

# Private Hydrant Testing

When the Fire Department responds to a fire at your property the first piece of equipment they must have is a fire hydrant.



ESL can perform your hydrant testing, coordinate with the Fire Marshal, and ensure continued compliance.

Fire Protection  
Consulting

Fire Hydrant  
Flow Testing

Private Hydrant  
Testing

Fire Safety  
Training

Hydraulic Water  
Modeling

MIC Testing

Fire Code  
Consulting

Construction  
Management

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## Are your private fire hydrants operational?

When the Fire Department responds to a fire at your property, the first piece of equipment they must have is a fire hydrant. Without fully functional hydrants the Fire Department may have limited water supply to fight a fire. This has caused unnecessary property loss across the Metro Atlanta area as Firefighters have tried to locate an operational hydrant while fires continued to spread.

Many property insurers require owners to test and certify that their hydrants are operational. An inoperable hydrant may cause you to incur additional damages and fines related to this code violation.

## What determines a private hydrant?

Any fire hydrants located on your property after a backflow preventor or meter connection to the public water system are private hydrants. Most apartment complexes, retail shopping centers and industrial facilities have private hydrants.

## How often must private hydrants be tested?

At least once a year. NFPA 25, as adopted by the Rules and Regulations of the Safety Fire Commissioner, mandate annual maintenance and testing of all private fire hydrants. Your insurance company may require more frequent inspection. It is the responsibility of the property owner to ensure that all on-site hydrants are properly tested and that inspection records are kept on file.

## Is there a benefit to flow testing versus flushing?

Yes. Flushing refers to opening a hydrant and flowing water to remove any accumulated sediment in the barrel and on the valve. While this is important for verifying the operation of the hydrant, it does not ensure that the proper volume and pressure of water is available at the hydrant. Low pressure can be caused by closed valves or blockages in the water line. A low pressure hydrant is just as defective as a nonfunctioning hydrant.

## Who is qualified to conduct hydrant flow testing?

Testing a hydrant may seem like a simple task but damage to lines, flow alarms, and damage to municipal water mains can result from incorrect testing/operation of hydrants. Inspectors should be NICET certified or a registered Professional Engineer. Qualified and insured inspectors can provide real value by interpreting test readings to evaluate the current operation of your fire protection system.

## Why use Engineered Solutions (ESL) for your hydrant testing and maintenance?

With ESL on the job, you know your hydrants are working. ESL will perform your hydrant testing, maintain your records, submit required forms, coordinate with the Fire Marshal and reschedule testing to comply with your jurisdictional or insurance requirements. ESL is a collaboration of professional engineers and technical experts with extensive flow testing experience. We are independent inspectors who can present an unbiased analysis of your fire hydrant operation.

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