No. 2008-33 August 12, 2008

U.S. Fire Administration / National Fire Academy

Coffee Break Training

Topic: Fire Hydrant Marking Schemes

Learning Objective: *The student shall be able to explain a nationally recognized, recommended scheme for identifying fire hydrant flow capacities.*

Despite the fact this wet-barrel hydrant is partially obstructed by landscaping, its appearance provides important information for the Incident Commander (IC) and pump operator.

The light blue color of the lowest nozzle cap indicates the water system is capable of delivering 1,500 gpm (5680 L/min) at 20 psi (1.4 bar) or more at that point. The color scheme for rating hydrants is referenced in NFPA 291, *Recommended Practice for Fire Flow Testing and Marking of Hydrants*, and NFPA 24, *Standard for the Installation of Private Fire Service Mains and Their Appurtenances*.

This recommended practice and standard refer to hydrant classes and identification systems in accordance with the following table

Class	Rated capacity of:	Color Scheme
AA	1500 gpm (5680 L/min) or greater	Light blue
A	1000–1499 gpm (3785–5675 L/min)	Green
B	500–999 gpm (1900–3780 L/min)	Orange
C	Less than 500 gpm (1900 L/min)	Red

Additionally, these documents recommend

- The top (bonnet) and nozzle caps should be painted these standard colors.
- The colors should be in reflective paint for rapid identification in low-light conditions.
- All hydrant barrels should be painted chrome yellow except in cases where another color already has been adopted by the jurisdiction.
- Hydrants rated at less than 20 psi (1.4 bar) should have the rated pressure stenciled in black on the hydrant top.
- Fire hydrants that are temporarily inoperative or unusable should be wrapped or otherwise provided with temporary indication of their condition.
- Private hydrants on private property should be marked at the owner's discretion. When private hydrants are located on public streets, they should be painted red or some other color to distinguish them from public hydrants.