



**National Headquarters**  
Fire and Emergency New Zealand  
National Headquarters  
Spark Central, Level 7  
42-52 Willis Street  
Wellington Central  
Wellington 6011  
  
Phone +64 4 496 3600

Ref: 13902

23 April 2024

D August-Jordan  
[fyi-request-26205-126139f9@requests.fyi.org.nz](mailto:fyi-request-26205-126139f9@requests.fyi.org.nz)

Tēnā koe D

Thank you for your request of 22 March 2024, to Fire and Emergency New Zealand requesting information regarding fire hydrant testing. Your request has been considered under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA) and our response is below.

- 1. What is the procedure?*
- 2. Do you let water out of each hydrant?*

We can advise that Fire and Emergency is not responsible for the testing and management of hydrant water supply. Under the Local Government Act 1974, territorial authorities are required to install fire hydrants, and to keep them charged (filled with water).

Fire and Emergency regularly flush hydrants to ensure water flow meets operational requirements; however, this is not considered to be a test of the hydrant. Flushing a hydrant involves turning a hydrant on and discharging water until accumulations are removed and water runs clear.

- 3. What do you do to mitigate the water that flows out?*
- 4. If you do not mitigate, what happens to the water because of the chlorine content as this then can get into waterways which will kill wildlife?*

We have interpreted these questions to be asking about any actions Fire and Emergency takes to prevent environmental damage from the release of fire hydrant water. We mitigate the volume of water released by ensuring that the hydrant is closed securely after testing. The hydrant water supply in New Zealand is potable and safe for the environment.

We trust that the information being provided is of assistance. If you require further information, please email [officialinformationrequests@fireandemergency.nz](mailto:officialinformationrequests@fireandemergency.nz).

Nāku noa, nā



Aidan Saunders  
Manager, Information Requests

