

## INSPECTION & MAINTENANCE

- New installations should be initially flushed to ensure removal of any debris that could be harmful to pumps.
- Dry hydrants require annual inspection, testing, and maintenance. More frequent cleaning may be needed at streams and ponds to make sure that silt and aquatic growth do not clog the water intake. Aquatic growth can be a special problem in ponds and in slow-moving water sources.
- Hydrants should be tested with a fire engine once a year and back flushed as part of training exercises. Your local fire station can provide this service.
- Grass and vegetation will need to be kept trimmed. Maintaining the grounds around the dry hydrant assures better visibility when the hydrant will be needed in an emergency.
- Records and logs should be kept of all associated paperwork, inspections, and procedures.

## DRY HYDRANT GRANT PROGRAM

The Virginia Dry Hydrant Grant Program is funded by the Virginia General Assembly using funds from the *Fire Programs Fund Bill*. The program is administered by the Department of Fire Programs and the Department of Forestry.

The dry hydrant project continues to be one of the most valuable and visible programs that can be offered to a community. Landowners, communities, and homeowners associations can obtain a dry hydrant by working with the Department of Fire Rescue to obtain a grant.



# DRY HYDRANTS

*A guide to assisting your local fire station with rural water supply*



## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

The information in this pamphlet is provided as a courtesy and is for general reference only.

For more information  
[www.ACFireRescue.org](http://www.ACFireRescue.org)  
[ACFRGroupCR&R@albemarle.org](mailto:ACFRGroupCR&R@albemarle.org)  
434.296.5833

**County of Albemarle**  
**Department of Fire Rescue**  
460 Stagecoach Road, Suite F  
Charlottesville, VA 22902-6489  
Voice: 434.296.5833  
FAX: 434.972.4123  
[www.ACFireRescue.org](http://www.ACFireRescue.org)

***FIRE RESCUE***  
**ALBEMARLE COUNTY**



# DRY HYDRANTS



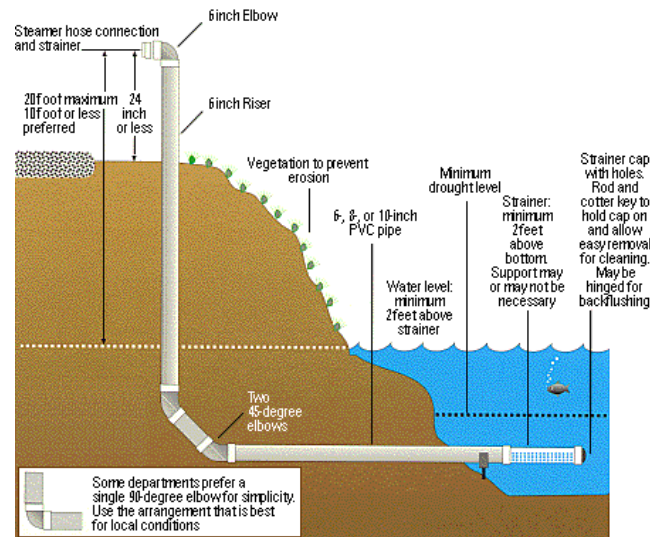
## WHAT IS A DRY HYDRANT?

A dry hydrant is a non-pressurized pipe system permanently installed in existing lakes, ponds, and streams that extends out of the ground and is similar to a regular fire hydrant. The dry hydrant does not have pressurized water in it; it provides an easy access for fire engines to retrieve water from the water source using suction.

In rural areas, a lack of water mains and pressurized fire hydrants can sometimes impair a fire department's ability to do its job quickly and efficiently. The success of fire suppression operations hinges on the distance a truck must travel to fill-up and return to the fire. In many cases these fill-up points are often long distances from the fire and the firefighters are unable to maintain an uninterrupted water source at the scene.

**The installation of a non-pressurized pipe system (dry hydrants) into local water sources provides a ready means of supplying water to fire engines.**

## THE DRY HYDRANT



Planning for dry hydrants involves many considerations and should involve all those affected so a coordinated effort can take place.

## DRY HYDRANT BENEFITS

- Improve firefighting capabilities in rural areas by providing an uninterrupted supply of a water at a predictable rate of flow
- Possible reduction in insurance rates and rate adjustments
- Conserves processed domestic water supply
- Conserves energy
- Reduces the inefficiency and complexity of long-distance water shuttle operations during a fire emergency
- Allows access to water sources from a roadway instead of having to work on soft ground immediately adjacent to the pond or stream, which poses a danger and risk for fire department personnel

## THE PROCESS

### How do I begin the process of installing a dry hydrant?

Contact the Department of Fire Rescue. An inspector will discuss the process with you and provide any information that you may need. He/she will help you assess the site, select the best installation point, help complete grant application paperwork, and assist you in coordinating testing and installation inspection by your local fire station.

### Who installs the dry hydrants?

There are several companies that install dry hydrants. The Virginia Department of Forestry can provide a list of vendors if you are paying to have the dry hydrant installed. If you are receiving the dry hydrant through the Dry Hydrant Grant Program, the Virginia Department of Forestry will make the necessary arrangements for installation.

### How much does it cost to install a dry hydrant?

The average cost to install a dry hydrant is between \$1,500 and \$2,000. The Virginia Department of Forestry accepts applications for grant funding once each year during the month of April.

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

### Albemarle County Fire Rescue

Voice: 434.296.5833

ACFRGroupCR&R@albemarle.org

www.ACFireRescue.org



### Virginia Department of Forestry

Voice: 434.977.6555

www.dof.virginia.gov