

City of Ironwood Water Main Flushing

City of Ironwood personnel will begin flushing water mains on Sunday night September 20, 2020 through September 30, 2020. Discoloration and change in water pressure are expected while the system is being flushed. The areas to be flushed are as follows:

AREA 1

Sunday (pm) 9/20 to Monday (am) 9/21

Area North of US-2 from Lake Street east to Roosevelt Street.

AREA 2

Monday (pm) 9/21 to Tuesday (am) 9/22

Area North of US-2 from Lake Street west to the Gogebic Fairgrounds.

AREA 3

Tuesday (pm) 9/22 to Wednesday (am) 9/23

Area South of US-2 from Lake Street west to the Montreal River and South to Frederick Street.

AREA 4

Wednesday (pm) 9/23 to Thursday (am) 9/24

Area South of US-2 from Lake Street east to Country Club Road and South to East Ayer St.

AREA 5

Thursday (pm) 9/24 to Friday (am) 9/25

Areas south of Frederick Street to the caves area and from Lake Street west to Silver Street.

AREA 6

Sunday (pm) 9/27 to Monday (am) 9/28

Jessieville and Newport Heights Area to Brogan Street.

AREA 7W and AREA 7E

Monday (pm) 9/28 to Tuesday (am) 9/29

Area south of caves area from Hazel Street west to Scott Street.

AREA 8N and AREA 8S

Tuesday (pm) 9/29 to Wednesday (am) 9/30

Area south of caves area from Hazel Street east to Van Buskirk Road and south to Norrie Park Road.

See the City of Ironwood website at www.CityofIronwood.org for more information.

The purpose of the flushing program is to provide better water quality and service to our customers. Flushing water mains removes sediment that may have accumulated in the pipes over several years. The City of Ironwood performs water main flushing bi-annually to ensure high levels of water quality within the distribution system. Flushing mains and hydrants also allows our crews to verify operation of the water distribution system and identify areas that require repair or maintenance. It also ensures that the fire hydrants are operating properly in case they are needed for firefighting operations.

Water main flushing may also lead to discolored water, which can be drawn into homes and businesses if the water is being used during or immediately following the flushing. Such events may affect customers for a few hours. The discoloration is caused by naturally occurring iron (red color) or manganese (black color) in the wells and particles can be suspended in the water mains. Sampling of discolored water after hydrant use showed manganese concentrations above the EPA Health Advisory level of 300 parts per billion (ppb). Sampling after flushing of residential water lines to clear the discolored water showed manganese concentrations below 300 ppb. During the flushing process, these particles can be dislodged from the water main and can stain porcelain and laundry. If discoloration occurs, open the cold tap nearest the water meter, usually a basement sink, to full flow until the water runs clear. It is also advised that you make sure your water is clear before doing laundry or other

projects for which discolored water could cause problems. To receive proper credit on the monthly utility bill, please take a water meter reading prior to running the water and a final water reading when your water is clear. Further guidance to flush your private water system and appliances and also the hydrant flushing map and schedule is on the City of Ironwood website www.CityofIronwood.org.

The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) and/or the Western U.P. District Health Department (WUPDHD) will be collecting water samples from five residences in each zone after flushing to confirm the manganese is below the Health Advisory.

Free bottled water is available at the Ironwood Public Safety Department at 123 West McLeod Avenue during the water main flushing period. You may contact the City of Ironwood at 932-5050 x111 or x112 if you have any questions.

We ask for your patience and understanding during this critical water main cleaning process.