

July 22, 2013

Re: Fire Hydrants

The MUA has a total of 121 fire hydrants in its system.

The purpose of the MUA system hydrants is maintenance of the water system only, and is not for fire fighting capabilities. All of the MUA's hydrants, both top and body, are painted red (identifying them Class C) which indicates a flow capacity of less than 500 gpm, which is not in accordance with NFPA standards. This means that the MUA hydrants are for special operations and are to be used for special procedures only, i.e., maintenance of the water system (flushing only.)

The MUA hydrants serve only 2% of the population of West Milford. The Fire Department is aware of this. The Fire Department use pumper trucks for fire protection.

The Fire Department occasionally uses MUA water, through hydrants, to fill pools, tankers for wet downs, as well as for car washes and other events in West Milford. The MUA must pay a tax on all water consumed and must report missing water (water not used by metered residents) to the DEP. If the MUA cannot explain a discrepancy, the MUA can sustain a possible fine that is ultimately passed on to the MUA customers, not the Township at large.

The procedure to avoid this problem is that the Township, Fire Department and any other entity must obtain MUA approval prior to using any water from MUA hydrants. Users are requested to keep an "eye out," for anyone taking water from your hydrants and report this activity to the Administrator.

From time to time, fire hydrants need attention. There are a number of hydrants that are on the capital improvement schedule to be repaired. Along with our Professionals' assistance, the Board of Commissioners will address this issue in a timely manner, consistent with its capital budget.

Sincerely,

Carol Hardy, Chairperson