

Breezy Hill Water and Sewer Co., Inc.
Hydrant Meter Rental Policy

I. PURPOSE

To establish regulations and procedures regarding the usage and metering of water from BHWS fire hydrants for the purchase of bulk water by any person(s) or commercial businesses. **Failure to comply with the regulations and procedures of this policy will result in the immediate suspension of hydrant meter privileges, forfeiture of the hydrant meter deposit and assessment of civil penalties.**

II. SCOPE

- All customers must complete a hydrant meter application in our office. Our hours of operation are Monday through Friday from 8:30 am until 5:00 pm, excluding holidays. You may contact our office by phone at 803-663-6455, ext. 2 or email at info@bhws.org
- Each hydrant meter rental unit obtained will be charged a \$1,000.00 refundable deposit and a \$50.00 non-refundable meter set fee.
- Hydrant meter rental units are set with all the necessary equipment to properly connect a hose to a BHWS hydrant.
- The customer must provide the BHWS Office with a service address at the time of rental. If the service address changes during the time of rental, the customer must provide an updated service address to the BHWS Office within 10 calendar days.
- Customers will be billed on a monthly cycle by BHWS for all water usage according to the published fee schedule.
- Upon return of the hydrant meter rental unit and associated equipment, any deposit shall be refunded to the customer. The cost of repairs or replacement for the hydrant meter and missing or damaged accessories will be deducted from the deposit prior to any refund being processed. Deposits shall be refunded to the customer within thirty (30) days, provided all the following occur:
 - The hydrant meter rental unit and associated equipment have been returned in working condition, with no damage.
 - The customer has paid for any damage and/or missing equipment.
 - All outstanding water usage and rental charges for the hydrant meter rental unit have been paid in full by the customer.
 - If damage cost exceeds \$1,000.00 deposit, any remaining charges will be billed to the customer.

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III. PENALTIES

- Only hydrant meter rental units provided by BHWS may be used to obtain bulk water from fire hydrants in the BHWS service area.
- The use of any hydrant meter rental unit other than those provided by BHWS will be subject to the issuance of Civil Penalties.
- All hydrant meter rental units are the property of BHWS. Failure to return the hydrant meter rental unit at the end of the rental period will be considered theft of BHWS property and will be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law.

Individuals using BHWS water that is unmetered and unauthorized by the BHWS General Manager are subject to theft of utilities and applicable water consumption charges.

IV. PROCEDURES

- The customer is responsible for paying for the actual amount of water used (consumed) and will be billed by BHWS based on the meter readings for the rental period. Rental and consumption charges shall be billed monthly or on the date of account closure. (See published fee schedule for current charges/rates.)

Note: Rental rates are for the actual time the customer has the meter, regardless of usage, and will be billed monthly.

V. WATER RESTRICTIONS

- All hydrant meter rental units may be subject to immediate recall/return in the event of the implementation of any BHWS issued water restriction usage policies.
- When the temperature falls to 35 degrees Fahrenheit and below, the fire hydrant must be closed while not in use and any hose(s) connected to the hydrant meter shall be disconnected from the hydrant meter. The gate valve on the hydrant meter shall be left open to allow water to drain from the meter with the hydrant in the off position. Both the fire hydrant and hydrant meter can be damaged if used when temperatures are below freezing.

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VI. HYDRANT METER USAGE INSTRUCTIONS

- BHWS staff will provide written instructions to all customers on the proper operation of fire hydrants. Additional training can be provided upon request.
- Customers must ensure that the hydrant meter rental unit is registering usage and that no leaks are present. Any broken or leaking hydrant meter rental unit shall be reported to BHWS **IMMEDIATELY** for repair. Any leaking or broken fire hydrants shall be reported to BHWS **IMMEDIATELY**. Call BHWS at (803) 663-6455 ext. 2 to report these issues. Early reporting of leaks and damage may mitigate the issuance of Civil Penalties due to the overriding interest in the conservation of water.
- Any damage to BHWS fire hydrants and/or potable water system caused by the negligent use of the hydrant meter and/or fire hydrants may result in the issuance of a Notice of Violation that may include Civil Penalties and include all costs related to the damage. Customers will also be held responsible for all costs for the repair of all related water mains and devices. Should damage occur, hydrant meter privileges will be suspended. The allotted time frame for suspension will be based on the infraction.
- Customers must follow the instructions provided and use the equipment that is provided by BHWS.
- At no time shall any hydrant meter rental unit be disassembled or altered by anyone other than BHWS staff.
- At no time shall any hose be left connected to a fire hydrant that is not connected to a hydrant meter rental unit. If a hose is found to be connected to a fire hydrant without a rental unit, a Notice of Violation may be issued for receiving unmetered water from the BHWS utility system.
- Only use approved hydrant wrenches. **Do NOT use a pipe wrench, crescent wrench, etc.**
- When opening a hydrant, turn the wrench slowly **counterclockwise** until the wrench stops turning, then back off a quarter turn.
- Make sure you regulate the water flow by turning the rental unit's gate valve, **NOT** by partially opening the hydrant. A fire hydrant must be turned completely on, or it will drain. The draining is through a valve under ground level and will damage the area surrounding the fire hydrant and/or the fire hydrant itself.
- When closing a fire hydrant, turn the wrench slowly **clockwise** until the wrench stops turning, then back off a quarter turn.
- Be sure to replace and tighten all fire hydrant caps after use. Make sure they are hand tight.

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