

Dear Rural Water Users,

With the installation of the domestic water system into your area, “water access points” have been installed at key locations. These “water access points” may look like a traditional hydrant but are not “fire hydrants” as defined by Fire Underwriters Survey (FUS) and the BC Building Code and therefore cannot be identified as or considered to be “fire hydrants”. In other words, the “water access points” are not a direct source of water for fire suppression in the same manner as a “fire hydrant”.

The Town of Osoyoos will be installing signs identifying these locations as “water access points” for the purpose of providing the Fire Department access to water as part of a future Superior Tanker Shuttle Service for the rural areas.

For more information on Superior tanker Shuttle Service please see:

<https://fireunderwriters.ca/Grading/Superior-Tanker-Shuttle-Service>

Q&A on Fire Hydrants, Water Access Points, and related information:

Why are you receiving this notification now?

After an internal review, it was determined that these “water access points” needed to be properly identified and their purpose conveyed to the rural users to prevent confusion or misunderstanding about their use.

Why wasn't the water system designed to convey fire flows?

It was determined at the time of rural water domestic twinning grant application that the costs associated with providing fire flows to the rural areas would be cost prohibitive. There would be need to increase pipe size, potential installation of a reservoir and other related infrastructure.

What do I tell my home insurance providers?

The Osoyoos Fire Department is working toward a Superior Tanker Shuttle Service Model and that until that is achieved there are no fire hydrants in proximity of your property.

What defines a Fire Hydrant in a water distribution system?

In the FUS assessment of a water distribution system, the major emphasis is upon its ability to delivery **adequate** water to control major fires throughout service area on a reliable basis via sufficient and suitable **hydrants**.

Is the water system ever going to be upgraded to provide fire flows?

Because of cost considerations mentioned above, at this time the Town is not considering providing adequate flows to address fire protection in the rural areas.

Why were these “water access points” even installed?

To provide the Osoyoos Fire Department with the ability to achieve and maintain a Superior Tanker Shuttle Service Model.

For further information please reach out to either the Osoyoos Fire Department or Operational Services.

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