnel find that the City provided RPZ has been tampered with in any way, the Fire Hydrant Meter will be removed immediately. Such actions by the permittee are a violation of the City of Wichita Falls City Code and will result in enforcement actions taken against the permittee, including forfeiture of the permittee's deposit.

6. Setting/Moving/Removing

The permittee is not allowed to remove or move a Fire Hydrant Meter or its associated RPZ, at any time.

The City of Wichita Falls Public Works Department will secure the Fire Hydrant Meter to the fire hydrant, using a chain/cable and a lock. Fire Hydrant Meters will be set, moved and removed solely by Public Utilities authorized personnel only.

If the City of Wichita Falls Public Works Department or Utility Collections Division finds that the permittee has cut the City's securing devices and the Fire Hydrant Meter has been moved to another location, then the City of Wichita Falls will confiscate the Fire Hydrant Meter and the permittee's deposit forfeited along with the privilege of using another Fire Hydrant Meter for 12 months.

Requests to move a Fire Hydrant Meter or to close an account are to be in writing (no telephone calls) from the person or firm responsible for the meter. The permittee must use the City's Form (See Form C: Fire Hydrant Meter Move/Close Account Request) when making their written requests to move or close the account. The written request is to be submitted to Utilities Collections Manager either by mail, 705 8th Street Wichita Falls, Texas 76301), email, firehydrants@wichitafallstx.gov

The Fire Hydrant Meter will be removed upon non-payment of the monthly bill. If the bill is not paid by the close of the last business day of the month following the billing date, Utility Collections will notify Water Distribution to remove the Fire Hydrant Meter. The permittee will be required to pay the balance due, and submit another deposit.

7. Reading

Fire Hydrant Meters will be read by the Utility Collections Division between the 20th and 25th of every month.

If the Fire Hydrant Meter registers a negative reading (meter register has moved backwards), then the permittee will be charged for the negative reading plus penalty to be determined by Utility Collections in coordination with Public Works.

8. Damage/Tampering/Theft

The permittee is solely responsible for the care of the Fire Hydrant Meter, the Reduced Pressure Zone backflow prevention device and the associated fire hydrant, as well as their proper operation, until the meter is removed by the Water Distribution Division. For proper operation of the fire hydrant, see Attachment A (Fire Hydrant Operating Procedures).

The permittee is responsible for the proper winterization of the Fire Hydrant Meter, the Reduced Pressure Zone backflow prevention device and the associated fire hydrant during periods of freezing weather.

The permittee shall not attempt to repair or adjust the Fire Hydrant Meter, the Reduced Pressure Zone backflow prevention device or the associated fire hydrant in any manner. The permittee shall notify the Water Distribution Division (940-761-4333) immediately upon the discovery of any damage to any of the City's equipment.

The permittee will be charged for damages caused by improper use or neglect of the Fire Hydrant Meter, the Reduced Pressure Zone backflow prevention device or the associated fire hydrant.

Any damage to the Fire Hydrant Meter, the Reduced Pressure Zone backflow prevention device or the associated fire hydrant, as well as any missing parts, that will result in any repair costs to the Fire Hydrant Meter/RPZ/Hydrant, including a restocking or ordering charge and labor charge shall be deducted from the Fire Hydrant Meter damage deposit.

If the Fire Hydrant Meter and/or RPZ is stolen while in the possession of the permittee, the permittee will bear the full responsibility for the cost of the Fire Hydrant Meter and/or RPZ.

- a) The theft should be reported immediately to the Wichita Falls Police Department 940-720-5000 and to the Utility Collections Division (940-761-7414).
- b) The account will be closed and the deposit will be applied for failure of the permittee to return the meter.
- c) A Police Report must be submitted to Public Works in order to receive a replacement meter.

If the Fire Hydrant Meter has been stolen before the time of the monthly reading, an estimate of water usage will be determined by the City, based on the history of usage, size of project and other factors. The City's estimate of the amount of estimation and the cost of such water service shall be final and un-appealable.

9. Water Conservation

All hoses and devices used on the outlet side of the Meter/RPZ assembly must be in good working order as to prevent leakage and water waste from the Fire Hydrant Meter. Failure to keep hoses and devices in good working order will result in the permittee being given 5 days' written notice of the City's intention to shutoff water service. If after the 5-day period the deficiencies have not been corrected, then the Water Distribution Division will pull the Fire Hydrant Meter from the job site until such time as the permittee can correct the deficiencies.

City Ordinance Section 106-188 (Approved fixtures required to prevent water waste; notice to discontinue service)

It will be at the discretion of the City of Wichita Falls to restrict the amount of water withdrawn from all Fire Hydrant Meters due to the declaration of an appropriate Drought Stage detailed within the City's Drought Contingency Plan.

City Ordinance Section 106-186 (Water shortage/authority of department)

It will be at the discretion of the City of Wichita Falls to recall/remove a Fire Hydrant Meter due to the declaration of an appropriate Drought Stage detailed within the City's Drought Contingency Plan.

City Ordinance Section 106-186 (Water shortage/authority of department)

10. Acknowledgment

Permittee acknowledges the terms and conditions set forth in this document regarding the use of Fire Hydrant Meters, Reduced Pressure Zone backflow prevention devices and City owned Fire Hydrants.

Permittee further agrees to the terms and conditions.

Signature

Date

Printed Name

Attachment A:

Fire Hydrant Operating Procedures For Fire Hydrant Meters

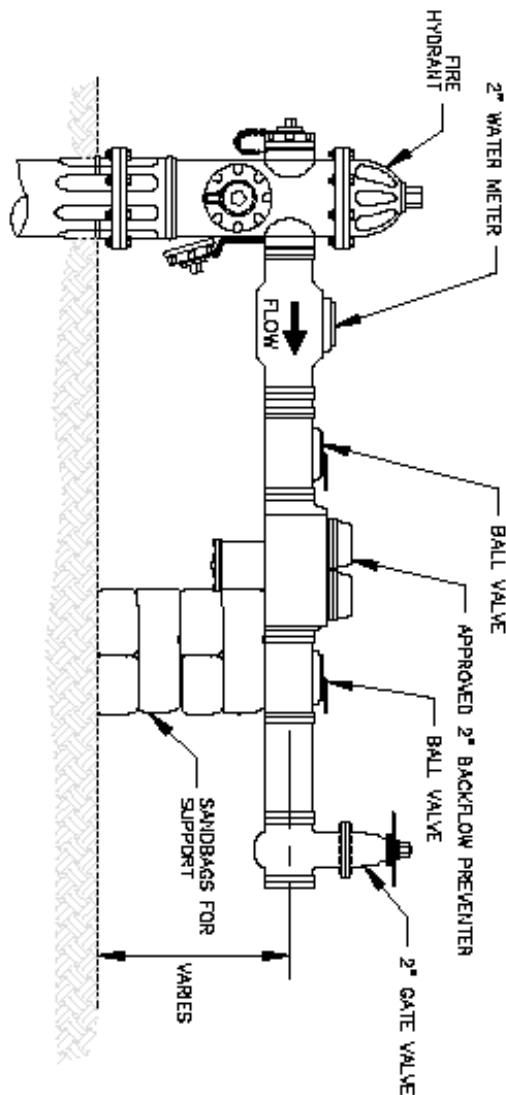
- 1) The Permittee is responsible for following these procedures and may be held liable for the repairs, and have other enforcement actions taken against them for not adhering to these procedures.
- 2) Prior to operation of the fire hydrant, the permittee shall verify that the hydrant, meter and RPZ are secure and not movable, and in the event that they are unstable, damaged, leaking or unsafe, should immediately stop using them and call the Water Distribution Division (940-761-4333) to report the situation.
- 3) The Permittee shall use a fire hydrant wrench specifically designed and manufactured to open and close fire hydrants. The permittee is not allowed to use any additional torqueing device to open or close a fire hydrant.
- 4) The Permittee shall operate the fire hydrant properly by slowly opening the hydrant to a fully open position when in use, and slowly closing the hydrant to a completely closed position when not in use.

NOTE: When a fire hydrant is first opened, the barrel or housing of the hydrant fills with water. Fire hydrants are designed with a drain or weep hole at the base of the hydrant, which allows any water contained in the hydrant to drain, which keeps, a) the water from stagnating in the barrel of the hydrant, b) the internal parts of the hydrant from rusting or seizing, and c) the hydrant from freezing during cold temperatures. A hydrant operated in a partially opened or closed position will cause water to constantly blow out from the hydrants drain into the bedding material that supports the hydrant, thus possibly causing damage to the hydrant and creating a safety hazard.

- 5) The hydrant must be opened slowly to allow the barrel time to fill with water. The Permittee should feel snug resistance at the top of the counter clockwise turn. The permittee should not use the hydrant until it is fully open.
- 6) To close the hydrant, the Permittee must perform the final several closing turns slowly to prevent damage to the hydrant and water main. The hydrant must be fully closed until the permittee can feel snug resistance at the bottom of the clockwise turn.
- 7) To minimize wear and tear, and minimize damage of hydrants, the permittee may not use the hydrant valve to regulate the volume or flow of water withdrawn from the fire hydrant. The fire hydrant may only be utilized to turn water on/off. The permittee shall control the volume of water withdrawn from the hydrant using a permittee provided gate valve, installed downstream of the City's RPZ.

Figure 1 Detail for Support of Fire Hydrant Meter RPZ Assembly

DISCLAIMER:
The use of this standard is governed by the City of Wichita Falls Engineering Department. No warranty of any kind is made by the City of Wichita Falls for any product whatsoever. The City of Wichita Falls assumes no responsibility for the construction of the structure or other damage resulting from its use.



NOTES:

1. USE OF HYDRANT REQUIRES VALID FIRE HYDRANT METER AGREEMENT AND THE SUBMITTAL OF APPLICABLE DEPOSITS. CONTACT THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT FOR APPLICATION.
2. FIRE HYDRANT METER AND REDUCED PRESSURE ZONE (RPZ) BACKFLOW DEVICE SHALL BE FULLY SUPPORTED WHILE CONNECTED TO THE FIRE HYDRANT.
3. THE CITY OF WICHITA FALLS WILL SECURE THE FIRE HYDRANT METER TO THE CITY OWNED/OPERATED FIRE HYDRANT WITH A CHAIN/CABLE SYSTEM AND LOCK. ANY ATTEMPT BY THE CONTRACTOR TO REMOVE THE FIRE HYDRANT METER FROM THE FIRE HYDRANT WILL RESULT IN THE FIRE HYDRANT METER BEING REVOKED AND THE CONTRACTOR LOSING THE PRIVILEGE OF APPLYING FOR OR USING ANOTHER FIRE HYDRANT METER FOR A PERIOD OF 12 MONTHS.
4. CONTRACTOR AGREES TO OPERATE THE FIRE HYDRANT IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE CITY'S "FIRE HYDRANT OPERATING PROCEDURES", FOUND IN THE TERMS AND CONDITIONS FOR USE OF FIRE HYDRANTS.
5. CONTRACTOR WILL BE HELD RESPONSIBLE FOR ANY DAMAGE TO THE FIRE HYDRANT METER AND RPZ ASSEMBLY.
6. SANDBAGS SHALL NOT OBSTRUCT THE FIRE HYDRANT WEEP HOLE.

NOT TO SCALE

WICHITA FALLS, TEXAS	FEB 11	4201-00	CITY OF WICHITA FALLS, TX
	DATE DRAWN	DRAWING DRAWING NO.	
STANDARD FIRE HYDRANT METER INSTALLATION			
<u>APPROVED</u>			
4201 Fire Hydrant Meter Installation	NO. DATE	DESCRIPTION	BY
4201 Fire Hydrant Meter Installation	R E V I S I O N S	CITY ENGINEER	DATE



Fire Hydrant Meter Use Application

Department of Utility Collections
Division of Public Utilities

1: Applicant Information:

Applicant/Company Legal Name: _____

Applicant/Company Mailing Address: _____

Applicant/Company Phone #: (_____) _____ Email _____

Federal Tax ID # or other ID _____

Contact Name: _____ Contact Phone #: (_____) _____

2. Billing Information:

Applicant/Company Billing Name: _____

Applicant/Company Billing Address: _____

3. Location Information:

Address of Fire Hydrant: _____

Initial Installation Date: _____ Fire Hydrant # WD _____

4. Signature:

The undersigned agrees to and will abide by the City of Wichita Falls' Terms and Conditions of Fire Hydrant Meters. Signature of this application releases the City of Wichita Falls and the applicant agrees to hold harmless and defend the City of Wichita Falls from any claims from any and all liability and losses for personal injury or property damage resulting from applicant's use of a fire hydrant. In the event that the fire hydrant meter is no longer in use and the applicant cannot produce the fire hydrant meter for return, the meter shall be considered stolen property and a report filed with the Wichita Falls Police Department. The information on this form will be given to the Wichita Falls Police Department to aid them in their investigation.

Applicant Signature

Date

5. Payment:

Equipment Deposit \$1900.00 Billing Deposit \$100.00

Deposit Checks or Money orders need to be made out to the **City of Wichita Falls**.
All payments are due when the application is submitted. No application will be processed until all paperwork is completed.



Fire Hydrant Meter Use Application

Department of Utility Collections
Division of Public Utilities

Credit Card Authorization Form

Please complete all fields. You may cancel this authorization at any time by contacting us.

Credit Card Information

Card Type: MasterCard VISA Discover
 Other _____

Cardholder Name (as shown on card): _____

Card Number: _____ CCV _____

Expiration Date (mm/yy): _____

Cardholder ZIP Code (from credit card billing address): _____

We unable to process AMEX. There is a nonrefundable credit card service fee of \$23.70 added to the transaction.

I, _____, authorize _____ to charge my credit card above for agreed upon purchases. I understand that my information will be saved to file for future transactions on my account.

Customer Signature

Date

~~~~~  
~~~~~

OFFICE USE ONLY

Account # _____

Customer # _____

Service Order # _____

Entered by: _____

Book & Cycle: 22-106 _____

Tap Size: 3" _____

Signed & Date _____



Fire Hydrant Meter 90-Day Extension Request

Department of Utility Collections
Division of Public Utilities

1: Applicant Information: (please type or print legibly)

Applicant/Company Legal Name: _____

Applicant/Company Mailing Address: _____

Applicant/Company Phone #: ____(____)_____ Fax # ____(____)_____

Applicant/Company E-Mail: _____

Federal Tax ID # or other ID (Required) _____

2. Applicants Statement for Reason: (please type or print legibly)

3. Signature

Applicant Signature

Date

Official Use Only			
Extension Approved (Circle One)	Yes	No	_____
If No (state reason)		_____	
New Date of Account Closure: _____			
Notification:		Water Distribution	Utility Collections
		_____	_____
		Date	Date



Fire Hydrant Meter Move / Close Account Request

*Department of Utility Collections
Division of Public Utilities*

1: Applicant Information: (please type or print legibly)

Applicant/Company Legal Name: _____

Applicant/Company Mailing Address: _____

Applicant/Company Phone #: _____ Fax # _____

Applicant/Company E-Mail: _____

Applicant is requesting to Move the Existing Fire Hydrant Meter

Applicant is requesting to Close the Fire Hydrant Meter Account on _____ Date _____

2. Request to Move Fire Hydrant Meter: (please type or print legibly)

Reason: _____

Address of Current Location: _____

Address of Desired New Location: _____

3. Signature

The undersigned agrees to pay the \$50 Service Charge for moving the Fire Hydrant Meter, as outlined and agreed to in the City of Wichita Falls' Terms and Conditions of Fire Hydrant Meters.

Applicant Signature _____ Date _____

Official Use Only

New Location Approved (Circle One) Yes _____ No _____

Public Utilities Representative Signature _____

Date _____

If No (state reason) _____

New Hydrant Address: _____

Account Closure Request:

Return Date _____ End Reading: _____

Notification:

Water Distribution _____ Date _____

Utility Collections _____ Date _____