



CITY OF CAMBRIDGE

491 BROADWAY, CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS 02138 • TEL. 876-0125

FIRE DEPARTMENT HEADQUARTERS

THOMAS V. SCOTT
Chief of Department

October 10, 1990

Robert W. Healy, City Manager
City Manager's Office

Dear Mr. Healy:

Enclosed you will find a copy of my response to Council Order No. 46, of April 23, 1990, pertaining to the testing of hydrants by our department.

Upon your further request, I will clarify the reasons that we could not test the hydrants on a daily basis, Monday through Friday.

As you may be aware, the Training Division conducts daily training sessions in the A.M. and P.M. of each day. These sessions are conducted mainly at our Academy at the East Cambridge Fire Station. Each session will include a minimum of two Engine Companies, one Ladder Company, and the Rescue Company on most occasions. During this training session all of the companies are "out-of-service" for response unless we encounter a fire. We do not answer routine call since almost every company attending the classes is away from their own response districts.

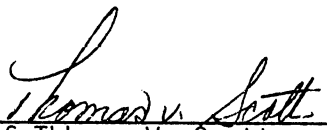
In addition to the training sessions each day, beginning on April 15, and ending on November 15 of each year, the Fire Prevention Bureau conducts a program of building inspections whereby a company is placed "out-of-service" and they are required to inspect the buildings within their own specified districts. (Each company is assigned to a district).

As you can see by the above that the department can have a minimum of four and on occasion five companies "out-of-service" at any given time during the week days. If we were to inspect hydrants during the week day hours only, this would require that two more companies be placed "out-of-service" and this would not be conducive for an efficient operation for our department.

Council Order No. 46
October 10, 1990
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Testing of hydrants results in a delayed and slow response as the apparatus equipment has to be shut down and all the equipment stored away. There is also more traffic congestion during the day hours than there is during the evening hours placing the safety of members and equipment in jeopardy.

In summary, the department must maintain its Training and Fire Prevention programs which are primary concerns to us and I feel that the hydrant inspection program should continue to be carried out during the evening and on the weekends.



Chief Thomas V. Scott



CITY OF CAMBRIDGE

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FIRE DEPARTMENT HEADQUARTERS

THOMAS V. SCOTT
Chief of Department

May 17, 1990

Mr. Robert Healy
City Manager
Cambridge, MA 02138

Dear Mr. Healy:

I am forwarding a report in response to Council Order #46 of April 23, 1990 in regards to inspections of hydrants.

Each year the Cambridge Fire Department carries out a program for the inspection of hydrants. It should be noted that with the exception of 1989 when there was a ban on the excessive use of water, our tests have always included the opening of the hydrant and the flow of water. Each company is responsible for the testing of these hydrants in their own pre-assigned districts.

During the inspection procedure and a defective hydrant is found, we immediately forward the request for repairs to the Water Department and they in turn take the necessary steps to make the repairs.

Enclosed you will find copies of General Orders issued by our department to the members. These orders detail the proper procedure to be carried out while the testing procedure is carried on. Also find a letter that was sent to my office by Mr. John Cusack, Water Superintendent.

If I can be of any further assistance, please call.

Respectfully,

Thomas V. Scott, Chief
Fire Department



CITY OF CAMBRIDGE

MASSACHUSETTS

WATER DEPARTMENT
250 FRESH POND PARKWAY
CAMBRIDGE, MASS. 02138

John J. Cusack, Jr.
Superintendent

617-498-9070

TO: Chief Thomas Scott
Cambridge Fire Department

FROM:  John J. Cusack, Jr.
Superintendent

DATE: May 15, 1990

SUBJECT: HYDRANTS OUT-OF-SERVICE

Pursuant to our May 10th meeting with Deputy City Manager Richard Rossi on the subject referenced above, I met with Deputy Chief William Rose to establish a priority list for repairing and/or replacing hydrants to minimize the number of hydrants out-of-service. The Water Department will concentrate its work efforts on the hydrants considered most important on the May 1st Fire Department list. In addition, the Water Department will meet weekly with Deputy Chief Rose to review progress.

JJC/mp

cc: Deputy City Manager Richard Rossi
Deputy Chief William Rose

FIRE DEPARTMENT
CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS

MAY 7, 1990

GENERAL ORDER #9, Series of 1990

TO THE COMMANDING OFFICER:

SUBJECT: Hydrant Inspection and Testing

Inspection and testing of hydrants shall commence May 13, 1990. In each and every case where a company leaves quarters to conduct these inspections, every member shall conduct himself in a professional manner, concentrating on the quality of the inspection rather than the quantity.

Companies shall notify the Fire Alarm Office when leaving and on returning to quarters. Companies shall be "OUT OF SERVICE", during this time. In the event of a working fire, the company shall commence to make up and notify the Fire Alarm office of their availability. In the event of other extenuating circumstances arising during this time, the company shall be governed by the orders of the Fire Alarm Office.

TIME SCHEDULE

MONDAY THROUGH FRIDAY AT 1800 hours.

SATURDAY, SUNDAY AND HOLIDAYS AT 1000 hours
 1330 hours
 1800 hours

SCHEDULING OF COMPANIES

COMMENCING MAY 13, 1990, COMPANIES SHALL USE THE FOLLOWING SCHEDULE:

DIVISION I

Engine #3
Engine #6
Engine #2
Engine #5
Engine #7

DIVISION II

Engine #1
Engine #4
Engine #8
Engine #9

GENERAL ORDER #9, Series of 1990

THE FOLLOWING REPORTS SHALL BE SUBMITTED:

1. One form #29 Hydrant Field Inspection Report on each hydrant flowed.
2. TWO form #19s Red Hydrant Report on each defective hydrant. Do not submit RED 19s on NO DRAIN/SLOW DRAIN HYDRANTS. FORM 19s to be submitted to office DAILY.
3. Form #2's For each of the following, a form #2 shall be submitted on completion of hydrant testing.

One (1) form #2 for all slow drain hydrants with a duplicate kept in company.

One (1) form #2 listing all hydrants that are incorrectly color coded.

One form #2 stating that hydrants in district have been completed.

VOICE NOTIFICATION

The area to be inspected shall be planned in advance. Voice notification shall start at least one half hour prior to the start of testing. Notification is to alert occupants to draw a clean supply of water to have on hand and to discontinue use of washing machines and dishwashers. Special emphasis is to be placed on those areas where commercial laundromats are located.

Announcement must include an area at lease one block beyond the anticipated testing area due to the grid water system. When testing starts, another announcement is to be made stating that testing is now starting and that occupants should have their supply of fresh water on hand and their washing machines and dishwashers turned off.

OTHER PERTINENT INFORMATION

Each company shall keep a record of all hydrants that fail to drain within a few minutes. Once all hydrants in district have been tested, these slow drain hydrants shall be rechecked. Any that still have water in the barrel shall be listed on a Form #2 and submitted to Headquarters. A duplicate of this Form #2 is to be kept in company. These hydrants are to be checked for water in barrels in November and pumped out if necessary. If the main valve does not seat with normal pressure on the hydrant wrench, DO NOT USE EXCESSIVE FORCE. Report same on a Form #29, and Form #19 (red).

If you put hydrant "OUT OF SERVICE", notify the Fire Alarm Office, indicate on the Form #19 red, in bold letters "OOS" and also note that the Fire Alarm office was notified.

Captains of all companies shall keep the hydrants in their fire prevention inspection districts updated at all times in order to facilitate hydrant clearing in winter months. All vegetation or other material that obscures a hydrant from view shall be removed.

When flowing hydrants, extreme caution is to be used so as not to inflict bodily injury on civilians and/or cause damage to property.

Firefighting division Deputy Chiefs shall forward the test equipment to the next scheduled company.

Many hydrants have been installed throughout the city in new locations. The Form #29 for each new location shall have "New Hydrant" printed in bold letters at top. A new hydrant card is to be made out for each new hydrant. New hydrant numbers are to be assigned chronologically to these hydrants.

The Public Works Department has scheduled painting of all incorrectly color coded hydrants. This will begin during the month of May. Company Officers are to submit a Form #2 for all incorrect color coding at the completion of their hydrant tests.

HYDRANT INSPECTION PROCEDURE

1. With all caps tight, open hydrant slowly until water is evident in the barrel. Observe for any leaks or defects in hydrant.
2. Shut hydrant down.
3. Remove 4½" cap.
4. Slowly open hydrant, allow water to flow until it is reasonably clear. Slowly shut down hydrant and check for proper drain.
5. Remove both 2½" caps, swab all threads with oil/graphite mixture and replace caps.

Form #29's are to be kept in company until all hydrants have been tested.

Form #29's are then to be submitted to office in numerical order.

Kindly see that each member is present for a reading of this order at Roll Call.

Per Order,

Thomson V. Scott

Chief of Department

Read & Initial

Group #1 _____
Group #2 _____
Group #3 _____
Group #4 _____



CITY OF CAMBRIDGE

CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS 02139

TEL. 498-9011

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

ROBERT W. HEALY

City Manager

RICHARD C. ROSSI

Deputy City Manager

October 15, 1990

To the Honorable, the City Council:

In response to Awaiting Report #31 of June 25, 1990 regarding the testing of fire hydrants and the reasons why hydrants can not be tested Monday - Friday during the day, attached is a report from Fire Chief Thomas Scott.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Robert W. Healy", is written over the typed name.

Robert W. Healy
City Manager

Attachment

Agenda # 12

S-983

testing of fire hydrants and the reasons
why hydrants cannot be tested Monday -
Friday during the day.

In City Council,

October 15, 1990

Placed on file