

# **WATER SUPPLY/HYDRANTS/HOSE TESTING**

While El Centro Fire Department has had a Fire Hydrant Program for many years, we began anew in 1998 with the **Flushing, Flow Testing, Marking, and Maintenance Program.**

Our objectives are as follows:

1. To assure that all fire hydrants are clear of debris.
2. To conduct hydrant flow tests and provide results for high hazard areas and new construction locations as requested.
3. To provide “blue dot” marking for all fire hydrants.
4. To provide a numbered identification marking and record keeping system for each fire hydrant.
5. To assure that all fire hydrants are maintained in a serviceable condition and are readily accessible.
6. To locate and identify any deficiencies in the City of El Centro’s water system.

Fire Suppression and Fire Prevention personnel as well as private fire protection engineers and insurance companies are concerned with two aspects of water supply: (1) it’s reliability, and (2) the rate at which water is available for fire suppression, especially in high value areas.

We have five individual programs involved, which are as follows:

1. **Hydrant Flushing Program:** From January 2 through April 1, each year, our crews flush approximately one third of the City of El Centro’s fire hydrants with area assignments made on a rotating basis so that all hydrants are flushed once every three years.
2. **Hydrant Flow Testing Program:** Flow Tests to determine gallons-per-minute flow from fire hydrants are conducted

periodically and as requested in high-hazard areas and for new construction.

3. **Blue Dot Hydrant Marking Program:** As needed we install or replace Blue-Dots on the street surface for better night visibility of fire hydrant locations.
4. **Hydrant Identification Marking and Record Keeping System:** Each fire hydrant in the City of El Centro will be identified with a blue four-digit number painted on the side facing the street. Maintenance records are then entered into the Fire-RMS Hydrant Maintenance program for use of all concerned.
5. **Hydrant Maintenance Program:** Fire Department personnel identify and remedy minor maintenance needs such as grass, weeds, brush, and caps. Major repairs such as leaks, physical damage, etc. are referred to the Public Works Department

The City of El Centro has over 1250 fire hydrants.