

**City of Moses Lake Fire Department**

**701 E 3rd Ave Moses Lake WA 98837**

**Fire Marshal’s Office (509) 764-3852**

**www.cityofml.com**

**Private Fire Hydrants**

Date

Private Fire Hydrant Owners:

RE: Address. Hydrant #

You’re receiving this letter as your property has been identified as having privately maintained fire hydrants: Inspection and maintenance of private hydrants is the responsibility of the owner of the hydrant. Annual inspection and maintenance is required by Moses Lake Municipal Code Chapter 16.

This letter is to help you understand the ownership and maintenance requirements for privately owned hydrant. In 2011, an ordinance amendment was made to Moses Lake Municipal Code 16.48 to add ownership of private hydrants. The ordinance 2628 was passed.

Chapter 16.48 titled Fire Hydrants of the City of Moses Lake Municipal code

Section 16.48.085 Ownership sub section B. Privately owned fire hydrants are those that are not described in section A. All maintenance, repairs, and operations on private fire hydrants are the owner’s responsibility.

Section 16.48.090 Fire Hydrant Testing and Maintenance has a section on Private fire hydrants shall be inspected and tested annually by the fire hydrant owner. Inspection and test results shall be recorded on a City form and sent to the Fire Department by July 1st of each year. Private fire hydrants that need repaired shall have the necessary repairs performed within thirty (30) calendar days of when the deficiency is discovered. Private fire hydrants shall have the static pressure checked annually. Private fire hydrants shall be painted Red and repainted every three (3) years. Private fire hydrants shall have the fire flow checked every five (5) years.

Section 16.48.100 Violations. Any person, firm, or corporation who violates or fails to comply with the provisions of this chapter may be subject to a Notice of Violation and Order to Correct, as provided in Chapter 1.20, issued by the Code Enforcement Officer.

You may provide the inspection and maintenance yourself of your hydrants with some equipment. We recommend the following for doing the inspection/ testing:

1. Hydrant Wrench
2. Grease gun with the appropriate lubricant for your type of hydrant.
3. Stiff wire brush to clean the threads
4. Food Grade silicone lubricant
5. Paint we suggest Rust O’ Leum Safety Red brush on paint
6. Paint brush
7. Pressure gauge to check the static pressure on the 2 ½ port.
8. White Numbers/Letters for the hydrant ID (if you don’t have the ID number contact the Fire Department.)
9. Pitot gauge for the 5 year water flow this may be tricky to locate.

**Fire Hydrant Inspection/ Testing Procedure:**

1. Loosen, then remove the large grey cap and check for water in the barrel of the hydrant. There shouldn’t be any water in the barrel of the hydrant at this time. If water is found it can indicate a few different issues with the hydrant. The main valve may be leaking, the drain may be plugged, or the ground water may be extremely high.
2. Remove the remaining two caps. Inspect the gaskets inside of the two smaller caps. They should be soft, not torn. Replace the gaskets if needed. The City of Moses Lake Water Department may be able to assist in finding materials for your hydrant. Call 509-764-3496 for any assistance with locating a vendor. Inspect the threads on both the hydrant and the caps for damage to the threads. Use a wire brush if needed to clean the thread surface. Use a food grade silicone lubricant to lube the threads and replace the caps.
3. Determine if the hydrant is automatically or manually lubricated. A grease fitting or a screw head inside of the large nut on the top of the hydrant usually indicates a manually lubrication. A fill plug in the bonnet or dome portion may suggest that the hydrant is lubed automatically. It may be a good time to check the manufacturer’s literature for type and amount of lubricant to use. The City of Moses Lake Fire Department may be able to help locate the literature. They may be contacted by phone at 509-765-2204 ask for the Fire Marshal office.
4. With all of the caps off the hydrant, open the hydrant just enough to flow water. Allow the water run until water is clear from the ports. Close the hydrant valve. Make sure the hydrant drains the water out of the barrel.
5. Replace the grey cap tightly after using the food grade silicon lubricant. Replace the two other caps hand tight just enough not to leak under pressure of the hydrant being open. One of these caps should have the pressure gauge to check the static pressure. Open the hydrant all the way should be 13-20 full turns. The hydrant should operate easily. If the stem is seems overly tight operate the stem several times until it frees up it may need more advance servicing. With the caps on check for any leakage around all three (3) caps it should be dry. Also check for leaks around the top of the hydrant, and water bubbling up from the ground.
6. Once fully open, keep the hydrant valve open for at least 15 seconds.
7. Make sure the hydrant is clean and paint is in good condition. The hydrants per MLMC 16.48 require to be painted every three (3) years. It is suggested that you use a quality brush on paint similar to Rust O”leum Safety Red, as most red spray paints do not weather well in our climate. It is likely you will need to repaint hydrants more often if you use spray paints rather than a brush on enamel paint. DO NOT paint the 5” Stortz adapter if one is attached on the largest port. Make sure the ID number is also in good condition. Again, if you need help with the ID contact the fire station.
8. Every five (5) years a full fire flow is required. This involves flowing of the water from the hydrant and measuring the flow with a pitot gauge. Also you have to measure the static and residual pressure during this test.
9. If a hydrant is found inoperable, the fire department must be notified by calling 509-765-2204. Please provide the hydrant location, address, and the ID number. Again repairs must be made within 30 days of being found.
10. Now that all of this has been finished we need the information reported to the Fire Department via the website Tegrisfire.com. This will require you to become a service contractor in the Tegrisfire.com program to add the report(s).

Again, in closing, these inspections are due by the 1st of July each year. If you have any questions please contact the Fire Marshal’s office at the above number or by email at fireprevention@cityofml.com.