



REGIONAL DISTRICT OF NORTH OKANAGAN

BOARD POLICY NO: BPOL006

Small Utilities Private Hydrant Policy	
Approval Date:	March 17, 2021
Amendment Date(s):	

PURPOSE

This Policy is to regulate the use of Private Hydrants with the intent of reducing backflow and contamination risks to the Regional District of North Okanagan (RDNO) Small Utilities (SU) water systems, and to ensure that the RDNO collects fees that are in line with the services provided by allowing Private Hydrants to connect and use the RDNO SU water systems for uses other than fire protection purposes.

POLICY

1. For the purposes of this Policy:

Hydrant: means a water conveyance device where a hose can be attached and supplied water with typically elevated flows, as per the *Small Utilities Rates and Regulations Bylaw No. 3016, 2024* (BL 3016), for the primary purpose of fighting fires. This definition includes the Hydrant, connection valve, lead and tee at the main, and refers to all fire hydrants, yard hydrants, and/or standpipes installed for fire protection purposes and connected to an RDNO water system, including Private Hydrants.

Private Hydrant means a Hydrant owned and maintained by the property owner (User) for which installation was required on private property as a condition of development.

2. As per the *Regional District of North Okanagan Cross Connection Control Regulation Bylaw No. 2651, 2014* (BL 2651), and BL 3016, only designated Fire Departments are authorized to use Hydrants without a permit, including Private Hydrants.
3. The Users of Private Hydrants (including Hydrant owner) are required to obtain a Hydrant Use Permit to operate a Private Hydrant for any use other than Fire Department purposes.
4. The Hydrant Use Permit outlines the requirement to have backflow protection as per BL 2651, and a Water Meter as per BL 3016 during operation of a Hydrant or Private Hydrant.
5. An application for a Hydrant Use Permit can be obtained from the RDNO website at www.rdno.ca, or from the RDNO office. To use a Private Hydrant, the application must be completed by the User, and must give permission to the RDNO water system Operator to access the Private Hydrant to install and remove the Backflow Protection Device and meter box.

6. A fee as described in BL 3016 is required for permit processing, and the installation, removal and rental of the Backflow Prevention Device and meter box.
7. The Operator will record water use from the Hydrant meter box, and the water use will be charged to the User's customer account as per BL 3016, as amended.
8. Properties with a Water Meter at the property line that records the volume flowing to the Private Hydrant are still required to obtain a Hydrant Use Permit to use the Private Hydrant, and are required to have the Backflow Prevention Device and meter box installed at the Hydrant to protect on-site water quality; however, the volume of water used will not be recorded by the Operator at the meter box, but will be recorded on the meter at the property line and charged to the User through the normal water billing process.
9. Where a Fire Department has used a Private Hydrant for Fire Department purposes, the Fire Department must notify the RDNO when they have used the Hydrant, and shall provide its number and location, and an estimate of the volume of water used.
10. The User is responsible for meeting any requirements of their private insurance coverage for Private Hydrants in addition to the annual maintenance. Any Hydrant maintenance and/or specific conditions required by their insurance company are between the User and their insurance company, and are not the responsibility of the RDNO.
11. It is the User's responsibility to ensure that the Private Hydrant is serviced after each use, and they must keep records of all Hydrant servicing.
12. As a public service, the RDNO may remind owners of Private Hydrants from time to time, that annual maintenance is required and that a Hydrant Use Permit must be obtained for use of any Hydrant, other than for Fire Department purposes. Notwithstanding, the RDNO takes no responsibility to ensure the annual maintenance is completed, nor that any other conditions required by private insurance companies are completed.
13. A Hydrant Use Permit will allow a qualified service provider to complete Type A or Type B servicing of a Private Hydrant in accordance with AWWA standards without requiring the installation of the Backflow Protection Device and meter box.
14. If any unauthorized connection to a Hydrant is made without a Permit, backflow protection and/or a meter, the User of the Hydrant and/or the Contractor connected to the Hydrant, public or private, may be subject to the following:
 - Unauthorized Use Fees as described in BL 3016; and/or
 - Confiscation of any hoses or other equipment not authorized to be connected to the Hydrant; and/or
 - The requirement to install a Hydrant security device at the expense of the User.