

**LOWCOUNTRY REGIONAL WATER SYSTEM,  
SOUTH CAROLINA**

**POLICY REGARDING FIRE HYDRANT USE  
AND PERMITS**

Policy Statement: The Lowcountry Regional Water System Commission (the “**Commission**”), the governing body of the Lowcountry Regional Water System (“**LRWS**”), adopts this Policy Regarding Fire Hydrant Use and Permits (this “**Policy**”) in order to ensure that fire hydrants (“**Hydrants**”) connected to the LRWS water system (the “**System**”) are used only by authorized individuals, or individuals who have been issued the proper permit, and that Hydrants are used in such a manner so as to minimize the possibility of damage to Hydrants or the System and to prevent LRWS’s potable drinking water supply from being compromised.

Authorized Users: Only LRWS employees, fire department personnel, authorized agents or contractors of LRWS, or those issued a permit by LRWS pursuant to this Policy are permitted to use a Hydrant for any purpose.

Non-Potable Water: Water withdrawn from a Hydrant is not considered or intended to be potable.

Disclaimer of Liability: LRWS disclaims all warranties of merchantability for water withdrawn from hydrants and does not guarantee or warrant the pressure, quantity or quality of water withdrawn from any Hydrant, nor the suitability of water withdrawn from a Hydrant for any particular purpose. LRWS shall not be liable to any person, whether the user of a Hydrant or third-parties, for injury, loss or damage resulting from the use of any Hydrant or any water withdrawn from any Hydrant.

Application: In order to request a permit for the use of a hydrant to obtain water for any purpose, the applicant must complete an application to obtain a Fire Hydrant Use Permit (a “**Permit**”), attached hereto, and pay all required fees, charges or deposits. Applications and fees must be submitted, in person, to LRWS’s main office, located at 513 Elm Street West, Hampton, South Carolina, during normal business hours. At the discretion of LRWS, fees and charges may be billed to a company that provides a purchase order or that has an existing account with LRWS.

Duration and Availability of Permits for Review: Permits are issued for a period of thirty (30) days from the date of issuance. After a Permit has expired, the applicant must re-apply for a new permit. The applicant is required to have a copy of the Permit available at the site for inspection by employees of LRWS or Law Enforcement Officers upon request.

Permit Types: The types of hydrant uses and connections are:

1. *Metered Connections:* For metered connections to Hydrants, LRWS will provide and install an approved hydrant meter and backflow device for the applicant’s use. An applicant must give LRWS twenty-four (24) hours notice in advance of applicant’s use of a Hydrant for an LRWS employee to connect a hydrant meter assembly to a Hydrant for applicant’s use. All fees, charges, and deposits, except those metered charges for the actual volume of water used, must be paid in full before the 24-hour notice is given. Within 24-hours of notice, LRWS personnel will connect the LRWS-owned hydrant meter assembly to the Hydrant of the LRWS’s choosing.

LRWS shall give preference to the Hydrant chosen by the applicant but retains the right to make the final determination regarding which Hydrant is made available to accommodate the applicant. Applicant must notify LRWS immediately upon completion of his use of the Hydrant. LRWS will then remove the hydrant meter assembly and bill the applicant for the volume of water used.

2. *Unmetered Connections:* For unmetered connections to Hydrants, the applicant may connect directly to a Hydrant, using an approved backflow device, provided that the applicant is able to accurately determine the volume of water used based upon the known volumes of tanks or containers that may be filled. All tanks/containers must only be used for water hauling purposes. All tanks/containers must have an approved check valve or air gap assembly on the fill line.

Permit Fee Schedule:

<i>Application Fee:</i>	\$50.00
<i>Hydrant Meter Assembly Deposit Fee:</i>	\$250.00
<i>Volumetric Charge per 1,000 Gallons:</i>	\$5.00

Failure to Produce a Permit: The failure of a person to obtain a Permit, or to produce an active Permit, may result in a fine of one hundred (\$100.00) dollars for the first offense and five hundred (\$500.00) dollars for each such subsequent offense.

Damage to Hydrants or the LRWS Water System: All applicants shall be given a copy of the Procedures for Operating a Fire Hydrant (the “*Procedures*”) that are attached hereto. Applicants should make use of, and precisely follow, the Procedures to ensure that no damage is done to a Hydrant or to the System. In the event that an applicant causes damage to a Hydrant or the System as a result of a failure to follow the Procedures, the applicant will be billed the cost of repairing any such damage.

Unauthorized or Illegal Water Use: Unauthorized water use is a violation of the Water and Sewer Regulations of LRWS (the “*Regulations*”) and any person who is found to have made an unauthorized use of water shall be fined in accordance with the Regulations. In addition, any person making unauthorized use of water may also be subject to civil or criminal penalties at the discretion of the LRWS. Any device used to make an illegal connection to the System shall be confiscated. A notice shall be posted stating that the connection is illegal and that any equipment has been confiscated and may be claimed in person at the LRWS main office. If the person responsible for the illegal connection is at the scene, the LRWS employee shall advise the person of this Policy and his violation of the Regulations, obtain any necessary information and, order that the connection be disconnected. Failure to comply with such request may result in LRWS filing charges with the Hampton County Sheriff’s Office against the offender.

**LOWCOUNTRY REGIONAL WATER SYSTEM  
FIRE HYDRANT USE PERMIT  
803-943-1006**

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Name (Company or Individual): \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Person: \_\_\_\_\_

Billing Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Telephone Numbers: (Business) \_\_\_\_\_ (Cell) \_\_\_\_\_

Permit Duration Dates (30 days): \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_

Purpose of Water Used:  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

What is the estimated quantity of water to be used (Gallons)? \_\_\_\_\_

Does Applicant have an approved backflow device available? \_\_\_\_\_

Does Applicant have an approved hydrant meter assembly available? \_\_\_\_\_

If a tanker truck is to be filled, what size is tank (Gallons)? \_\_\_\_\_

What is the number of the hydrant applicant prefers to use? \_\_\_\_\_

Location of preferred hydrant (provide street and nearby cross-streets: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**WATER WITHDRAWN FROM A HYDRANT IS NOT CONSIDERED OR INTENDED TO BE POTABLE. LRWS DISCLAIMS ALL WARRANTIES OF MERCHANTABILITY FOR WATER WITHDRAWN FROM HYDRANTS AND DOES NOT GUARANTEE OR WARRANT THE PRESSURE, QUANTITY OR QUALITY OF WATER WITHDRAWN FROM ANY HYDRANT, NOR THE SUITABILITY OF WATER WITHDRAWN FROM A HYDRANT FOR ANY PARTICULAR PURPOSE. LRWS SHALL NOT BE LIABLE TO ANY PERSON, WHETHER THE USER OF A HYDRANT OR THIRD-PARTIES, FOR INJURY, LOSS OR DAMAGE RESULTING FROM THE USE OF ANY HYDRANT OR ANY WATER WITHDRAWN FROM ANY HYDRANT.**

Applicant Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Permit Approved By: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**NOTIFY LRWS IMMEDIATELY OF ANY PROBLEMS AT 803-943-1006**

Permit Fee: \$50.00 Paid: \_\_\_\_\_

Hydrant Meter Assembly Deposit: \$250.00 Paid: \_\_\_\_\_

Volumetric Charge of \$5.00 x \_\_\_\_\_ 1000 Gallons \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Paid: \_\_\_\_\_

## PROCEDURES FOR OPERATING A FIRE HYDRANT

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2. Only operate a hydrant with an approved fire hydrant wrench. The operating nut on the top of the fire hydrant is a brass five-sided nut and will be damaged if operated with anything other than a fire hydrant wrench. If you damage the nut, you will be billed for the repairs. The applicant should use the gate valve provided on the meter assembly to control the amount of water used instead of operating the nut on the top of the fire hydrant. This will allow the fire hydrant to be opened completely by the LRWS employee installing the meter while the gate valve is used to throttle the amount of water needed to keep the rubber hydrant seat from receiving unnecessary wear and damage.

2. Always open the fire hydrant no less than five turns and be aware of the opening direction indicated—usually by an arrow on the top of the hydrant. Opening the fire hydrant at least five turns will keep the water from running out of the hydrant's weep holes and eroding soil at the base of the hydrant.

3. It is very important that the fire hydrant be opened and closed very slowly. The way to assure that you are opening and closing it slowly enough is to take your hand completely off of the wrench and count to five between turns. The reason for opening and closing the fire hydrant slowly is to reduce water hammer in the distribution system which can cause broken water mains and services. If you do cause this type of damage, you will be billed for the cost of making the necessary repairs.

4. When closing hydrants, do not apply extra leverage to the fire hydrant wrench if the hydrant valve fails to close entirely. An obstruction may be under the hydrant valve and forcing the hydrant valve will damage the rubber valve seats. Open and close the hydrant several times to flush any obstruction off of the seat. If after doing this, the hydrant does not close entirely, notify LRWS at 803-943-1006.

5. Replace all caps on the fire hydrant before leaving. If caps are left off, debris can enter the barrel and can cause problems when fighting fires. This condition also can cause damage to the equipment of the next user of the hydrant.

6. Notify the LRWS office of any hydrant problems by calling **803-943-1006**.

7. If anyone is found to have violated any of the above procedures, the fire hydrant meter assembly will be removed and the applicant will not be allowed use of the hydrant and will be subject to any fines or may be billed for the cost of any damage to the fire hydrant or LRWS's water system.

8. During times of freezing weather conditions, it is the responsibility of the applicant to ensure that the hydrant is closed and the meter assembly is drained properly. The cost of any damage to the hydrant or meter assembly for failure to follow these directions will be billed to the applicant.