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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Hydrant Flushing to begin June 5

PORT ST. LUCIE, FLA. – On June 5, Utility crews will begin a system-wide flush of the city's entire water distribution system. Crews will work 7 days a week between the hours of 10 p.m. and 5 a.m. It is anticipated the flushing project will be complete on or before July 1.

Hydrant flushing is an important function undertaken by the Utility Systems Department in order to maintain the highest quality of water possible for the nearly 70,000 Utility customers.

What should residents do when hydrants are being flushed in their neighborhood?

- Use caution and drive carefully through areas where hydrant flushing is taking place.
- Avoid running excessive amounts of tap water including, but not limited to, bath/shower water, washing machines and dishwashers.
- Tap water used during flushing could contain sediment that causes temporary discoloration.
- Do not be alarmed, there is no health hazard associated with the discolored water.
- If you encounter discolored water, shut it off and wait several minutes before trying again.
- If water is still discolored, leave it on and allow fresh water to work its way into your home's pipes.

Why is flushing necessary?

- The overall result of hydrant flushing is improved water quality, color and clarity throughout the entire water distribution system, including 1,200 miles of potable water mains and 5,400 fire hydrants.
- Flushing is necessary to ensure there is adequate flow and pressure in the city's water main pipes. It also verifies there is a sufficient flow of water for fighting fires.

Hydrant flushing is not a waste of water because:

- The flushed water is returned to the water cycle as it percolates into the ground and replenishes the water source aquifers.
- Only the amount of water needed to maintain water quality is flushed. The amount of water used during flushing operations and the cost of that water is small compared to the benefits of maintaining the Utility's water mains and fire hydrants.

To report utility or wastewater emergencies 24 hours a day, please call (772) 873-6400.

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