

Policy for Fire Hydrant Cap Color Code denoting Rate of Flow  
2020- 2025

**Policy:**


The Metropolitan Department of Water and Sewerage Services (MWS) and the Metropolitan Department of Fire (MFD) hereby jointly adopt and publish the following fire hydrant flow rate:

MWS FIRE HYDRANT PAINTING COLORS				
	FLOW	BARREL	CAPS	DOMES
ALL HYDRANTS	0	SHROUD WITH BLACK BAG AND TURN IN FOR REPAIR - OUT OF SERVICE EXCEPTION: EMERGENCY CALL IN IF HYDRANT IS ADJACENT TO ESSENTIAL SERVICES (HOSPITAL, NURSING HOMES, ETC)		
PUBLIC HYDRANT	1-500 gpm	RED	BLACK	RED
PUBLIC HYDRANT	501-1000 gpm	RED	GREEN	GREEN
PUBLIC HYDRANT	>1000 gpm	RED	ORANGE	ORANGE
END OF LINE PUBLIC HYDRANT	1-500 gpm	WHITE	BLACK	RED
END OF LINE PUBLIC HYDRANT	501-1000 gpm	WHITE	GREEN	GREEN
END OF LINE PUBLIC HYDRANT	>1000 gpm	WHITE	ORANGE	ORANGE

**Notes:**

- While “cap color” is the de facto indicator of the fire hydrant flow capacity, “barrel” color can sometimes also provide useful information. For example, fire hydrants with white barrels signify those which are last on a dead end main.
- Typically, silver fire hydrants (caps and barrels) signify private hydrants while red hydrants (caps, domes and barrels) signify hydrant not yet in service.
- Cap color is determined by field tests performed by Metro Water Services or their designee and is representative of the latest residual pressure testing performed. Records of testing are available at the office of MWS.
- Regulations of the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation (Rules of TDEC Public Water System Chapter 0400-45-01-.17, paragraph 18) require that fire hydrant be capable of providing at least 500 gallons per minute with a minimum residual pressure of 20 pounds per square inch (psi). There are some hydrants in MWS’ system that are not capable of this requirement and are color coded accordingly (black caps and red domes). Therefore, the NFD agrees not to connect a pumper truck to any black cap/red dome hydrants.
- In order to assure consistency, it is recommended that all water companies having jurisdiction within Davidson County identify their hydrant using this same cap color code.

Approved as to legality of form:

  
Metropolitan Attorney

12/12/19  
date

Recommended by:

  
Leanne Scott, P.E., Assistant Director – MWS

12-18-19  
date

  
Cyrus Toosi, P.E., Assistant Director – MWS

12/18/19  
date

Approved by:   
Scott Potter, P.E., Director – MWS

23 Dec 19  
date

  
William Swann, Director Chief - NFD

12/18/19  
date