

SECTION: PROTECTIVE SERVICES

SUBJECT: RURAL FIRE HYDRANTS

Original Resolution No.: 02-01-06

Rural Fire Hydrant Placement Policy

It is the policy of the County of Warner No. 5 to locate fire hydrants in the rural areas, where feasible, to increase fire fighting abilities and property protection to the residents of the County. This opportunity is available to the residents due to the cooperation of water coops and irrigation districts which deliver water through numerous miles of underground pipelines. It is recognized that there may not be adequate water volume or pressure available at all times for fire fighting purposes from these rural fire hydrants.

Guidelines

1. Fire hydrants will be considered where there is currently an underground water line owned and operated by a water coop or irrigation district.
2. If a land owner wishes to have a rural fire hydrant installed, a written request must be presented to the County, along with a letter of approval from the affected water coop or irrigation district.
3. Upon receiving a written request from an interested party, the County will contact the affected water coop or irrigation district, to determine any special circumstances that may need to be considered. After an investigation is completed by County Staff, the proposal will be presented to the County Council for their input and possible approval. The County may also initiate a fire hydrant installation.
4. Various criteria that should be considered by the Council before approving the installation of a rural fire hydrant include the following:
 - a. Size of the water line.
 - b. Distance to homes, feedlots, farm steads and other businesses.
 - c. Location and distance to other rural fire hydrants.
 - d. Benefits to be received by one party versus numerous parties.
 - e. Whether the party (ies) are willing to cost share in the required material and installation.
 - f. Whether the location of the fire hydrant is covered under the easement of the water coop or the irrigation district which allows physical access to the fire hydrant at any time.
 - g. Community needs versus available resources.
 - h. Financial restraints.
 - i. Competing interests.
 - j. Long range development and budget plans.
 - k. Trends and demographics.
5. Installation of rural fire hydrants by individuals or coops, prior to County Council approval, may not be considered for financial participation by the County.
6. It is at the sole discretion of Council whether they will approve the installation of a rural fire hydrant, whether the County will participate financially, or whether the fire hydrant project will require a cost sharing component with the affected party (ies).
7. It is recommended that all fire departments carry a portable water tank that can be attached to the rural fire hydrant to decrease fill waiting times.
8. This policy also applies to the possible installation of dry hydrants that may be located on water reservoirs, stock ponds, or other water body sources that have a constant and reliable source of water throughout the year.