

Powersville Water District Fire Hydrant Use Policy

The Powersville Water District is required by the S.C. Department of Health & Environmental Control to enforce the proper use of all fire hydrants throughout our water system. Each hydrant is a potential entry point for contaminants into our drinking water. Contamination to the system may easily occur if a backflow or back-siphon condition occurs in the drinking water system anytime that water is removed from the system in large amounts. This is not only a public health threat, but a threat to system security, as well. Therefore, it is the policy of the District to restrict the use of all fire hydrants only to District maintenance employees and fire department employees for fire-fighting purposes. Contractors in need of bulk water in our service area are required to contact our office prior to withdrawing water from the system. Failure to adhere to this policy is a violation of State Law and is considered water theft. The violation is punishable by fine and/or incarceration and the District will not refrain from enforcing this policy.

The District understands that contractors need large quantities of water from time to time for specific jobs (i.e. paving, hydro-seeding, etc.) Unfortunately, the District cannot provide this service at every location and ensure that our drinking water remains safe. Providing pure drinking water to our customers is of the utmost importance and takes precedence over providing bulk water to those in need. However, we have established three locations in our water system where those that need bulk water may obtain it and not endanger our system. The hydrants located at the following locations will be permanently equipped with a fire hydrant meter and backflow preventor for your use: (1) the Powersville Water District Office on SC Hwy. 81 (located in the cul-de-sac behind our office); (2) intersection of Hwy 86 and Hwy 81;(3) Hwy 81 North, across from 6649. You will need a fire hose equipped with a female NST (fire hose thread) coupling to use the metered connection. If you are interested in using these facilities, the following procedures will apply and the District will enforce them:

1. Visit our office on SC Hwy 81. If you just need water for one day, you will need to fill out an application that will state which “bulk water station” that you plan to use. The applicant must provide a valid Driver’s License during this process. The cost of a one day permit will be \$50 (nonrefundable) which will allow you to withdraw up to 5,000 gallons. If you plan to use more than this amount, a charge of \$5.00 per each additional 1000 gallons must be paid at the time of application (check, cash, MC or Visa are accepted).
2. If you need access to the “bulk water station” more than one day, you may complete an application for 14 calendar days at a charge of \$75 (nonrefundable). This will allow you to withdraw up to 10,000 gallons. Any amounts in excess of this will be charged at the same rate stated in section 1 above.
3. If you need access to the “bulk water station” more than 14 calendar days and you have been a hydrant water customer for more than six months in good standing, you may complete an application for 30 calendar days at a charge of \$125 (nonrefundable). This will allow you to withdraw up to 20,000 gallons. Any amounts in excess of this will be charged at the same rate stated in section 1 above.
4. Once you have paid the proper fees, you will be issued a “bulk water station” permit that you must have in your possession when withdrawing water from any of our stations. Our field employees can request to see your permit at anytime. If you do not have a permit in your possession upon request, your permit will immediately expire or if we determine that you have not applied for a permit, a water theft fee will be charged and you may be subject to arrest by the Sheriff’s Department.

5. If you do not have the proper hydrant wrench, we will issue you one on the first visit. This wrench should only be used at the sites listed above. Do not use pipe wrenches on our hydrants or you will lose this privilege of receiving bulk water and you will be charged for the hydrant repair.
6. You may then connect to the metered station to receive bulk water. When operating a fire hydrant, always turn the wrench slowly when opening and closing the hydrant to prevent “water-hammer” in the system. If this rule is not followed, the results can be disastrous and you will be held liable for any damages! Also, the hydrant meter is equipped with a gate valve on the downstream side of the hydrant meter for throttling the flow from hydrant. Do not throttle the hydrant flow at the hydrant! When using a fire hydrant, the operating nut must be opened completely! It is a good idea to shut the gate valve at the meter prior to operating the hydrant operating nut to prevent the hose from whipping.
7. It is your responsibility to keep up with the meter readings at each filling and your conscience is your guide. Do not attempt to remove our hydrant meter or backflow preventer from any of the “bulk water stations”.
8. The District retains the right to retain all hydrant use fees received and charge for damages to our facilities. None of these fees are refundable.
9. Due to the irresponsible actions of contractors and customers in the past, the District will only issue 1 mobile hydrant meter for permanent construction sites requiring bulk water. This meter is to be used on permanent construction sites only i.e. construction of schools, hospitals, etc. and will be made available on a first come, first serve basis. This meter will not be rented out for purposes of obtaining water for hydro-seeding, pavement cleaning, etc.
10. All hydrant users must have adequate liability insurance and provide Powdersville Water District with a certificate that lists Powdersville Water District as additionally insured.

The Powdersville Water District

***As stated above, this policy is an effort by the District to provide an additional service to our customers. The program will only work if honesty and proper workmanship prevail on the part of the customer. In an effort to continue this service, we ask that you immediately report any illegal or improper fire hydrant use in our District to our office at 864-269-5440. Our Water Theft Fee for contractors/developers is \$500 for the first offense and \$1000 for each offense thereafter. If District employees find equipment attached to any hydrant in our service area without prior permission from the District, all equipment will be confiscated and will not be returned to the responsible party until the Water Theft Fee is paid to the District.

Revised August 2009