

FIRE INSPECTION TIP#5

School Owned Fire Hydrants, Fire Pumps & Mains

C-2	Private fire service hydrants, mains, and tanks are properly maintained and tested.	F508
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508.5.3 Private fire service mains and water tanks. Private fire service mains and water tanks shall be periodically inspected, tested and maintained in accordance with NFPA 25 at the following intervals:

- 1. Private fire hydrants (all types): Inspection annually and after each operation; flow test and maintenance annually.**
2. Fire service main piping: Inspection of exposed, annually; flow test every 5 years.
3. Fire service main piping strainers: Inspection and maintenance after each use.

To get some clarification on flow test, inspection and maintenance of fire hydrants, I spoke with a Water Maintenance Supervisor within the Onondaga County Water Authority. It is their understanding that fire hydrants must be opened and allowed to flush annually. OCWA does not do flow measurements except to periodically spot check different points in their system. They recommend that if a school district has an older hydrant and if the flow is questionable to contact the local fire department to get their assessment. Some fire departments might have (or perhaps could borrow) flow measuring devices if deemed necessary.

It is also recommended to clean and grease the fittings/threads on the hydrant for annual maintenance to ensure readiness/operability when needed.

If repainting a fire hydrant, it is NOT recommended to repaint with a different color. Use the original color as many are color coded to indicate flow/pressure.