

Only Tap Water Delivers Fire Protection

A well-maintained water system is critical in protecting our communities from the ever-present threat of fire.

- In 2010 alone, U.S. fire departments responded to 1.3 million fires across the country.
- In most communities, the water flowing to both fire hydrants and home faucets is transported by the same system of water mains, pumps and storage tanks.
- A water system that provides reliable water at high pressure and volume can mean the difference between a manageable fire and an urban inferno.
- The ability to provide water for fire protection heavily influences:
 - new home construction
 - business location decisions
 - insurance rates
- Firefighters are the primary operators of fire hydrants, but your water utility is usually responsible for maintaining the hydrants.

Did you know?

Community water systems weren't originally built to deliver safe drinking water, but to fight fires!

San Francisco inferno showed value of reliable water system

- ◆ A 1906 earthquake resulted in a massive inferno.
- ◆ Twenty-five thousand buildings burned – 80 percent of the entire property value of the city.
- ◆ The city developed, designed and constructed a guaranteed water supply system solely for fighting fires.
- ◆ Today the Auxiliary Water Supply System has over 150 miles of water mains with 1,550 special hydrants – for a city of 47 square miles.

