



PLANNING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT



Consultants, Builders and Developers Notice #2020-07-23

July 23, 2020

Topic: New Fire Hydrant Color Marking Scheme

Effective Date: Immediately

Starting in July, Public Utilities and the Fire Department will begin an initiative to repaint the approximately 9,000 public fire hydrants throughout the City, ensuring they align with the National Fire Protection Association's (NFPA) color scheme. Public hydrants will have a yellow body and caps (Rust-oleum Safety Yellow, or equal*) with a prescribed bonnet color to signify the respective hydrant's expected flowrate in gallons per minute (GPM). This initiative will ensure first responders from Virginia Beach and neighboring cities, should mutual aid be necessary, have instant knowledge of each fire hydrants expected flowrate.

All new public fire hydrants, including those for projects currently under construction, will be required to follow the new color scheme below. Please coordinate with the Public Utilities Inspector for your project on the color marking to be provided for each new public hydrant. Privately owned fire hydrants will continue to be painted red with a blue bonnet and caps. An update is forthcoming to [PU Detail No. 18-1 Fire Hydrant Setting](#).

Bonnet Color	Available Flow Rate
Red – Rust-oleum Safety Red, or equal*	Less than 500 GPM
Orange – Rust-oleum Safety Orange, or equal*	500-999 GPM
Green – Rust-oleum Safety Green, or equal*	1,000-1,499 GPM
Light Blue – Rust-oleum Marlin Blue, or equal*	1,500 GPM and above

* High-Gloss Alkyd Enamel

For More Information, Please Contact:

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